

Journey of devoted service for people continues

By Pang Un Ju PT

The long journey of selfless, devoted service for the good of the people made by Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, has deeply been engraved as a precious memory in the minds of the Korean people who look back upon the past year with emotion.

On the morning of New Year's Day in 2021, the General Secretary sent a letter to all the people, sincerely wishing all the families across the country greater happiness and the beloved people good health, and pledging once again that he would always remain faithful to the great people, and put his heart and soul into bringing every benefit to the people throughout the year.

The historic Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was held early in January last year.

The General Secretary in his report at the congress stressed that it is a valuable philosophy proved once again in the period under review that it is possible to tackle any unfavourable subjective and objective factors and easily carry out the huge tasks for socialist construction despite any grave situation, manifold trials and latent shortcomings if the politics based on the people-first principle is thoroughly pursued.

After the congress, the construction sector

was faced with a heavy yet responsible task to powerfully push forward the two fronts simultaneously—industrial construction for strengthening the economic foundations of the country and construction for meeting the material and cultural needs of the people. And concrete measures were taken to build 10 000 flats every year in Pyongyang, starting from 2021.

As a result, a project for the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang started in the Songsin and Songhwa area in March last year as an undertaking to fulfil the long-cherished desire of the WPK to provide the citizens with stabler and more cultured living conditions. The General Secretary attended its groundbreaking ceremony and made a historic speech.

In early August when the national construction campaigns were in full swing, an unexpected situation occurred in several counties of South Hamgyong Province in the northern part of the country. They were hit by heavy rain and flash flood, suffering considerable damage.

At the time, the General Secretary called the senior official of the provincial Party committee and instructed him that officials and Party organizations should go more deeply among the people and carefully look after them.

He also took a strong

measure to preferentially supply large quantities of building materials to the stricken areas despite a series of ongoing major national construction projects.

In the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK which took decisive enforcement measures for immediately solving the urgent matters most interested and looked forward to by the people, the General Secretary said that it is the most important Party and state policy to provide more improved conditions for bringing children up even at the cost of a huge sum of money.

The WPK's childcare policy on supplying dairy products and other nutritious foods to children across the country at the state's expense when the country is faced with the worst adversity greatly touched the heartstrings of all people.

In August last year, Youth Day celebrations took place with splendour in Pyongyang.

At the time, nine young people were honoured to meet the General Secretary very unexpectedly.

They were all dropouts in the past who could not hold up their heads for shame in front of their parents, relatives and neighbours as they had followed the wrong way of life.

However, he was so satisfied with the fresh

start of life they made by breaking away from the wrong past and volunteering to work in the difficult and labour-consuming sectors of socialist construction, that he wished them a bright future and had a photo taken with them.

On September 8, he arranged a banquet at the office building of the Party Central Committee in honour of the labour innovators and persons of merit participating in the celebrations of the 73rd founding anniversary of the DPRK.

In the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK which was held until the last day of 2021, General Secretary Kim Jong Un ardently called on the entire Party and all the people to vigorously accelerate the overall development of socialist construction by putting spurs to their courageous advance and thus make 2022 a year of great revolutionary event to be significantly recorded in the history of the country and another watershed in the great struggle advancing toward the bright future.

Closely rallied around the General Secretary who continues his journey of devoted, selfless efforts for the people's happiness and the country's prosperity, the Korean people are now out in the struggle for building a powerful socialist country by making great strides in their fresh advance.

2022 to be recorded in the annals of country's history

By Ri Sung Ik PT

difficulties, thus attaining great successes to be proud of.

By keeping up their surging zeal, the Korean people should open up a broad avenue to and lay the groundwork for implementing the five-year plan this year.

All affairs of this year can be likened to a power transmission unit that passes on the motive power, which powerfully propelled the

efforts for implementing the first year's task in five-year plan, to carrying out the plan. Whether or not to continuously expand the precious successes in last year's struggle just depends on this year's struggle.

The Korean people's struggle this year is the gigantic one to definitely push socialist construction towards overall development.

As there are the great people who are possessed of firm faith and strong power to overcome all difficulties by rallying around the Party in one mind and precious experiences with which great successes were made in the spirit of self-reliance despite such harsh situation as last year, the WPK and the people will achieve a proud victory once again.

The Korean people are putting spurs to the spirit of courageous advance in order to vigorously accelerate the overall development of socialist construction, and thus make this year a year of great revolutionary event to be significantly recorded in the history of the country and another watershed in the great struggle advancing toward the bright future.

DPRK Olympic Committee, Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports send letter to Chinese counterparts, Beijing Winter Olympics organizing committee

KCNA

The DPRK Olympic Committee and Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports sent a letter to the Chinese Olympic Committee, the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics Organizing Committee and the State General Bureau of Physical Culture and Sports of China.

The letter said that the

preparations for the 24th Winter Olympic Games are going on smoothly despite the world health crisis.

The DPRK Olympic Committee and Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports denounce the anti-China plots of the US and its vassal forces to block the successful holding of the Olympic Games as an insult to the spirit of the international Olympic charter and a base

act aimed at tarnishing the international image of China and resolutely oppose and reject them, it noted.

It expressed their conviction that the friendly Chinese people and athletes would overcome all manner of obstructive moves and difficulties and hold the Beijing Winter Olympics successfully, single-mindedly united behind General Secretary Xi Jinping

and the Communist Party of China.

They will make every possible effort to contribute to promoting the traditional DPRK-China friendship by boosting friendly exchange, cooperation and visit with Chinese sports institutions and sportspeople by faithfully upholding the wise leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, it stressed.

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Choe Ryong Hae (centre), chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, inspects the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

SPA Standing Committee chairman visits thermal power plant

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of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, inspected the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

He said it should contribute to reenergizing the national economy by strengthening the existing production foundation, increasing power generation to a high level and thus properly meeting the growing need for electric power.

It should direct a great deal of energy to cultivating and training its own scientific and technical force including the effective arrangement of sci-tech diffusion, he noted.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman

implanted the basic idea and spirit of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK in them and stressed the need to further raise the surviving fighting spirit.

Referring to the importance of the duty the complex assumes in this year's advance for laying the firm foundation for the implementation of the five-year plan at the blast furnace and steel workshops, he called for waging the increased production drive more actively through the meticulous equipment and technical management

with elaborate preparations and vigorous technical innovation movement.

The field consultative meeting stressed the need for officials to carefully organize operation and command for unconditionally attaining this year's iron and steel production goal in line with the decision made at the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee, and discussed measures to push ahead with the capacity expansion and modernization projects stage by stage.

The Premier also inspected the work in the agricultural and light industry sectors.

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex which launched into the production campaign in the New Year.

Encouraging the workers of the complex who devotedly defended the dignity of the Party Congress with increased iron and steel production last year, he

referred to the importance of the duty the complex assumes in this year's advance for laying the firm foundation for the implementation of the five-year plan at the blast furnace and steel workshops, he called for waging the increased production drive more actively through the meticulous equipment and technical management



Premier Kim Tok Hun (fourth from left) of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

Academy of Defence Science test-fires hypersonic missile

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are of strategic significance in that they speed up the implementation of a task for modernizing the national strategic armed force put forward at the Eighth Party Congress and fulfill the most important core task out of the five top priority tasks for the strategic weapon sector in the five-year plan.

The test-fire was watched by leading officials of the Munitions Industry Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the sector of defence science.

The consecutive successful test launches in the hypersonic missile sector

relevant defence science research sector.

In the test launch the academy reconfirmed the flight manoeuvrability and stability of the missile in the active-flight stage and assessed the performance of the flank mobility technique newly applied to the detached hypersonic gliding warhead.

The test launch clearly demonstrated the manoeuvrability and stability of the hypersonic gliding warhead combining the multi-stage pull-up and the strong lateral movement.

Having been detached after launch, the missile made a lateral movement for 120 kilometres from the initial launch azimuth

to the target azimuth in the flight distance of the hypersonic gliding warhead and precisely hit a set target 700 kilometres away.

The reliability of the fuel ampoule systems was also verified under the winter weather conditions.

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The Chollima Steel Complex took steps to ensure continuity between processes and made full preparations for tapping carefully.

The Posan Iron Works boosted daily production by raising the operational rate of rotary kiln. It started the first tapping on January 1.

Railway transport First day's plan of the year fulfilled

The railway transport sector of the country has buckled down to increased transport from the first day of this year.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of railway workers, the Ministry of Railways carried out its first day's transport plan at 106.9



The DPRK Academy of Defence Science test-fires a hypersonic missile on January 5.

HOME NEWS

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percent.

Metal industry
Leading iron and steel producers launch into new year's production

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex positively introduced an advanced melting method to increase iron and steel production.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex markedly shortened the melting time as required by technological regulations in the mixture and charge of raw materials and fuel and the management of furnace.

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Cement production
Trains loaded with cement depart in succession



From the beginning of this year, the Sangwon Cement Complex is producing and sending huge quantities of cement to major construction sites.

Trains loaded with cement departed to main construction sites of power stations, dwellings and so on across the country on January 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Electric power industry
Power generation targets exceeded on first day

The electric power industry sector has overfulfilled its electric-power production plan by 11.5 percent on the first day of the year.

Thermal power stations furthered the operation rate of equipment, while maximizing the efficiency of generation by reducing the heat loss of boilers and turbogenerators.

Hydropower plants raised the scientific level of water conservation and improved the operational efficiency of generation equipment.



A rally of Pyongyang citizens takes place at Kim Il Sung Square to pledge to carry out the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Industrial establishments get off to a good start from beginning of New Year

By Kim Il Jin PT

Steel Complex overfulfilled its daily production plan by introducing rational working methods capable of increasing pig iron production, while the Chollima Steel Complex is stepping up rolled steel production as they raise the operational rate of equipment.

The electric-power industry sector is also increasing production from the first day of this year, the second year in implementing the five-year plan.

The metallurgical industry sector produces iron and steel according to the plan by timely supplying raw and other materials and fuel from the beginning of the new year and simultaneously pushes ahead with capacity expansion and modernization projects.

The Kim Chaek Iron and

standard operational methods. The Wonsan Army-People and the Paektusan Hero Youth power stations carried out their first day production plans of the new year at 135.7 percent and over 120 percent respectively.

Industrial establishments in the machine-building industry sector are also increasing production. The Taean Heavy Machine

Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and other units.

The Ryangchae Bearing Factory is carrying out the production of bearings to be sent to different economic sectors by introducing rational working methods.

In addition, many other units in the sectors of coal-mining, mining and light industries overfulfilled their daily production plans.

Nation out to implement the decisions of the WPK plenum

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Kim Yong Hwan, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK, made a report.

He said the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee, at the proposal of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, extended thanks in the name of the Party Central Committee to the exemplary agricultural officials, workers, scientists and technicians who made a tangible contribution to doing farming well last year.

The General Secretary, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, highly praised all the Party members, other working people in Pyongyang and its citizens to bear in mind the great pride that they live and work in the capital city in implementing the benevolent policy of the motherly Party, which takes full, responsible care of the destiny of the people, in this year decisive of the implementation of the five-year plan advanced by the Party.

Among those on the platform were Ri Il Hwan, O Su Yong, Pak Myong Sun, Ri Chol Man, Yang Sung Ho, Kim Yong Hwan and Pak Hun, who are leading officials of the Party and the government, and officials and model workers in the capital city.

He stressed that the history of the country.

In conclusion he called on them to strive for the successful implementation of the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee and the overall development of Korean-style socialism under the unfurled banner of single-hearted unity and self-reliance, with firm, wholehearted loyalty to the Party Central Committee.

Speeches were made at the rally.

Choi Hui Thae, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, expressed his determination to ensure that the municipal people's committee work to the best of its ability and make the greatest achievements and the capital city lead the whole country in implementing the benevolent policy of the motherly Party, which takes full, responsible care of the destiny of the people, in this year decisive of the implementation of the five-year plan advanced by the Party.

Ri Kyong Nam, chairman of the Sadong District Cooperative Farm and model workers in the capital city.

Management Committee, called upon all agricultural workers to turn out as one and tend each of cereals properly with patriotic sincerity so as to glorify this year as a year when farming is done well, the one of rich harvests when the agricultural sector wins a great victory.

Kim Chol Ho, a dean of Kim Chaek University of Technology, said that intellectuals in the capital city are now full of the will to fully display their mental faculties and patriotic enthusiasm.

Saying that embarking on the march of the new year, he once again bore in mind the true meaning of the slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!" he expressed his will to defend the Party Central Committee and vigorously propel the struggle to accelerate the comprehensive rejuvenation of Korean-style socialism by making substantial scientific and educational achievements with painstaking search and efforts, as befits a

A letter of pledge to Kim Jong Un was adopted at the meeting.

The rally was followed by a public procession.

Similar rallies took place in all provinces.

For domestic production of building materials

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Five years have passed since our research institute was established. In those years we channelled big efforts into research into the production of building materials by relying on locally available raw materials, thus contributing to construction projects that are being pushed across the country, said Pak Un Nam, director of the building materials research institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

Among its research findings is a glass fibre reinforced plastic (GFRP) that can substitute for reinforcement bar.

According to section chief So Sung Jin, reinforcement bar has generally low acid and salt resistance, but as GFRP, which is made by adding thermosetting plastic in glass fibre, is

remarkably lighter and harder than steel, has greater corrosion stability and can be recycled, it is widely used in different countries as a substitute for reinforcement bar in the construction of roads, bridges, sea dikes and other coastal structures.

At present a process has been established for producing red, yellow, brown, black and other paints by industrial methods.

The institute solved the problem of the components of reinforcer of GFRP based on locally produced raw materials, and established its production process. It is said to have high technical and economic indexes including tensile strength and elastic coefficient.

The institute also developed a hardening agent for concrete floor sealing needed for finishing the construction of structures.

Terrazzo and mortar are generally used for giving the finishing touches to the interiors of buildings, including the floors and stairs of multi-storey houses, offices and public buildings, and here it is important to ensure the smoothness and glossiness of floor surfaces.

As its iron oxide particles are very fine and have a high degree of purity, the paint is vivid in colour and is applied

well and when it is mixed with coating materials to apply, it is nice to look at and the colour is preserved for a long time. It has also a wide range of applications. It is used in the cosmetic industry and the field of fine arts.

In addition, the institute realized the domestic production of an adhesive agent used to make such stone materials as granite and marble stick firmly together, and developed a roof paint by using water glass and established its execution method.

According to O Jang Su, a staffer of the institute, it carried out research into recycling urban and industrial waste to establish a PET plastic recycling technology and introduced it into such units as the Moranbong District urban landscaping station in Pyongyang.



By To Kyong Chol PT

I eagerly wait for her because whenever I meet her, I feel at ease as if she is my real daughter, said Ri Myong Sik, a war veteran living in neighbourhood unit No. 64, Anjong-dong of Sunan District, Pyongyang.

According to him, all the war veterans and special-class honoured disabled soldiers in the district feel the same as he does.

She is Kim Ok Su (pictured), manageress of the meat shop of the Sunan District Commercial Agency on the outskirts of the capital city.

As she was appointed to the post a few years ago, she first buckled down to sprucing up the service environment of the shop.

"Some of our customers told me that if we improve the service environment and increase the kinds of goods on sale like those in the city centre, it will attract more customers," recalled Kim.

She motivated her employees to give a facelift to the shop and carefully organized the work to provide the visitors with every convenience in line with the improved service environment.

In the course of it, she came up with an outreach programme—to visit war veterans and special-class honoured disabled soldiers who need help and service, not confining themselves to serving visiting customers.

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It also made a pressure vessel for desalinating seawater with glass fibre reinforced plastic and introduced it into different units.

The pressure vessel is much favoured by those units as it fully satisfies technical indexes.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Company steps up development of high-tech products

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The Wisong Building Materials Development Company of the Building-materials Institute of the State Academy of Sciences makes positive efforts to develop high-tech products.

"We recently manufactured an advanced machine for producing all sizes of glass fibre reinforced plastic pressure vessels," said director Jon Chang Hyok.

According to him, the pressure vessel made with glass fibre reinforced plastic is a high-tech product with high resistance to pressure and corrosion and a wide application in the industrial sector. It is used to carry and store liquid, reagents and other raw materials, filter materials and conduct chemical reaction.

For the production of the

product it was important to have a good understanding of its technical specifications and make a machine operated by program.

Researchers of the company had only video images showing the action of the machine and therefore repeated experiments to resolve all problems scientifically and perfectly, including those for achieving the accuracy of winding pattern, angle, tension and the degree of sliding.

In the course of that they manufactured the sophisticated machine and completed the control program.

As a result, they became able to ensure the precision of fibre orientation which arises as an important matter in ensuring the intensity of pressure vessel.

Their pressure vessel was registered as a high-tech product last year.



RI RYONG SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

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Since then, she has often visited them with her employees, especially on their birthdays as well as holidays.

And they are always welcome guests in the houses of war veterans and special-class honoured disabled soldiers, who call them "our service workers".

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It is none other than the director of the commercial agency who prompted me to do this without saying a word. While working with him who has been working in the commercial sector for a long time looking after war veterans and special-class honoured disabled soldiers like his own flesh and blood, I made up my mind to do more good things for society like him," said Kim Ok Su.

Since then, she has often visited them with her employees, especially on their birthdays as well as holidays.

And they are always

Triplets provided with special care since they are born



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Medical workers take good care of triplets at baby department No. 3 of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Like all other medical institutions for mothers and babies, including a real-time monitoring device, and medicines, nutritious foods and other supplies are provided according to special standards set separately.

Obstetrics department No. 2 and baby department No. 3 specialize in caring for triplets and their mothers.

"The state shows great love and care for triplets and their mothers, indeed. They are provided with everything gratis. Our department has delivered 13 batches of triplets this year," said Pak Song Bong, deputy director of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

These departments are staffed with excellent medical workers of the maternity hospital and medical facilities and medicines are supplied to them on a preferential basis.

Babies there grow in incubators after they are born until they leave the hospital, and the period is 100 days in general.

In those days, every child is looked after by a doctor

and three nurses.

There are special medical facilities for mothers and babies, including a real-time monitoring device, and medicines, nutritious foods and other supplies are provided according to special standards set separately.

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are provided according

to special standards set

separately.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Anyone can create literary works.

In the world lots of excellent works have been produced by ordinary people, not professional writers.

Looking back on the history of Korean literature, lyric *For My Only Motherland* was written by a soldier who was fresh from a senior middle school and fought in the great Fatherland Liberation War and another lyric *I Will Climb Mt Paektu Wherever I Am*

was written by an ordinary young woman worker and is still liked by the Koreans.

Their works are appealing to readers as they reflect their own experiences and are charged with lyricism.

The other typical example is short story *Mummy* which was authored by Mun Su Gyong, nurse at Chongnyu Nursery No. 1 in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, and which took first place in the short story division of the novel group at the national mass literary work prize contest held in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star, Chairman Kim Jong Il's birth anniversary (February 16), last year.

In her work Mun portrayed the life of nurses who take meticulous care of babies who can express their feelings only with cry and smile.

And short cartoon script *On the Day of Cooking Contest* by Kim Phyong Gang, worker at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, recounts an edifying life story and it was rated as a work of instructive value.

Last September witnessed the national lyric prize contest in celebration of the 73rd anniversary of the DPRK.

More than 40 pieces of works won prizes at the contest held on the theme of the reality of socialist Korea including the efforts of its people who are out in everyday life.

Among the prize-winners, there were a pit manager at the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, a worker at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station and a farmer at the Songya Cooperative Farm in Yonan County, South Hwanghae Province.

In their words of songs they depicted their pride in and attachment to jobs and their determination to live a life of devotion to the country.



AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

'Patients are our own flesh and blood'

By Kim Rye Yong PT

crushed.

The patient's condition was awful even to the veteran doctor with nearly 30 years of medical career.

"As he had a contused

wound, the toughest problem was to find and ligature arteries and other blood vessels. Frankly speaking, I felt my hands tremble," said Ri Chol.

But with the determination

to restore the patient to

health,

Ri conducted the

removal of pus and

changing of posture could

be done by any nurse or

orderly, but Son Il did them himself.

"I wanted to do by myself

everything needed for the

patient. I regard it as a kind

of moral duty and worth of

life, before an official duty

of a medical worker, to

pay more attention to more

serious patients," said the

doctor.

His devotion brought

the patient back to health

a dozen days earlier than

usual.

Thanks to such devoted

efforts of all its members,

the department could restore

dozens of serious cases to

health last year.

recovery.

Another doctor Ri Son Il

also wins the admiration of

patients.

In midsummer in July

last year he took charge of a

patient with a large festering

wound. He busied himself

with treating him as he

removed pyogenic secretions

and changed the posture of

the patient several times a

day.

The removal of pus and

changing of posture could

be done by any nurse or

orderly, but Son Il did them

himself.

"I wanted to do by myself

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HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Orthopaedists of the limb orthopaedic surgery department perform an operation at the South Phyongan Provincial People's Hospital (top). A doctor asks a patient about health condition after surgery (above).

Mass-based cultural activities inject vitality into society

By Kil Chung Il PT

Last year, too, mass-based cultural and artistic activities served as a strong impetus to encouraging lots of working people to perform continuous miracles and innovations.

Among them are motivational activities conducted at the rush hour and in construction and production sites.

Not only artists but also

women's union members

as well as mobile artistic motivational team members in industrial establishments staged different performances to add a festive mood.

Revolutionary forerunners in

the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle created revolutionary songs and dramas and even played football

games during their breaks from battles and marches, and brave combatants of the Korean People's Army made frontline

musical instruments at the

heights in flames and played

them, terrifying enemies.

The DPRK's fighting mode of surmounting pessimism with laughter and smashing despair with optimism in the face of manifold trials is still being carried on.

"It is the reality that labour precisely becomes a song and we enjoy beautiful life in singing," said Han Yong Gil, general weaving workshop manager of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

The mill is widely known across the country as a prolific producer and overflowing with

optimism. It has produced labour heroines, meritorious persons of socialist patriotism and other labour innovators who carried out their quotas for one and two years ahead of schedule.

All the employees of the coal mine

can play one or more popular musical instruments.

As seen above, the Korean people have adorned the first year of the five-year plan for national economic development with victories, while singing songs full of confidence and optimism.



Snapshots show mass-based cultural and artistic activities.

Magic stage keeps surprising and amusing audience



Scenes from a magic performance given by conjurers of the National Circus.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

A new magic performance of the National Circus is giving great pleasure to the people in the New Year.

"Happiness and joy are the common feeling of all the people who greet the New Year. That is why we made mystery run through

the performance to surprise and amuse the audience in the hope that all the families of the country are filled with merry laughter and achieve astonishing successes," said Kim Chol, section chief of the magic department of the National Circus who is winner of the Kim Il Sung Prize and People's Artist.

Fantasy "Flying away

Starting with fantasy "Conjurer vanishes", the performance makes the audience spellbound from the beginning to keep them in suspense, and such magic numbers as rapport "Rope trick" and comic "Wonders in the box" fill the audience with laughter and optimism.

"I could not take my eye off the stage even a moment. Most of performers' skills are really on the high level though they are new

the motorcycle", in which a motorcycle and actors and actresses in a container disappear in the air in a moment and appear on the stage from a wing, climaxes the performance.

"I could not believe my eyes when I saw the magician passed a hand

faces," said Han Song Guk living in Central District, Pyongyang.

The performance is characterized by high speed, good rhythm and distinctive. I want to see the performance again with my family," said Yun Jong Hui, resident of Thongilgori-dong No. 2 of Rangnang District in Pyongyang.



JONG KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

through a glass table. The magic world is really mysterious," said Kim Il Hyok, resident of Sanghung-dong of Sosong District in Pyongyang.

Another success of the performance is that it preserves well the sense of reality, the spirit of serving the people and national identity by using things that are commonly used in everyday life such as clothes, bolt and nut and yut-game board.

The other charm of the show is that it has built a close rapport with the audience to achieve perfect harmony between the entertainers and the audience drawing the latter deep into the magic world.

"I did not know how the time passed as all works were non-repetitive and distinctive. I want to see the performance again with my family," said Yun Jong Hui, resident of Thongilgori-dong No. 2 of Rangnang District in Pyongyang.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

From the beginning of the New Year, one of the most popular destinations of visitors is the flower exhibition house situated in Ryugyong-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

"Flower is indispensable in emotional life. A stream of visitors is continuously flowing to our exhibition

house from the morning of the New Year's Day as if they all want to live like beautiful flowers in the promising new year," said Ri Su Jong, a saleswoman of the exhibition house.

According to her, many of the visitors buy dried flowers, saying they will decorate their houses and office rooms with them.

On display on the ground floor were various distinctive ornaments made with varieties of flowers including globe amaranth, cockscomb, rose, carnation and chrysanthemum that just seem to give out fragrance and with wheat, barley and foxtail millet and even grasses.

It is midwinter outside, but here I feel as if it is a beautiful spring day. Dried flowers keeping a branch with flowers in full bloom, that she was amazed that leaves were used to depict the fine feathers of birds and that she wanted to buy all the products there to decorate the inside of her house.

According to An Son Hui, manager of the exhibition house, they had previously sold fresh flowers only. Now, however, they sell mainly dried flowers as the flowers are in great demand.

However much they are touched, dried flowers do not crumble, and they can be kept long. Therefore, they can be exchanged as a souvenir and decorate a living or office room in a distinctive way. And it is more economical to use dried flowers than fresh ones, and they are useful as they can decorate any place in various forms in a short time irrespective of seasons.

"All the dried flowers are wonderful artworks. They make me feel a special emotion that cannot be aroused by paintings or photos," said Kim Song Ok, a resident of Taesong District.

The flower exhibition house is a world of flowers in midwinter, and the beautiful flowers the visitors buy bring them fresh hopes and emotions in the new year.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Visitors choose the flowers they like at the flower exhibition house in Ryugyong-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

By Pak Song Min PT

There are people who bring spring earlier in winter during which everything in nature is fast asleep.

They are employees at floricultural farms who grow flowers to please people.

"We cultivate flowers while visualizing the looks of the people who will be happy to see beautiful flowers in winter. We feel pride and worth of our work in pleasing them," said Pak Son Yong, manager of the floricultural farm in Sosong District.

According to her, the farm grew 120 000 plants of flowers last year to decorate streets and makes efforts to cultivate flowers under a plan to produce more flowers this year.

It installed new shelves to grow more young flowering plants in all greenhouses and produces humus soil by its own effort.

It provides conditions favourable for the growth of young flowering plants and cultivates good species of plants while improving soil conditions.

Originally, employees did not know what kind of disease the plants caught even though they saw petals turning yellow, but now they

have become "horticulturists" who can guess right about the colour of flowers before they get into bloom. Pak Son Yong said, adding that it is unthinkable apart from their devotion and sincerity dedicated for young flowering plants.

"Growing and tending flowers require much labour. Even for the same species of flower, the size, fragrance and blooming period differ according to the efforts directed and the sincerity devoted to. We direct sincerity to growing vivid, beautiful and firm flower even growing one flower," said workteam leader Kim Myong Sim.

She said that she could not live apart from flowers and would come to the greenhouse even on holidays and rest days as she felt as if young flowering plants were calling her.

When sincerity is dedicated, a beautiful flower can be produced. This is the unanimous mind of all the employees.

As if telling about the devotion of workers there, who dedicate themselves for the beauty of the capital city, tens of thousands of flowers in 16 species including *Senecio cruentus*, *Pelargonium zonale*, *Petunia*

and *Tagetes patula* are rooted in soft soil and emit fragrance with beautiful figures in all greenhouses.

That's why the employees



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees tend flowering plants for decorating streets.

To keep joy of New Year celebrations in memory

By Kim Kum Myong PT

Lots of people visited photo shops greeting the New Year 2022.

The photo shop of the Korean Central History Museum was also crowded with customers.

According to Kim Song Hui, manageress of the photo shop, many customers visit the photo shop on such occasions as holidays and anniversaries, and most of them enjoy having photos taken in national costume.

"I came here after looking at the signboard of the photo shop of the Korean Central History Museum, and it was very good. It had a national traditional house with a tile roof, pictures by Kim Hong Do, a painter who left his name in the history of our nation, and ceramics by U Chi Son who was renowned for his ceramic workmanship. What impressed me in particular was to have photos taken in national dress in the environment of strong national colour," said Sim Sun Bo, an old resident in neighbourhood unit No. 14, Soryong-dong No. 2, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang.

The things to be photographed with customers

at the photo shop are mostly connected with its name as the one of the history museum.

The cosy Korean-style tile-roofed house with a nest of swallows, bottle gourds and well ripe corns hanging from the eaves is a place where everyone wants to have a photo taken with, including a baby on its first birthday, the bride and bridegroom or an old couple greeting their sixtieth birthdays.

There is also a studio depicting the inside of a traditional house with a folding screen, a cabinet drawer and so on, in which people have a photo taken sitting on cushions spread on a rush mat, which adds distinction to the picture.

According to photographer Jong Song Chol, customers like to have a photo taken in a "courtyard" against the background of a tile-roofed house on a moonlit night hearing crickets chirping or a photo taken sitting against the backdrop of a sunny beach with seashells that contain sand simulating boiled rice in front to bring back childhood memory, and yet they prefer to pose in national costume to reproduce ancient time.

Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) and the Korean *paji* (trousers) and



AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Customers pose for the camera at the photo shop of the Korean Central History Museum.

Floriculturists bring spring earlier



Employees tend flowering plants for decorating streets.

DPRK-China ties get stronger

By Song Jong Ho PT

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the People's Republic of China from January 7 to 10 in 2019 at the invitation of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the PRC.

The Chinese Party and government warmly welcomed him as the top state guest and offered him lavish hospitality during his tour.

The China visit the DPRK leader made at the beginning of 2019 amid deep interest of the peoples of the two countries

and the international community was another event to be specially etched in the history of friendship and unity between the two Parties and the two countries.

Today the bonds of friendship between the two countries continue to be cemented even in the face of complicated international situation, thanks to the deep intimacy between Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping.

Hostile forces are getting more undisguised in their manoeuvres to isolate and stifle socialist countries, and the reality demands the two countries unite firmly and further develop the ties of friendship and cooperation.

It is a steadfast stand of the WPK and the DPRK government to keep developing the DPRK-China friendship with socialism as the core.

Socialism is the choice of the peoples of the two countries and

Socialism—ideal of humankind

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The 1990s was a period when socialism suffered a setback in some countries and the imperialist allied forces got more vicious in their attempts against socialism.

Progressive parties and people, who failed to see properly the truth behind the circumstances, found themselves in confusion and wavering.

The setback of socialism was not at all attributable to either the falsity of the idea or the lack of revolutionary spirit of the masses of the people. It was because there was not a great leader who leads the cause of socialism along the road of victory.

At that juncture, Chairman Kim Jong Il issued the immortal classic work entitled *The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party* on January 3 1992 to expound on a scientific basis the cause of the setback of socialism in several countries and the historical lesson drawn from it and give an overall proof of the justness of the general line

that socialism which suits the independent nature of the human beings is just the ideal of mankind and the genuine people's society representing the future. A great number of the progressive political parties of the world aspiring after socialism expressed their full support and approval to the Pyongyang Declaration, highly appreciating it as the "true Communist Manifesto of present times" and the number of the political parties that sign the Pyongyang Declaration is still increasing day by day.

Thanks to his energetic revolutionary external activities, unity and solidarity between socialist countries are further strengthened in the ever-changing political situation and significant occasions are being provided to propel the socialist cause on a worldwide scale.

Under his wise leadership, our people and the world progressive humankind are becoming convinced about the victory in socialism, and they are picturing a new independent world.

In those days, the Pyongyang Declaration—a common program of struggle to defend and promote the socialist cause—was adopted on the basis of the Juche-oriented idea and theory of socialism which was developed by the Chairman.

The declaration clarified

BYWORD

Force majeure peculiar to DPRK

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, said the DPRK's political and ideological might with the single-hearted unity of the Party and people as the core is force majeure peculiar to Juche Korea and a decisive factor promoting new development of socialist construction at the Fifth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

The leader, the Party and the masses are firmly bound together by one ideology,

warm love and devotion, and this single-hearted unity is the greatest wealth of the DPRK which cannot be bartered for anything.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il held the people as heaven and General Secretary Kim Jong Un is making a new history of love for the people as he holds them in high esteem as much as he does the great leaders.

The DPRK has been able to steadily follow the road of independence and socialism in the face of constant threat

hesitate to dedicate their lives in order to implement the ideas and intentions of the former—this is the reality of the DPRK.

The political and ideological might of the country is the strength of collectivism of all the people who help and lead one another forward as they are devoted to society and collectives.

Today, the Korean people exert themselves to implement the five-year plan under the leadership of Kim Jong Un with the unshakable faith that the DPRK's socialist cause will surely be accomplished as they are led by him.

OPINION

US in paranoia of world supremacy

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Recently, Russia officially quit the Treaty on Open Skies.

As has already been known, in May 2020, the US announced its decision on quitting the Treaty on Open Skies, claiming that Russia had violated it and officially quit the treaty in November that year.

In response to this, Russia effected its domestic law on abrogating the Treaty on Open Skies on June 18 last year and it officially quit the treaty according to its relevant provision on December 18, six months later.

On that day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia made public a statement clarifying its stand that Russia has made a lot of efforts to observe the treaty for over 20 years since it signed the Treaty on Open Skies to improve the international security, but the treaty has fallen victim to the internal political strife of the US and it is the US which is totally responsible for breaking the treaty.

On December 21 2021, President Putin also emphasized at an Enlarged Council Meeting of the Ministry of Defence that the US finds it easy to quit all the international treaties of no interest without any explanation and that the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and the Treaty on Open Skies are typical examples of such treaties.

There are innumerable cases of the US unilaterally quitting the main disarmament treaties, causing the nuclear arms race and posing grave threat to global peace.

The US is accelerating the establishment of the global missile defence system without being ever restricted after it quit the 1972 ABM Treaty in 2002. It was only 16 days after the US withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 2019 that it conducted the test launch of Tomahawk cruise missile on the ground base. Now, it is attempting to deploy the MK-41 launching pads to fire the above-mentioned missiles in East European countries.

The US is destroying the international disarmament system by quitting the major disarmament treaties in a systematic way. It is aimed at overpowering its rivals by means of military supremacy and establishing the order of power in which everything is held sway under its baton.

The reality clearly shows that the US, which is in the anachronistic paranoia of world supremacy, is the main culprit that is disturbing the planet while recklessly infringing upon world peace and the international order by means of illegal high-handedness and arbitrariness in utter disregard of the legitimate security and the interest of other countries.

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JAPAN HELL-BENT ON EXECUTING RISKY PLAN FOR DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTEWATER

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The disposal of radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima atomic power plant of Japan has emerged as a serious issue.

As is known, the environs of the Fukushima atomic power plant still remains seriously contaminated and tens of thousands of Japanese lead a painful life in their refuges due to the consequences of environmental damage. The number of cancer cases is growing among those who returned home unable to endure the refugee life.

Despite their warning and protest, the Japanese authorities dare to destroy the marine environment without hesitation.

Shortly ago, the Japanese atomic energy control committee confessed that the lower threshold of radioactive materials continued to have been fixed wrongly during the marine surveys in the surrounding waters of the Fukushima atomic power plant in recent years, fully revealing that

the radioactive contamination of the environs of the nuclear power plant is far more serious than it has already been known.

In this connection, the international community raises its voice of warning and opposition to the disposal of radioactive wastewater from the power plant as it is a global issue related to the protection of marine ecosystem and health of humanity.

More serious is that it plans openly and intentionally to impose nuclear disaster on humanity with the dumping of radioactive-contaminated water into the sea.

In case the radioactive-contaminated water is released into the sea along the coast of Fukushima with a strong ocean current, the radioactive substances will spread across the world in a few years.

The dumping of radioactive wastewater into sea is a crime against humanity.

The international community

will never allow Japan, which does not hesitate to destroy global environment and sacrifice humanity to seek its own selfish interests, to commit such a shameless act.

atomic energy control committee.

If the radioactive wastewater is

really safe and not harmful, why did not Japan release it into its lakes and recycle it for home use?

More serious is that it plans openly and intentionally to impose nuclear disaster on humanity with the dumping of radioactive-contaminated water into the sea.

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The international community

will never allow Japan, which does not hesitate to destroy global environment and sacrifice humanity to seek its own selfish interests, to commit such a shameless act.

WORLD

Briefly

China

President puts forward tasks for New Year

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered his New Year address to mark the New Year 2022.

He said that all the Chinese people should not be satisfied with immediate successes but continue to struggle to create a beautiful life, make mountains and fields of the country green and push forward with the "one country, two systems" policy in a stable way while sharing pleasure and pain in one mind.

Russia

President calls for achieving development, prosperity

Russian President Vladimir Putin in his New Year address for 2022 called for achieving progress and prosperity of the country.

An important goal for this year is to improve the people's living standards and provide them with affluent life, he said. To attain this goal, national plans should be implemented and the citizens should work hard to this end, he stressed.

Cuba

President stresses necessity to develop agriculture

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez stressed the necessity to develop agriculture in a conference with members of the government, chiefs of enterprises, scientists and technicians on December 29 last year.

The key solution to overcoming sanctions and blockade is to increase food production, he said, adding it is important to introduce advanced science and technology into the agricultural sector.

USA

Death toll of gun violence last year: over 44 700

Due to gun violence, 44 750 Americans lost their lives and another 40 359 people were injured in the United States last year.

Among them, over 5 600 were children.

Largest-scale shootings which shocked society reportedly amounted to 691 cases.

Foreign media comment that gun-related crimes in the country are a chronic social issue that can never be solved.

COVID-19

Daily incidence of COVID-19 cases: over 2 million

According to foreign news reports, more than two million people were infected with COVID-19 on the single day of January 4.

The water volume of Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the country, decreased to one third, a record low since 1935.

The water volume of 26 reservoirs decreased by half in Utah.

Saying there is little prospect of alleviation of water crisis this year, too, experts called on each country to seek ways for coping with this.

undermined democracy in Hong Kong. The US has even gone so far as to impose secondary sanctions by invoking its domestic legislation called "Hong Kong Autonomy Act", on five members of the liaison office of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong and the entities working with them who were already subjected to its sanctions since July last year.

It is the first election ever held after the adoption in March last year by the National People's Congress of China of a resolution to improve and complete the election system of Hong Kong.

This invited strong reactions from the government of China and the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Spokespersons for the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Central People's Government liaison office and correspondents' public office in Hong Kong pointed out that these moves by the US and the UK are aimed at hindering this development.

The US and the West are doggedly interfering in the Hong Kong issue despite strong condemnation and denunciation from China. Their hidden agenda is clearly known even to a child.

The US should abandon its ingrained bad habit of outrageously interfering in others' internal affairs and serve its political purposes.

Although about 73 percent of Nigerian population are supplied with water, most of them reportedly use polluted water.

Water scarcity is also witnessed in Asian and American regions.

Water crisis remains serious

In India, about 200 000 people die of deteriorating hygienic environment caused by water shortage every year and about half of the country's population were not supplied with drinking water as

of the end of 2020.

The northeastern part of Syria had less rain than the average last year, with the result that the water quantity of reservoirs reportedly decreased by 80 percent.

The water level of the Colorado, which is called a source of life-giving water in the southwestern part of the US, decreased to cause a serious water shortage in the river basin.

The water volume of Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the country, decreased to one third, a record low since 1935.

The water volume of 26 reservoirs decreased by half in Utah.

Saying there is little prospect of alleviation of water crisis this year, too, experts called on each country to seek ways for coping with this.

TAESONGSAN FOCUSES ON WINTER SPORTS



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An ice hockey coach and players discuss training methods at the Taesongsan Sports Club.

By Jong Chol PT

The Taesongsan Sports Club is concentrating efforts on developing winter sports.

According to manager Kim Myong Gun, figure skating coaches and players of the sports club raised the scientific level of training between last December and the present to perfect the jumps with high degrees of difficulty

and make some young players surpass the records of senior players in the short-track speed skating events of national competitions and even come close to Asian records.

Ice hockey coaches are directing the focus of physical training toward improving agility and perseverance of players and intensifying the training in professional basic skills like skating,

puck dribbling and passing and sudden shots in movement.

Meanwhile, speed skating coaches ensured scientific control of training by applying a cycling ergometer in the training for improving speed, strength and perseverance, while intensifying guidance over individual skill training.

Jon Kwang Ok, head of the training division of the club, said that all coaches set out ambitious plans for technical development of respective sporting events and hold discussions and exchange good experiences on a regular basis.

The sports club has developed computer programs for selecting players who have physical constitutions suitable to particular sports.

Long-standing Korean custom of using cushions

By Ri Sang Il PT

As the Korean people have been accustomed to sitting on the floor of rooms since ancient times, they have a long history of using cushions, said Kong Myong Song, director of the Folklore Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences.

Korean cushions can be divided into several types according to materials and shapes.

They were usually made from paper, straw, silk, cattail and sedge and had different shapes like circle, square, hexagon and octagon.

Some cushions made of cloth were filled with cotton, silk,

cattail or animal fur to make them softer and covered with silk cloth to make them more elegant.

Their covers were made in different colours and decorated with speckled patterns or embroideries of animals, birds and plants like phoenix, pine tree and crane and letters like "su" (longevity) and "pok" (happiness).

Koreans had different kinds of cushions at home for family members to use when they sat on the floor and regarded it as good manner to offer a cushion to a guest.

They used different cushions according to seasons: straw cushions in summer and cloth cushions in cold winter.



Cushions made of straw.

Korea's traditional food of jang brings forth 'sixth taste'

By Yun Ki Song PT

The Korean people have widely used bean paste and soy sauce in their dietary life since ancient times.

According to *Samguk sagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms), the Chaeksong paste made of soybean malt was a speciality of the State of Palhae (698-926) which succeeded Koguryo Kingdom (277 BC-AD 668) and bean paste and soy sauce were used as one of the wedding presents sent from the bridegroom's house to the bride's in Silla (mid-1st century-935).

Like this, the long-standing

foods take a significant share of the Koreans' diet.

In other words, as cheese and butter are essential to Western diet, soy sauce and bean paste are indispensable condiments of the Koreans.

In general, soy sauce was mainly used to season foods and bean paste as either dish or condiment for improving the flavour of various foods, and they are called *jang* altogether.

The flavour of foods has mainly been classified into five tastes since olden times, including sweet, hot, salty, sour and bitter tastes.

And *jang* has a sapid taste in addition to the five

flavours.

Different kinds of amino acids that are generated in the process of making *jang* are mostly essential amino acids.

Of them, glutamic acid has just the sapid taste.

The fermented food of *jang* has high nutritive value.

It contains such nutritive ingredients as protein, glucide and minerals.

Bean paste, in particular, has a high protein content and therefore serves as a major source of protein.

Digestibility of grains vary markedly according to their processing methods.

Proteins in *jang* are almost

complete one and therefore they are highly digestible. For example, although you can scarcely digest raw beans, you can ensure 70 percent digestion when you boil them or when you grind and boil them and about 90 percent digestion with bean curd.

But the digestibility of *jang* reaches almost 100 percent.

Jang has outstanding health-promoting and pharmacological effects as it is rich in substances which boost immunity of human body and retard ageing.

And it is recognized as world macrobiotic and health food for the unique sapid

taste, outstanding nutritive value and excellent health-promoting effects.

Jang still serves as an essential condiment in the Koreans' dietary life and local areas make different kinds of bean paste and soy by preserving their specific features, including peppered bean paste, paste made to traditional folk recipes and paste made of soybean malt.

The industrial production

of *jang* has attained a high level and therefore condiments and foodstuff factories mass-produce bean paste and soy sauce.

Though many original and excellent new dishes are invented according to the requirements of the developing times and demands of people, ubiquitous bean paste soup houses are always crowded with customers and the soup is everyone's favourite.



Kaesong peppered bean paste made with glutinous rice.

