

General Secretary Kim Jong Un sees performance on lunar New Year's Day

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, enjoyed an art performance in celebration of lunar New Year's Day at the Mansudae Art Theatre in Pyongyang on February 1.

The General Secretary warmly congratulated the audience and the artistes on the lunar New Year's Day, acknowledging their enthusiastic cheers.

Among the audience were Choe Ryong Hae, Jo Yong Won, Kim Tok Hun and Pak Jong Chon, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, and Ri Il Hwan, Jong Sang Hak, O Su Yong and Thae Hyong Chol, secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK.

Put on the stage were monumental famous songs of the era in praise of the great Party and the great country and other colourful numbers full of national flavour performed by major art troupes of high repute.

A medley of folk songs added a zest to the festive mood and famous songs on the theme of patriotism resounded through the venue.

The songs about the single-minded

devotion of the people dedicated to the ever-victorious WPK, which is fully demonstrating the dignity and prestige of a powerful country, unfolding the great programme for the victory of the revolution, were put on the stage full of excitement, revving up the festive atmosphere.

The first monumental hymn *O Mother Party* referring to the Party as mother and the popular odes to the Workers' Party including *I Love Mother* and *Our Mother* were performed to vividly depict the true looks peculiar to Juche Korea where the Party and the people have formed a harmonious whole sharing the ideology, intention, feelings and moral obligation.

The performance reached its climax with female solo and mixed *pangchang* (off-stage song) *I Will Follow You for Life* and mixed group singing and male chorus *O Party, It's Thanks to Your Care*.

The performance ended jubilantly with the finale *Snow Is Falling on New Year's Day*.

The General Secretary took the stage with his wife Ri Sol Ju to shake hands with the performers and congratulated them on the successful performance before having a photo taken with them.

DPRK leader sends greetings to Chinese counterpart

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, on Friday sent a message of congratulations to Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, on the 24th Winter Olympics to be held in Beijing.

Kim Jong Un in the message said that the Beijing Winter Olympics are the first auspicious event that the CPC and the Chinese people greet in the first year of the new 100-year journey for achieving prosperity of the Chinese nation, and a festival common to the peoples and sportspersons of all countries in the world aspiring after peace, friendship and solidarity.

The successful opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics despite the worldwide health crisis and unprecedented severe circumstances is another great victory won by socialist China, he said.

The Olympic torch flaring up in Beijing clearly proves that no difficulty and challenge can ever prevent the Chinese people from vigorously advancing, rallied closely around the

CPC headed by General Secretary Xi Jinping, he noted.

Kim Jong Un expressed the belief that the current Olympics would adorn a brilliant page of the history of international sports movement as a plain, secure and colourful event and strikingly demonstrate the dynamic spirit and national power of China under the correct leadership of the General Secretary and thanks to the sincere efforts of the CPC and the Chinese people.

DPRK-China relations have been cemented into invincible strategic ties that can never be broken by anything in the struggle for defending and advancing the common cause, and the two Parties and the peoples of the two countries have consolidated unity and cooperation in all fields including politics, the economy, culture and sports, he said.

He added that he would steadily develop the relations between the two Parties and the two countries to a new high stage in conformity with the desire of the peoples of the two countries, together with the General Secretary in the future, too.

He sincerely wished General Secretary Xi Jinping good health.

Chairman Kim Jong Il's 80th birthday celebrations

Central photo exhibition opens



KCNA

A central photo exhibition "For the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the people" opened to mark

the 80th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Its opening ceremony took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on February 3.

It was attended by Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Choe Hui Thae, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's

Committee, officials concerned and Pyongyang citizens.

Sung Jong Gyu, minister of Culture, delivered an opening address.

He said that the central photo exhibition opens to mark the 80th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il at a time when the entire Party, the whole country and all the people are waging a dynamic struggle to win a greater victory in socialist construction in hearty response to the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the WPK Central Committee.

After the opening ceremony, the participants looked round the exhibition venue.

Put on display were the photo "Chairman Kim Jong Il meets with road tenders of the family workteam at Kubong Pass" and others.

Paektusan Prize Games open in celebration of Day of the Shining Star

An opening ceremony of the Paektusan Prize Games in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star took place at the Basketball Gymnasium on Pyongyang's Chongchun Street on February 3.

Vice-Premier Kim Song

Ryong made an opening speech.

After the opening ceremony, there were a march-past of sportspeople and a men's three-person basketball match between the April 25 and Amnokgang sports clubs.

25th Paektusan Prize games of civil servants open

The 25th Paektusan Prize games of civil servants started.

Basketball, volleyball, Taekwon-Do, shooting, tug of war and other events are to take place, divided into four groups, in the

Basketball Gymnasium and the Taekwon-Do Hall on Chongchun Street, the Meari Shooting Gallery and so on.

The opening ceremony of the games was held in the Basketball Gymnasium on February 3.

Eternal policy of the DPRK

Kim Kyong Chan

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that to provide all the students of the country with uniforms and other school things at the state's expense is a consistent policy of the Party and the state, set forth a task of supplying all of them with good quality uniforms and bags of new styles and took a crucial measure of the Party Central Committee for implementing it.

The WPK and the DPRK take it as their eternal policy to supply uniforms to students, regarding it as an

unconditional priority task, not a trifling matter which is dealt with only under favourable conditions and which may be skipped at hard times.

The history of the DPRK is the one of total devotion to rising generations.

Calling children the kings of the country, President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il ensured that all undertakings of the government became the ones for younger generations.

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea, which was established on February 8 1946 after liberation, included in the agenda of its first meeting the pencil issue for children. The Koreans still cherish

the benevolent images of the President and the Chairman who cared so much about schoolchildren's uniforms. On a visit to the then Yonphung senior middle school in April some decades ago, the President was so satisfied to see students in new uniforms he spent a long time with them taking their photos and writing his signatures on them. And the Chairman gave detailed instructions on the style of new uniforms to be provided to students across the country to mark the 80th birthday of the President and paid close attention to the production of school uniforms even when the country was experiencing hardships.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un has continued to administer the politics of love for younger generations true to the intentions of the great leaders.

He frequently called in relevant officials to give them instructions as to the provision of uniforms, bags and other school things to all the children and students of the country. On the other occasion he spent a great deal of time examining the designs for new uniforms created according to school type and sex. And at another time uniform designs filled the conference room of the Party Central Committee where important Party and state affairs are discussed. The people were deeply

In the period of presiding over the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party, he discussed the issue of "Hachbaragi"-brand school supplies.

Fresh dairy products came to be supplied to all baby homes, orphanages, nurseries and kindergartens across the country, thanks to the General Secretary who put it forward as the most important policy of the WPK and the state to provide more improved conditions for bringing up children even by investing a huge sum of money at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

The people were deeply

moved by the Party's childcare policy on supplying nourishing foods like dairy products to all the children at state expense at the time when the country is in severe difficulty.

Through the loving care of the General Secretary who took another crucial measure for growing generations, the Korean people realized once again the sincere devotion of the WPK which firmly defends the children's bright smile and brings them greater happiness despite the manifold hardships and challenges confronted by the revolution.

To take constant loving care of children is the eternal policy of the DPRK.

Hwasong 12 ground-to-ground missile test-fired for evaluation

KCNA

An evaluation test-fire of Hwasong 12 ground-to-ground intermediate- and long-range ballistic

missile was conducted on January 30 under a plan of the Academy of Defence Science, the Second Economy Commission and other institutions concerned.

It was aimed at selectively evaluating the missile being produced and deployed and verifying the overall accuracy of the weapon system.

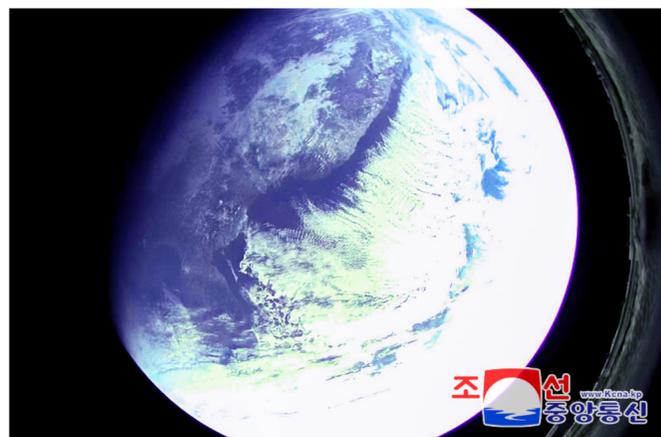
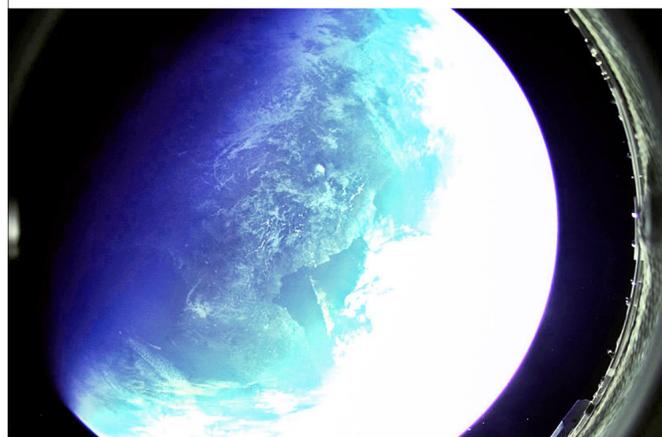
It was conducted by the highest-angle launch system from the northwestern part of the country toward the waters of the East Sea of Korea in consideration of

the security of neighbouring countries.

The Academy of Defence Science made public the earth image data taken from space by a camera installed

at the missile warhead.

It confirmed the accuracy, safety and operational effectiveness of the Hwasong 12 weapon system under production.



Hwasong 12 ground-to-ground intermediate- and long-range ballistic missile is test-fired for evaluation on January 30.



Proud course followed by regular armed forces of DPRK

Most powerful weapon of KPA

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Today, the Korean people proudly look back upon the 70-odd-year history of the Korean People's Army that has adorned the whole course of its development with brilliant victory and glory.

For the Korean people, who had been subjected to the destiny of a ruined nation, it was a long-cherished desire to build a regular army.

Their desire was fulfilled on February 8 1948.

Though the KPA was fledgling in terms of scale and military equipment, it could reliably defend the dignity, sovereignty and safety of the country and people as it was led by President Kim Il Sung, an ever-victorious and iron-willed brilliant commander.

In 1950, or two years after its birth, the hostile forces

started a war against the DPRK, bragging that they would nip the country in the bud, but after being defeated in the war they screamed that they fought a war in a wrong place, at a wrong time and with a wrong enemy.

Though the enemies made desperate attempts to recover their lost prestige, they were beaten in succession.

And the nuclear racket they raised as an all-mighty weapon brought disgrace upon themselves.

Former US President Jimmy Carter who visited the DPRK with such riddles admitted that President Kim Il Sung was a man greater than George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln put together.

The KPA is strong as it has been led by outstanding leaders.

It could create a legend of

war victory unprecedented in the world history of wars as it held Kim Il Sung in high esteem as Supreme Commander. It could also emerge victorious in the unheard-of campaign for defending socialism since it was led by Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il. As it held the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in high esteem as Supreme Commander, it could develop into elite armed forces fully prepared in political, ideological and moral aspects.

All the service personnel are absolutely determined to support the leadership of the Party Central Committee at any time and in any adversity and firmly believe that there can be no arms apart from the devoted defence of the Party Central Committee. This is the KPA's most powerful weapon.

National defence capability built by Koreans themselves

On the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea last year, the Defence Development Exhibition Self-Defence 2021 took place, showing off the DPRK's robust defence capabilities.

The exhibition, which adorned the holiday with splendour, was a great festival which demonstrated the tremendous progress the defence science and munitions industry of the country made by invariably holding fast to the line of self-defence and their bright development prospects.

Every visitor to the exhibition attentively watched each piece of military hardware on display, filled with the pride in that all of them were home-made.

"It is the law of the world that the weak fall prey to the strong. So it is the desire of all countries and peoples to be strong. But it never comes true naturally. I would like to thank the WPK and the state for having provided the power to safeguard the

country's security and future by ensuring rapid progress in the build-up of the independent national defence in the present difficult and complicated circumstances," said Sim Jun Il, a workteam leader of the turbine repair workshop of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

Historically, the Korean nation suffered misfortune and anguish due to invasion by foreign forces, and the DPRK has been compelled to build socialism under the constant threats from hostile forces from one century to the next. In view of the lesson from the history of the nation and the demand and special characters of the Korean revolution, building up national defence has been an indispensable and vital state affair which the Party, the government and the people must not neglect even a moment.

What the WPK and the state have trusted are the indomitable revolutionary spirit, remarkable patriotism and good brains and talents of the defence scientists and working people in

the munitions industry who create unprecedented miracles without fail if the revolution requires them to do so and the powerful foundation of the munitions industry firmly consolidated amidst protracted hardships.

The core of the DPRK's defence policy is invariably to defend the country and people by their own efforts, and contain any threat and challenge and reliably and steadfastly safeguard peace by means of steadily-developing, powerful defence capability.

The self-defence capability of the country will keep improving in the future, too.

It is the country's invariable priority policy and goal to possess peerless military capabilities which no one would dare to challenge and further increase them. This is because the effort to possess a strong military capability is a self-defensive and mandatory right and a core state policy which a sovereign state should not neglect even for a moment either in a peaceful environment or in a state of confrontation.



The first military parade of the Korean People's Army held on February 8 1948.



The parade columns demonstrate the defence capability of the KPA.



Researchers discuss how to improve the quality of printing at Pyongyang University of Publishing and Printing Industry.

JON JI SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ink jet printing method available for decorating satchels

The method helps lower the printing cost by one fifth as compared to previously, while further improving the quality of decorative printing

By Han Jong Ho PT

Pyongyang University of Publishing and Printing Industry has recently researched and introduced the satchel-decoration printing process by using an ink jet method based on the CTP technology.

The CTP technology can directly print the image data input in a computer on paper, metal, cloth, leather, glass and wood. It is widely used in the printing industry as this technology does not use

film and chemical reagents. Unlike the currently used screen printing method, the new printing process is simple and can bring printed images into line with original ones. Especially, all materials needed for the printing process are locally available ones.

In order to prevent diffusion in jet printing, one of the knotty problems in establishing the printing process based on an ink jet method, scientists completed a method of transforming the

physicochemical property of printing substrate. In addition, they introduced a rational coating method that meets technical indexes, thus improving brilliance and colour tone and obtaining unfading print images.

They also solved different technical problems including adjusting printing conditions to increase descriptive representation according to manuscript and harmonizing the amount of ink absorption and picture deviation according to the moving

speed of printing plate so as to improve representation.

"Thanks to the newly-developed ink jet method for the satchel-decoration printing process, the printing cost has been lowered by one fifth as compared to previously, while further improving the quality of decoration printing," said scientist Kim Chol Gyu.

Their research finding has been introduced into several bag factories including the Sinuju Bag Factory.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL WATER DISINFECTANT DEVELOPED

By Kim Chol Nam PT

At present, research is competitively being conducted in the world to provide clean water environment for health and longevity by further rationalizing the disinfection and refining of water.

Korean scientists have recently developed a synthesis technology of potassium ferrite (VI), which is recognized as an ideal water disinfectant.

"Potassium ferrite (VI) is an oxidizing agent

stronger than potassium permanganate, ozone and chlorine disinfectants and it has high sterilization effects and does not cause secondary pollution in the water. A disinfection test for natural water shows that its sterilizing rate is high and its cleanness remarkably improves," said Pak Ji Hyok, a department director of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

According to him, potassium ferrite (VI) is effective for removing minor polluting materials

including heavy metals in water and materials giving out bad smells like hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. It also clearly eliminates poisonous carcinogenic and radioactive substances.

The potassium ferrite (VI) with easy manufacturing method is a nonpoisonous green water disinfectant since it is safe and convenient to use and has no negative effect on health and environment.

It can be used to disinfect drinking water, surgical tools and other medical

supplies and it proves effective for the treatment of women's diseases caused by the infection by protozoan and germs and the treatment of skin diseases including wound and eczema.

It is used to purify all kinds of industrial waste water that are hard to treat in different biochemical ways and as selective oxidizing agent in the organic synthesis field, electrode activating material for alkaline battery, and oxide film former for the surface of aluminum and its alloy.

Factory enlists talents in the effort to enhance product quality

Performance of rock-drill boosted by applying new techniques

By Pak Song Min PT

The Kim Chaek Rock-drill Factory concentrates efforts on raising the quality of products by introducing new techniques into production lines.

It set an ambitious goal of remedying some defects in its products and improving their performances and groped for solutions.

A solution it adopted was to involve technical innovation team members of the factory in production.

Some suggested solving the problem with the help of professional research institutions, but the factory assigned the task to its own technical staff.

Some of them were technicians who had received professional education at universities or colleges and others had studied in the study-while-you-work educational system.

They had already successfully settled a series of technical problems, big and small, arising in the factory.

Vast experience and technical data the technical innovation team members had gained served as priceless and practical assets for improving the performances of its products.

So they joined workteams to be involved in production in workplaces while conducting necessary scientific research.

Their research project focused on designing the structure and cooling system of hydraulic bogie more efficiently to suit the conditions of working faces in mines and increasing the drilling speed.

Soon after, novel ideas for improving its performance were suggested one after another on the basis of good grasp of the product.

As a result, marked progress was made in the improvement of performance of hydraulic rock-drill, which enabled the factory to boost its performance while reducing the previous production lines.

"Improvement of performance of products and their quality is unthinkable apart from science and technology. Our factory is determined to continue to solve all problems by relying on its technical force," says the chief engineer of the factory.



YUN KUM CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A partial view of production line of the Kim Chaek Rock-drill Factory.

Factory produces new kinds of satchels

Schoolbags come in different shapes and colours



Production of satchels are speeded up at the Pyongyang Bag Factory.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea put forth a task of supplying a new type of and good-quality school uniforms and bags to all students including children throughout the country at state expense and took measures of the Party Central Committee for its implementation.

Accordingly, the Pyongyang Bag Factory pushes the production of satchels.

It distinctively produces diverse types and colours of satchels for students of primary schools, junior and senior middle schools and universities to meet their tastes and fancies.

It prioritizes design creation before anything else.

"We have always focused on the production of new, distinctive and profitable satchel designs," said Jong Chol Guk, section chief of the design studio of the Pyongyang Bag Factory. "We have already established a database containing

tens of thousands of pieces of data and fixed the satchel sizes, by reflecting physical characters including height and body girth, for children at kindergartens and students at primary and junior and senior middle schools and universities."

Designers produce designs as they organically unify diverse colours and patterns in conformity with students' ages and mental qualities and make sure that detailed elements of satchels are distinctive.

For example, they employ scenes from such cartoons as *The Boy General* and *The Clever Raccoon Dog* and pictures helpful to developing intellectual faculty like mental arithmetic problems for newcomers to primary schools who have just finished the kindergarten course, and paintings conducive to improving study zeal and cultivating patriotism, including those showing students dreaming to become astronauts or rabbits planting trees, for third- and fourth-year pupils.

And the factory creates picture decorations which raise the faculties of inquiry and zeal for learning and reflect the aspiration of students.

Its employees actively take part in design production.

"We draw and discuss pictures in leisure time to bring out designs that retain aesthetic value and conform to technical requirements on the basis of experience and lessons gained in the course of work," said Sin Myong Song, workshop manager.

According to Jong Chol Guk, the creation of satchel designs is also encouraged through a national prize contest.

At present, the factory introduces into production hundreds of kinds of Sonamu satchel designs.

"The knapsack-type satchels produced at the Pyongyang Bag Factory are popular among children as a lot of school things can be put into them and they are convenient to use," said Yun Ryong Gil, resident of Sochang-dong of Central District, Pyongyang.

Turumi-brand school things favoured by children

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Different school things factories are now busy producing school things according to the measure of the Workers' Party of Korea to supply all preschool children and students with school supplies on the occasions of the Day of the Shining Star (February 16) and the new school year.

"We've gone into overdrive to produce Turumi-brand school things to be supplied to pupils who will move up to the second year and new students entering junior and senior middle schools," said the manager of the Sonamu School Things Factory.

The factory turns out nearly 20 kinds of school things such as pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, crayons, coloured clay, rulers, scissors and gel

pens and the variety of school things varies according to curricula.

It is equipped with a full set of modern facilities for each production process, including machines for injection moulding, extruding and assembling and printers.

The factory focuses on making school things that are convenient to use by timely grasping the psychology of students and sensitively accommodating the global trend of development.

According to process controller Hong Mi Hyang, although it is not so long since the establishment of the factory, it has become well known to all students and people throughout the country along with the Turumi brand. She attributed the success to its strenuous efforts for improving the quality of

goods to meet the standards of students' demand that are getting higher with each passing day.

School things play a big role in developing students' intellectual faculties and no other products require earlier updating than school supplies, she added.

The factory also puts big efforts into the domestic production of raw and other materials.

In the course of this, it developed a kind of coloured clay, which is good for intellectual development and does no harm to

the human body, with locally available raw materials.

The factory's clay comes in 12 colours.

It produces goods with nice gloss and smoothness like gel pen holder and refill, compass, ruler and the container of coloured clay by recycling plastic waste from production processes.



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Some Turumi-brand goods produced at the Sonamu School Things Factory.

Uniform cloth and bag canvas production stepped up

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill is making innovations in the production of school uniform cloth and bag canvas in accordance with the important measure taken at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to supply new types of good quality school uniforms and bags to every student.

The factory finished framing for spinning and weaving machines in a short time, prepared fully to produce thread and cloth and started production.

Technicians of the mill have invented and introduced new driving gears as substitutes for the previous parts of weaving machines to ensure normal operation of elastic staff looms and introduced various methods including the one of raising the number of revolution of spindles and that of picking weft pneumatically to improve

productivity. The large-capacity bag canvas production process produces canvas with tetron rayon produced at home.

The barotor machine controlled by PLC produces evenly dyed cloth with a certain tensile strength.

According to deputy chief engineer Kim Kum Chol, the machine consumes less water and electricity while ensuring very high-quality dyeing.

The canvas coating process satisfactorily ensures the cold resistance, flexibility and water resistance of the cloth.

On the other hand, weavers and spinners are making innovations in production of spun yarn and cloth by conducting a multi-spindle and multi-loom tending campaign.

Especially, the tetron rayon workshop actively organizes production according to the grade of raw materials from the preparation processes.

The employees of the factory are waging a campaign to increase production 1.3 times every day as compared previously.



AN CHOL RYONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

Cloths for school uniforms are turned out at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

TOP IT BUSINESS

Institute takes lead in IT development

Scientific research and production integrated, industrial production of goods ensured

By Ri Myong Jun PT

The IT Lab of Kim Il Sung University won the title of top information technology business for the fourth time at the national exhibition of IT achievements-2021 last year.

It received the state software quality certification for the first time in the country and works to integrate scientific research and the production of goods and ensure industrial production of goods by holding fast to such technologies as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, autonomous control and information security.

Among its typical products, there is Kulak antivirus.

The antivirus software earns growing trust of users as it becomes more intelligent with many functions being added.

"We have unveiled Kulak 4.1 which excels in detecting new kinds of computer viruses, stopping the intrusion of malware through computer networks and preventing viral infection and data leak by memories," said Choe Chol Ryong, director of the lab.

The lab takes a leading position in the country in

Researchers work to develop a face-recognition turnstile at the IT Lab of Kim Il Sung University.



JO RYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

terms of image information processing and image recognition technology.

It updates the technology by introducing such technologies based on deep learning as facial detection and tracking, detection of forged face, identification of sex and estimation of age.

Therefore, it always takes first place in the AI

programming contest related to face recognition at the annual national exhibition of IT achievements.

"In last year's contest, we came up with a high-precision and fast-detection program which recognizes and processes the faces of five persons at the same time," said staffer Om Chol Nam.

Other representative products include the video-conferencing system, telemedicine system and the comprehensive system of software production and management.

It also developed an intelligent medical diagnosis technology, which helps reduce mortality from major diseases. It diagnoses such

malignant diseases as cancer in an early phase by analyzing and processing medical images photographed by roentgen, CT and MRI with the help of the AI technology.

In addition, it completed the integrated production system at the livestock farming base in the Sepho area and the Jangchon

Vegetable Cooperative Farm, automated the pulp process of the Mindulle Notebook Factory, introduced the technology of high-speed retrieval of the large-scale image data at the Sci-Tech Complex, developed the forest resources management and information system and solved other important IT problems.

Jong Hyok, director of the institute.

The system has increased the accuracy of collected train information over three times, the utilization rate of engines and carriages two times and freight traffic 1.5 times.

In addition, the institute introduced an operation information service system into newly-built tube train No. 1.

Under this system, passengers in carriages are provided with information through a screen which displays the features of relevant stations along with their images, date, time, running state, temperature and humidity. And an LCD screen beside it shows them videos telling about different common knowledge for their convenience.

The integrated rail transport management system, which is composed of a railway management information system, a carriage and wagon information command system, a feeding dispatcher support system, a train

operation command system and a station information command system, also contributes to putting the organization and command of rail transport on a scientific basis.

The institute also develops various programs for mobile phones, including a railway rules browsing system.

Among them is a railway curvature calculating app which is now in wide use in lots of railway units across the country, markedly reducing the time of calculating curvature, which is very important in the repair and management of railways, and ensuring promptness and scientific accuracy of them.

Besides, the institute succeeded in the domestic production of power diode for traction transformer substation and established its production process, introduced a system for automatically controlling the temperature and humidity of sleepers curing kiln into a concrete sleepers factory and developed a digital gauge measuring instrument.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

For putting rail transport on IT basis

Researchers engage in the development of a program at the IT Institute of the Ministry of Railways.

By Chae Myong Rim PT

The IT Institute of the Ministry of Railways with an over 40-year history takes a big share in putting rail transport on a modern and IT basis.

In recent years alone, the institute completed a design for informatizing rail transport, established a centralized transport control information system at the ministry and conducted scientific research to

informatize the transport at a higher level.

In the course of this, it made a great deal of scientific and technological achievements.

"The biggest success is the development of the automatic rolling stock identification

system. This system enables us to automatically identify information about trains at railway stations and analyse, supervise and control the whole rolling stock of the ministry by using the identified data," said Kim



Nation celebrates Lunar New Year's Day 2022



By Pang Un Ju PT

All the people across the DPRK celebrated Lunar New Year's Day 2022, full of confidence and optimism.

The visitors to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun recollected the sacred revolutionary careers and exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who built a genuine country of the people, a single-mindedly united country, on this land and laid everlasting foundations for national prosperity.

Local people including service personnel also visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in other

places and portraits of their beaming images in their localities to pay floral tribute to them.

The streets of the capital and other parts of the country were in a festive mood and laughter of happiness was heard from every flat, with the songs *We Are the Happiest in the World* and *Pyongyang Is Best* resounding throughout the country.

Colourful performances took place at theatres in Pyongyang and provinces.

The drama *Devoted Service for the Good of People* staged at the National Theatre, joint acrobatic performance given at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre and magic performance at the magic theatre of the National Acrobatic Troupe added to

the joy and delight of the citizens of Pyongyang.

Artists who gave performances in each province also highly sang of the great pride and self-confidence of living in a powerful country that is winning greater victories under the leadership of the great Party.

Public catering establishments across the country pleased the people with kind service.



People spend a good time on Lunar New Year's Day.



Riding competition highlights folk holiday

By Jong Chol PT

A riding competition was held in Pyongyang on February 1 in celebration of lunar New Year's Day 2022.

Leading Party and government officials watched the competition together with working people, youth and students in the capital city.

Kim Il Guk, minister of Physical Culture and Sports, made an opening remark,

which was followed by an opening ceremony.

Then, an outdoor riding contest began, divided into groups of professionals and amateurs.

Spectators enthusiastically cheered the riders.

At the indoor riding-drill ground, there were an amateurs' steeplechase, pony steeplechase and amateurs' trotting race without stirrups.

Riders performed actions

swiftly and correctly by displaying their high horse-handling techniques and children flaunted their good pony-riding skills as they passed along narrow tracks and jumping over obstacles, eliciting laughter of spectators.

A pony center contest began as the last event of the competition amid the excitement and joy of the spectators.

The young riders' race

revved up the atmosphere of the venue.

At the end of the competition, an outdoor art performance was given by artists of the Mansudae Art Troupe, the Wangjaesan Art Troupe and the National Folk Art Troupe to add more to the festive mood.

Fireworks were displayed in the sky above the Mirim area to the tune of light music.

Mass literature creation activities enliven whole country

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

It can be said that mass literary correspondents play a leading role in making literary and artistic activities mass-based. We're actively conducting the work to increase the ranks of such correspondents with working people selected for their literary talents, said Pang Myong Hyok, a department director of the Central Committee of the Writers Union of Korea.

Literary correspondents across the country are producing good works by fully displaying their talents.

Those who are active in Sariwon of North Hwanghae Province, Jonchon County of Jagang Province, Sukchon County of South Phyongan Province and other cities and counties and at different industrial complexes including the Chollima Steel Complex, the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory and the Sinuiju Textile Mill are writing original works in the spirit of the times and with strong enthusiasm for creation while experiencing the inspiring reality in

their workplaces.

Other working people also show growing interest in literature and enthusiasm for literary creation.

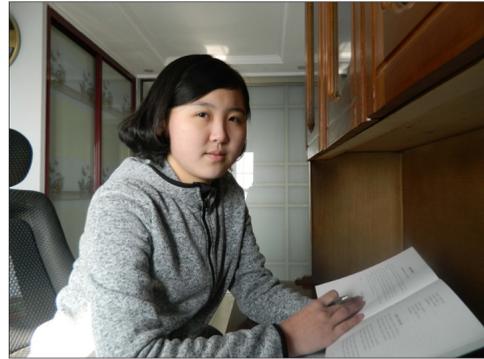
This is evidenced by the fact that a lot of people take part in the national mass literary work prize contest that is held in celebration of the Day of the Sun (birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung) and the Day of the Shining Star (birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il).

A farm worker of Sukchon County wrote and contributed a medium-length novel reflecting his determination to become a master of socialist rural construction with an attachment to his home village, and a worker of Toksong County did a stanzaed poem depicting the patriotism of the young people who had volunteered to work in difficult and labour-consuming sectors.

"People across the country are still writing and sending various types of literary works to us. In less than a month this year, we have received well over a hundred works," said Pang.

The brisk mass literature creation activities are enlivening people.

Girl with different talents



HAN KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By To Kyong Chol PT

Jo Song Gyong (pictured), 16-year-old student at 2-3 class of our school is not only the best at study in her year but also good at singing and at writing poetry, said Kim Hye Sim, a teacher of Kumsong Middle School No. 1.

Song Gyong, who had already surprised people by being good at writing Korean letters and

calculating mentally at the age of four, never failed to take the first place at school contests and was loved by her teachers and villagers as she sang well throughout her primary school days.

At the age of seven, she began to attend the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace to develop her potential aptitude. In her days in the secondary school, she specialized in singing.

One day five years ago, Kim

Hye Sim happened to read child poems and words of songs written by Song Gyong while learning about her study.

So the teacher paid closer attention to Song Gyong's growth, helped her become more familiar with the world of literature and made unknown efforts to make her study literature while taking vocal lessons.

Thus Song Gyong developed her poetic talent further. A few months later she completed a collection of works which earned her the April 15 Mangyongdae Creation Prize of Loyalty.

She received Kim Il Sung Children Honour Prize, the highest commendation for members of the Children's Union, in April 2020.

Recalling her emotion of that time, Song Gyong said, "My growth is associated with the generous teachers' care. They devotedly helped me cultivate talents as I wished."

Today, she gets better marks than others in the study of the subjects of natural science and plays the violin and accordion well.

Compelling drama on devoted service

By Yun Ki Song PT

Drama *Devoted Service for the Good of People* created by the National Theatrical Troupe is causing a social sensation with the passage of time.

After seeing the drama, many people expressed their feelings, referring to it as a deeply impressive drama and fresh and innovative work.

The success of the drama

is not merely thanks to the true-to-life acting of actors and actresses and a form of multi-scene plot and a running three-dimensional stage art that help overcome space-time limitations.

The main factor in the success is that the work reflects the phases of the times vividly and depicts well the pressing social and human issues.

From its early days till now the DPRK has put it

forward as an important principle to give top and absolute priority to the people's interests and convenience and make all officials devotedly serve them, and the relevant demand has become more exact in the recent decade.

Created to reflect the demand, the drama depicts an official of a mountain county, philosophically clarifying what kind of view on the people and life officials

should bear in mind. Herein lies the secret of success of the drama.

"In fact I have thought with pride that I, too, work for the people. But the drama made me think that I am still far from perfection in the light of the hero's noble spiritual world. It is a work that inspires me to recollect my past and make more exact demand on myself," said Ryu Kwan Chol, an official of the Taedonggang District

People's Committee.

Another secret of its success is that the work has got closer to the audience by doing everything afresh from the script to direction, acting and musical presentation while aspiring to and introducing innovations.

Unlike the previous ones, the drama has set distinctive human relations by dint of a character with a contradictory point and employed reality- and

people-friendly speeches, thus creating a fresh mood for the work which is apt to be stiff and boring.

"If the drama helps the audiences redress imperfections in their minds and gather up their strength and courage, we are content with it. As servants of the people, we will live up to their expectations by creating better works in future," said Merited Actor Choe U Man.



Scenes from drama *Devoted Service for the Good of People*.

Residents of Jangchon-ri enjoy civilized life



JU TAE HYOK / RODONG SINMUN

Farmers learn advanced science and technology and conduct mass-based cultural and artistic activities at the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm.

By Sin Pyol PT

The Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District is a beautiful rural town that looks like a piece of picture in any distance.

Every building looks neat and smart—the hall of culture, agricultural sci-tech learning space, Jangchon health complex, nursery, kindergarten and cosy dwelling houses.

When one visits the farm along the road, an eye-catcher is the hall of culture.

According to Ri Hye Yong, sub-workteam leader of vegetable workteam No. 1, the locals call the cultural hall the "People's Theatre".

And when the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the farm, he laughed heartily to hear that farmers call the hall thus.

At the hall, members of the artistic group of the farm conduct mass-based cultural activities.

It is one of leading artistic groups in the country.

"Before the farm turned into a rural town, I felt ashamed each time I stood on the stage as I was unpolished. But now everyone calls us townswomen and they are surprised to see that our artistic performance has achieved remarkable improvement," said Ri Hye Yong who has worked as a member of the artistic group for over 20 years.

Since some years ago, the number of university graduates has increased markedly.

Ji Chol Hyang, leader of vegetable workteam No. 1, for example, is a graduate from Kim Il Sung University and several others graduated from day colleges. There are a lot of college graduates who were involved in the study-while-you-work system.

This year, too, dozens of farmers are said to have joined the online course of universities. "Now over 50-year-old farmers browse sci-tech data in the agricultural sci-tech learning space. As it has attached importance to the study of science and technology, the workteam could invent a ridging machine for greenhouse and introduced high-yield vegetable seeds to raise productivity last year," said Ji.

Not only the farm but farmers enjoy benefits from science and technology.

All the households of the farm cook rice with methane gas even in midwinter, use hot water heated by solar water heaters and use solar panels for lighting and TV watching.

The cheap fuel, environmentally-friendly and cultural, is favoured by everyone as it is helpful for enriching life of farmers.

Jo Yong Phyo, an old man, said that the farm was listed on President Kim Il Sung's workmemo as an "empty-envelope farm" for the lowest per-hectare grain output and small income in the environs of Pyongyang in the 1960s, adding: "Our village was named Jangchon in the past as it had a macrobiotic well, but it has now developed into a macrobian village and rural town that can be shown off to the world thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea."

Laudable girl

By Kim Kum Myong PT

Many people know So Jae Ryol, an old woman who dedicated her blood and flesh to her comrades-in-arms during her military service, did lots of things for the country afterwards and got married to a special-class honoured disabled soldier to be widely introduced through the media on several occasions.

However, Choe Hong Sim, an employee of the Changgwang Health Complex, came to have an acquaintance with So Jae Ryol not through the media.

One day, So fainted from severe pain on the street. At that time, a girl volunteered to donate her blood and flesh for the aged stranger and that was Choe Hong Sim.

When the old woman managed to find out Choe with the help of doctors and the hospital's Party organization, she reproached the girl for not leaving any message behind as she held her hands.

The childless war veteran had got many children and grandchildren who were as intimate as her own.

As she witnessed their close ties as strong as the relationship between family members, Choe felt an urge to join them.

"The more I met her, the more I was attracted by her and wanted to hear anything from her. And whenever I listened to her story, I would be impressed by the noble traits displayed by people of her generation," recalled Choe.

Afterwards, as she frequented So's home, Choe was deeply drawn into her noble mental world full of love and devotion.

Finally she made up her mind to



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Choe Hong Sim waters a plant to help So Jae Ryol.

take warm care of the old woman as her granddaughter. She wanted to help her fulfil her wish to do anything for the country to the end of her life.

Choe secured flower seeds, as So harboured a desire to contribute to the country's landscaping, and made it a rule to visit the granny on her birthday and holidays to please her.

In this way Choe Hong Sim has been devoted to the old woman for years, regarding it as a noble

human virtue and moral obligation of younger generation to respect and take care of revolutionary seniors with all sincerity.

"I am now spending my remaining years in happiness, basking in the filial devotion of many children. This is not because I am somebody in this country, but because the state reared and trained our young people as excellent persons"—this is what So Jae Ryol says often.

Development of relations with ASEAN 30 years on

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Fourth Assembly of Heads of Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held in Singapore 30 years ago.

On January 26 1992, President Kim Il Sung sent a congratulatory message to the assembly for the first time, opening a new chapter of DPRK-ASEAN relations.

As he extended warm congratulations to the leaders and representatives of different countries, who participated in the assembly held in the year of the 25th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN, in the message, President Kim Il Sung highly appreciated that ASEAN had played an important role in promoting multi-faceted cooperation among its member states and

maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia by making the region a peaceful, free and neutral zone.

He expressed his conviction that the Asian people would achieve security and common prosperity of Asia when they united and sought close cooperation, and clarified the stand of the DPRK government to strengthen as ever the unity and cooperation with the peoples of Southeast Asian countries in building a new Asia independent, peaceful and prosperous under the ideals of independence, peace and friendship.

The first congratulatory message sent by President Kim Il Sung to the assembly of ASEAN heads of government served as an important milestone in further expanding and developing multi-faceted exchange and cooperation between ASEAN, its member

states and our country, which had long developed bilateral relations with Southeast Asian countries after establishing diplomatic relations with them.

The DPRK, which maintains independence, peace and friendship as the ideals of its foreign policy, joined the ASEAN Regional Forum in July 2000, acceded to the "Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia" in July 2008 and dispatched its ambassador to ASEAN in July 2011. It also took other proactive and meaningful measures to develop relations with ASEAN.

Today, friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and ASEAN are gathering steam, developing onto a higher stage thanks to the energetic revolutionary external activities of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The DPRK government, which constantly sets great store

by the relations with ASEAN, is following with deep interests the turbulent situation in the region of Southeast Asia. It is convinced that ASEAN would smoothly address all problems in line with the principles of respect for national sovereignty, equality and non-interference in internal affairs as enshrined in the Charter.

It sincerely wishes ASEAN member nations successes in their work to overcome the health crisis caused by the world pandemic, promote social stability and achieve economic recovery and growth as befits the theme of "Addressing Challenges Together" set by Cambodia, Chair of ASEAN this year. It also hopes that meaningful achievements would be made in the friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and ASEAN, which have a long history and tradition.

Day of the Shining Star to be celebrated in grand style



Jong Kil Nam
Department director of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee

The Sixth Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held on January 19 adopted a resolution on celebrating the 110th birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the 80th birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il in grand style.

I was so excited at the news. In the past, too, the Day of the Sun (birthday of President Kim Il Sung) and the Day of the Shining Star (birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il) were the greatest national holidays

to our people. As the entire world knows, all the Korean people achieved innovative successes in their workplaces to greet the holidays with a high political zeal and brilliant feats of labour, and on those occasions the whole country was enlivened by large-scale celebrations and artistic, sports and other colourful activities.

As mentioned in the meeting of the Political Bureau, celebrating the Day of the Sun and the Day of the Shining Star as the most auspicious and significant days is the great honour and pride of our people

who have enjoyed a proud life in the people-centred socialist society built and defended by the great leaders' innumerable pains.

Now working people across the country are redoubling their efforts to celebrate the Day of the Shining Star as the most auspicious and significant day with a high political zeal and brilliant feats of labour.

The educational and scientific research sectors are striving to produce research findings of great significance in the development of education and science and technology of the country, and creative

and performing artists in the sector of art and literature are engrossed in the creative activity to celebrate the Day of the Shining Star with colourful artistic performances.

The Day of the Shining Star will serve as an important political occasion to further harden our people's unshakable will to carry on and accomplish under the leadership of the Party the Juche revolutionary cause pioneered and led by the great leaders and to demonstrate to the whole world the high zeal and revolutionary spirit of all the Party members and other people who are determined to glorify the second decade of the second century of the Juche era as the one of victors for the overall development of socialism of our own style.

OPINION

Serious destruction of ozone layer

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Last year, the satellite observation data confirmed that the problem of depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere surrounding the earth still remains serious.

According to information available, the ozone hole over the South Pole rapidly expanded from early August last year to reach 24.8 million square kilometres in area on October 7.

This is about 1.8 times bigger than the Antarctica.

The area of the hole on the ozone layer, which was made over the Antarctic, was also 24.8 million km² on September 20 2020.

That year, the level of the destruction of the ozone layer in the North Pole was also unprecedentedly high.

The secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization said that the stratosphere is still easily affected by ozone depleting substances generated by human activities, adding that the extent of the ozone layer destroyed every year is decided by atmospheric conditions, but its numerical value in this year demand that mankind remain constantly vigilant.

The cause of ozone depletion in the South and North poles lies in the existence of a large quantity of air pollutants in the air.

Such artificially generated substances destroy ozone as they exist in the atmosphere for decades and, consequently, the ozone layer gets thinner or the a hole is often made.

The ozone layer protects living things on the earth as it prevents the ultraviolet rays of sunlight from passing through the atmosphere.

According to information, ultraviolet radiation causes skin cancer, cataract and other eye diseases, restrains the immune system and causes early aging.

The destruction of the ozone layer seriously affects climate change.

In 2020, heat wave swept over the Antarctica, which is known as the coldest place in the world, for the first time.

At that time, experts asserted that such phenomena were influenced by the expansion of hole on the ozone layer above the Antarctica.

With the realization of the necessity and importance of the ozone layer, the international community has waged an active campaign to protect it for decades.

Different activities have been conducted to control the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances and relevant measures have been taken.

Last year, too, the world made positive efforts to prevent air pollution and climate change. But the destruction of the ozone layer did not decrease greatly. This shows that to restore natural environment destroyed by human activities is never an easy job.

The restoration of natural environment is a very urgent and important undertaking, a task requiring long-term efforts, not a temporary one, and the work to be constantly carried out by the whole world, not by a few countries.

Star on the occasion of the Chairman's 70th birthday in order to add eternal brilliance to his immortal exploits. With the 80th anniversary of his birth drawing nearer, preparations are underway to celebrate the Day of the Shining Star with splendour amid intense loyalty and burning enthusiasm of all the people in the DPRK.

US SANCTIONS AND PRESSURE WILL ONLY AGGRAVATE TENSION, SAYS CHINESE FM

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

On January 14, Wang Yi, minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, said as follows in his answer to a question put by Phoenix Satellite TV of Hong Kong:

The US sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would only aggravate the tension on the Korean peninsula without giving any help to easing the situation. They would not solve

the problem but generate new problems. If the US really wants to solve the issue of the Korean peninsula, it should take practical measures positively responding to the DPRK's major concerns.

Meanwhile, Liu Xiaoming, special representative of the Chinese government for the Korean peninsula issue, also made a position that the US should give up its "sanctions almighty principle" as a matter of course and take a practical step to address the just and reasonable concerns of the DPRK, saying that unilateral sanctions

and pressure on the DPRK would only aggravate confrontation and escalate tension.

China has already clarified its stand on several occasions that sanctions and pressure will not work in solving the issue of the Korean peninsula, but will exacerbate tension.

It is a universal knowledge that the failure of the situation on the Korean peninsula to easily be out of the whirlwind of aggravated tension just lies in the US policy of hostility towards the DPRK.

In recent years alone, the US

conducted hundreds of joint war drills which it committed itself to halting and also brought ultra-modern means of attack and nuclear strategic weapons into south Korea and the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, posing a grave threat to the security of our state.

The US would be well-advised to halt its military threat to our country and withdraw, before anything else, its policy of hostility to the DPRK rather than publicizing the so-called "diplomatic solution" and "dialogue".

Japan remains unchanged in wild dream of territorial seizure

By Song Jong Ho PT

The Japanese rulers have been reckless in their arguments for dominion over Tok Islets these days, sparking surging anger among the Korean people.

Recently, Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, in his speech on foreign policy at the regular session of the Diet, said that "Takeshima (Tok Islets)" is an inherent part of Japanese territory in terms of historical facts and international law and Japan would "cope with the situation resolutely in accordance with this basic stand".

Japanese foreign ministers have claimed the ownership of Tok Islets, in the form of foreign policy speech at the regular Diet session for explaining the main direction of its foreign policy for new year, for nine consecutive years since 2014 when the country was under the

reign of Abe cabinet.

The argument for the "dominion over Tok Islets" much touted by Japanese politicians is an absurd sophistry and apparent revelation of their ambition to seize other's territory which remains unchanged though time passes.

As has already been known to the international community, Tok Islets are an inalienable part of Korean territory, which has been confirmed by many historical documents.

The successive major Japanese documents and authoritative maps, as well as *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms), *Koryosa* (History of Koryo) and other old Korean historical records, prove that the dominion over Tok Islets belongs to the Korean nation.

The Korean ancestors had used the islets as a base for fishing and other activities since ancient times. They attached them to Uljin county of Kangwon Province in

512 and declared its sovereignty over them to the world on several occasions.

Maps drawn by Japanese geographers in the period of Edo shogunate also clearly marked Tok Islets as part of Korean territory.

Facts show that historically there can never be any territorial issue between Korea and Japan and therefore there is no reason whatsoever for Japan to poke its nose into it.

After attaching such a strange name as "Takeshima" to the inherent part of Korean territory, Japan has doggedly insisted on its claim to it. It is a reckless behaviour, which can only be shown by the Japanese reactionaries steeped in the wild ambition for overseas reinvasion.

The purpose of the growing provocative acts of Japanese reactionaries over Tok Islets is as clear as day.

By doing so, Japan, which has

in fact completed laying all the military and legal groundwork for fighting a war, tries to shape public opinion and internationalize the issue of Tok Islets to find legal justifications for aggressive war and then pave the way for the invasion of the continent.

Japan, however, is sadly mistaken.

The Korean people are not what they were in the past and they will never lose the inherent part of their sacred territory, in which the bones of their ancestors lie buried, to the invaders of the island country again.

The islets will remain part of Korean territory forever in the future, too, as they did in the past and do at present.

Japan should behave itself, fully aware that its moves to seize other country's territory are an act of suicide that will hasten the day of its doom.

SINISTER INTENTION OF UNITED STATES BEHIND CURTAIN OF DIALOGUE

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The confrontation and friction between Russia and the US over the security issue continue unabated in the new year.

Upon Russia's proposal on providing security guarantee, Russia-US negotiations took place in Geneva on January 9-10, followed by the meetings of NATO-Russia Council and of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Brussels and Vienna on January 12-13. However, both sides did not reach any agreement, only betraying the deep-rooted distrust and conflicting views between Russia on one side

and the US and other Western countries on the other.

At the negotiations and meetings, Russia strongly demanded that a legal guarantee be provided for putting a stop to NATO's eastward expansion, deployment of attack weapons in the neighbouring countries of Russia and provocative military drills. The US and Western countries totally negated Russia's legitimate concerns, but rather threatened Russia, saying that it would pay dearly if it invades Ukraine.

What is noteworthy is that US Senators introduced a bill, at the height of these security negotiations and meetings, to impose sanctions on leading officials of Russia

including the President, Foreign Minister and Defence Minister, and major banks of the country in case the situation surrounding Ukraine worsens.

Besides, the US is openly galvanizing its Western allies into military confrontation with Russia by making public its military aid program for Ukraine worth hundreds of millions of US dollars and giving approval to the Baltic States to deliver American weapons to Ukraine.

With the international society increasing condemnation of the US and the West for presenting a grave threat to global peace and security, Russia and the US again sat face-to-face on January 21 in Geneva

to discuss Russia's proposal on the provision of security guarantee and the Ukrainian issue. But this time again the meeting ended, after only a reiteration of previous viewpoints by both sides.

All the facts show that the US does not have any interest in solving the issue, but only intends to create an atmosphere of placing pressure on Russia by inciting its allies, even though it came to the table of security negotiations with Russia.

The US' increased pursuit of its strategy for isolating and weakening Russia will only invite much tougher reaction from the latter for defending its national security and core interests.

Briefly

China
Lunar New Year's Day celebrated
Lunar New Year's Day celebrations were held in China.

On January 30, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council of China arranged a meeting for the lunar New Year's Day greeting in the Great Hall of the People.

President Xi Jinping attended it together with senior Party and government officials and public figures of all social standings, and made a speech there.

Russia
President pays homage to victims during blockade of Leningrad

Russian President Vladimir Putin on January 27 paid homage to the victims during the blockade of Leningrad to mark the 78th anniversary of its complete liberation from the blockade by the fascist German occupation forces.

He presented a wreath at the monument.

The Russian anthem was played and the President paid silent tribute to the memory of the victims in front of the monument.

There was a march-past of service personnel at the end of the wreath-laying ceremony.

Cuba
Torchlight procession commemorates Jose Marti's birthday

A torchlight procession took place in Havana on January 27 to mark the 169th birth anniversary of Jose Marti, a national hero of the Cuban people.

Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez joined the procession of youths and students, together with senior party and government officials.

Egypt
Development of green economy encouraged

According to a foreign news report, the Egyptian government has put into action the socio-economic plans appropriate for environmental protection in different sectors including energy and electricity production.

It allocated 30 percent of the state budget to the implementation of the green plan for the present financial year which ends in late June, and envisages increasing the allocation to 50 percent in 2024.

COVID-19
Over 381.7m people infected, more than 5.7m dead

According to a foreign news report, 381 738 941 people were infected with COVID-19, 5 703 813 died of it and 74 488 966 were under medical treatment as of 24:00 on February 1.

BYWORD

The Korean people call the birthday (February 16) of Chairman Kim Jong Il the Day of the Shining Star. Every year, they celebrate the date as the greatest national holiday as they hold a variety of political events. That day 80 years ago, Kim Jong Il was born in the Paektusan Secret Camp. He was born as the son of President Kim Il Sung and

anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk, and lauded as "Shining Star of Mt Paektu" at birth. The jubilation of the day was inscribed on trees in natural forests as slogans which have been handed down until today. Kim Jong Il performed undying exploits for the country, the revolution and the

cause of global independence as he wisely led the struggle for the building of a rich and powerful country through his energetic ideological and theoretical activities and tireless revolutionary leadership all his life. The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un saw to it that February 16 was designated as the Day of the Shining

Day of the Shining Star

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Korean nation's custom of celebrating lunar New Year's Day

By Ri Sang Il PT

Lunar New Year's Day, one of the grandest national holidays of the Koreans, is the first day of the first month by the lunar calendar made on the basis of synodical cycle of the moon.

It has been celebrated since the period of ancient states including Ancient Joseon which existed between the early 30th century BC and 108 BC.

Ancestors prepared all

kinds of foods to mark the day and dressed themselves up with new clothes, irrespective of age or sex, before holding various ceremonies.

They called it sejang to put on new clothes on New Year's Day, charye to hold a memorial service and sebae to visit relatives and seniors so as to make a bow, and the dish and liquor of the day were called sechan and seju.

On the morning of lunar New Year's Day, people

would first hold a memorial service for late ancestors before visiting graves and make a New Year's call to relatives and seniors after paying a visit to their ancestor's grave.

When children dressed in new clothes visited seniors to say happy new year, grown-ups would wish them good luck before serving them food.

Each household placed seham in front of its gates so that visitors could put paper written with their names in

the box. Later, such paper is said to have developed into a New Year's card.

White rice cake, rice-cake soup, yakpap (sweet rice dish) and fried glutinous rice cake are a must as lunar New Year's Day dishes.

Adults played yut (four-stick) game on the day, while children flew kites or played other games.

Such custom is being carried on even today, adding pleasure to the celebration of the holiday.

The painting shows local people preparing food for lunar New Year's Day.

