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Woodcarving *A Chariot of the King*

President Kim Il Sung received the gift from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand in August 2005.



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**Front Cover: Captivated
by the immortal flower
Kimilsungia**

Photo by Ra Phyoung Ryol



**Back Cover: The Arch of
Triumph in spring**

Photo by Ra Jin Hyok

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Arsenals in the Thick Forests



THE KOREA TODAY EDITORIAL BOARD introduces excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences *With the Century*.

...

The naive people of Jiandao once planned to build a hand-grenade factory in the guerrilla zone with the help of the Soviet Union. This was the time when communists all over the world looked to the Soviet Union in humble reverence as a beacon of hope for the emancipation of humanity. The thought of getting assistance from the country which had carried out a revolution before any other gave rise among the people to a spirit of dependence on others. While the idea of depending on others and the aspiration to make a revolution with the support of others engendered the idea of adulation of capitalist powers among the nationalists, it was also the root cause within the communist mentality of reliance on the Soviet Union. At that time we considered it a natural internationalist duty for the communists of the Soviet Union, the first country to have succeeded in a revolution, to support the communists of the less developed countries.

But the Soviet Union sent no reply to our request, neither a promise to comply with it, nor notification that she could not do it or was not in a position to assist us. It was at this time that we resolved firmly to rely only on ourselves. The silence from the Soviet Union confirmed us in our belief that self-reliance was the only way to live, that the decisive factor in promoting the revolution was to enlist our own forces to the maximum and assistance from others was an auxiliary factor.

We therefore paid special attention to the work of the arsenal and concentrated our efforts on it.

...

We decided to produce our own powder. Some people said this was like building a castle on sand, but I thought that if a man was determined enough he could do anything, and we could surely succeed, just as our ancestors had succeeded before us. With this thought I began studying in earnest the history of gunpowder

manufacture and everything relating to it. In the course of this study, I came to the conclusion that nitre, the basic raw material of gunpowder, could be made manually.

Nitre could be made in any place inhabited by people, and we could see it every day.

...

Our first experiments were not successful, but we were not dispirited by failure; we repeated the experiments and at last discovered the ideal proportions for compounding the powder.

...

The development of gunpowder production brought about a great change in the production of munitions. As powder became available, the production of bombs increased quickly. A bomb consisted of a fuse and a tin. Tins were sent by the underground organizations in the enemy-controlled areas and semi-guerrilla zones, and into them was inserted something like an oil bottle charged with powder, the gap between the tin and oil vessel being filled with broken pieces of damaged ploughs and other steel splinters for shrapnel, and then the fuse was connected. This made a simple bomb.

...

Once gunpowder became available, we were able to make wooden guns.

...

The revolutionary zeal, indefatigable spirit and creative initiative displayed by the workers of the arsenals in making and repairing weapons should indeed inspire admiration in the people's hearts. At that time the arsenals of the guerrilla army had hardly any modern machines or tools.... Apart from the boring machine and hand-operated drilling machine, files were the best tools they had. The workers of the arsenals used their files to repair everything. They repaired the cartridge extractor and firing pin of a rifle by filing, grinding, hammering and tempering them in fire, water and clay. Soon they were even able to repair machineguns without any difficulty....

...

The secret of all these miracles was quite ►

► simply the spirit of self-reliance. If the Korean communists, from the early days, had not thought solely of relying on themselves, but remained captive to an illusion of help from communists in other countries, and if they had not cherished the unshakable belief that relying on themselves was the only way to survive and to revive Korea, the arsenals would never have sprung into being in the guerrilla zones, and such powerful weapons as wooden guns and Yongil bombs would never have been produced. We could have appealed to the people for war funds as the Independence Army did, or gone to other countries begging and entreating for help. Once you begin to beg, you begin to fawn on others, sinking to the despicable depths of licking the soles of the others' feet or plucking the mucus from their eyes if they tell you to.

The slogan of self-reliance that we raised in the early days of the anti-Japanese war, and the strenuous efforts we had made to implement it ever since were also in accord with the prevailing revolutionary situation. The Japanese imperialists' invasion of Manchuria had aggravated the contradictions between Korea and Japan and between China and Japan, and these contradictions inevitably presented the Korean communists with a task of high level combat—an armed struggle. If we had clung to mendicant diplomacy, begging other countries to help us, instead of relying on ourselves, we would not have started the war against Japan immediately after Japan's invasion of Manchuria, nor would we have developed our guerrilla army into a powerful force within a few short years.

... Self-reliance and fortitude was the basic spirit underlying not only munitions manufacture and repair but every aspect of the anti-Japanese revolution; it was the criterion by which to measure one's loyalty to the revolution. We did not regard any man who was not self-reliant and did not strive hard as a true revolutionary, no matter how ardent his patriotism, or how committed he might be to communist ideology, because self-reliance was the key to success in the revolution.

... Self-reliance opened a new era in the history of the national liberation struggle in our country, the era in which everything was created from nothing. These vital phases may be regarded as living proof of the correctness and power of the communist method of solving all problems by allowing full scope to the people's strength and wisdom.

... The experience gained in the munitions in-

dustry in the guerrilla bases in the first half of the 1930s was applied and developed in the arsenals built in the bases on Mt. Paektu during the latter half of the 1930s.

We organized a sewing unit in each of the guerrilla bases and thus solved the problem of military uniform by our own efforts.

... We built hospitals in each of the guerrilla zones to treat the wounded and ill. All the medical appliances used in the treatment, such as scalpels and tweezers, were made by the technicians in the arsenals and most of the herb medicines were obtained and produced by the medical workers, with the help of the masses. There were only a few modern medicines.

There was nowhere we could turn for doctors and nurses, so we had to train them for ourselves. A few pioneers who had been doctors of Koryo medicine trained a great number of assistants.

... We also solved the problem of food grains by relying on our own resources.

... Self-reliance was thus essential to the survival of the revolutionary army in the long-drawn-out war against the Japanese. The realization that one could survive only by relying on oneself became a part of the thinking of all the guerrillas; self-reliance became their motto. Those who made this motto their very lifeblood upheld their honour even on an isolated island, and those who did not surrendered to the enemy or left their ranks, abandoning their principles halfway.

The seed of self-reliance nurtured by the anti-Japanese forerunners in the snowstorms of Paektu was implanted in the minds of the people of the whole country after liberation, serving as the motive power that kindled the flames of the effort to build a new Korea and gave birth in this eastern corner of the world to the legendary Chollima. When we began a project to manufacture an electric locomotive at a small factory which had been a repair shop, a foreign ambassador to our country said that he would pass through the eye of a needle if the Koreans made electric locomotives by themselves. The pleasant whistle of the electric locomotive *Pulgungi-1*, which our workers and technicians made by relying on their own ability, shattered the ambassador's complacent prediction.

The spirit of self-reliance that rang out in the hammering of the arsenals in the guerrilla zones drove the pulse of the era of the Workers' Party and provided the powerful force that propelled this era forward. □

History and Tradition of Self-reliance

WHEN LOOKING BACK UPON THE PAST 70 years, the Korean people have a question to ask themselves—what has enabled them to march forward and win victories in every decade of the revolution and construction since they founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The answer is just self-reliance. They believed in their own strength and solved all problems with their own effort. This led to their victory and bright future. Self-reliance—this is a mode and tradition of struggle, and it has been maintained throughout the DPRK's whole history of socialist construction.

Historic Option— Self-supporting Economy

On August 15, 1945 the Korean people put an end to their history of colonial slavery spanning over four decades, and accomplished the historic cause of national liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation.

And they were faced with the enormous task of

building a new Korea. At that time they had a backward economy with colonial lopsidedness and deformity, which was totally broken down by the Japanese imperialists before their defeat, and an empty safe. In such circumstances as good as below zero with everything in short supply, including funds, materials and intellectuals, the Korean people had to build and create all things anew one by one. The question was where to begin, how to construct and which way they should go ahead.

Almost all of those countries liberated from the colonial yoke of imperialism after World War II found their way out in depending on “aid” from big and developed countries or imitating their economy. This was because those liberated countries were in a situation that they had to build the state economy, without having their own theory on the economic construction, experience and asset, and thus there was no scope left them for choosing their own way.

Kim Il Sung, however, did not follow the way they did. On the important matter of economic construction decisive of the destiny of the country and the people he penetrated two issues of principle. The first was that if one fails to create one's own asset but relies on aid from others, one cannot escape the fate of a slave encumbered with debts, and that so one should build one's economy with one's own effort. The second was that as long as the Korean people were determined to live independently, it was unavoidable that they should be faced with the dominationists' ►



Korea made locomotives and tractors with its own effort.



- pressure and blockade, and that they should have their powerful material and economic strength to break through the difficulties in any case.

Trying to build a prosperous nation without economic self-sufficiency is as good as trying to build a house on the sand, and it is no more than a dream in the long run—this was a creed President Kim Il Sung invariably adhered to in the economic construction. He knew well that the path to construction of a self-supporting national economy was an arduous one that would cost them as dear as a war should do. The President, however, held fast to the political creed that if one believes in one's own strength and advances forward with one's own effort, one can win everything, but if one does not believe in one's strength and looks up at the sky, one cannot make a revolution or keep on living, and thus chose the path to construction of a self-supporting national economy.

He mapped out and led two times of rehabilitation, and the building of an independent national economy amidst the US and other imperialists' constant schemes to provoke a new war.

In difficult conditions after Korea's liberation he put forward a line of building a new Korea, that is, founding the Party, state and army. And he advanced a basic line of the socialist economic construction on the ruins of the Korean war when the hostile forces vociferated that Korea was not able to rise even in 100 years' time. He also laid down a line of building up the economy and defences simultaneously when the country was still in a difficult situation. Like this, the President unfolded grand blueprints for the country to rise by itself in every period and each stage of the building of the state.

According to his grand plan, the DPRK accomplished the historic cause of socialist industrialization in a short span of 14 years. It perfected an economic structure comprehensively developed, equipped with modern technology and based on domestic resources, ranging from the machine-building industry that can produce whatever it wants, including trucks, tractors, locomotives and vessels, to fishing industry and light industry.

The wise leadership of Kim Il Sung enabled the entire Korean people to regard it as their mode of existence and struggle to rely on their own strength and break through all difficulties, and lay the permanent foundation for prosperity on this land.



The West Sea Barrage.

A 10 000-ton press equipped with CNC technology.



A UHP electric arc furnace.



► Self-reliance—Powerful Weapon of Korean-style Creation

One day in August 2007, Chairman Kim Jong Il said that the spirit of self-reliance President Kim Il Sung handed over as a mental asset was the motive force for the building of a self-supporting national economy and the invariable mode of struggle in the socialist economic construction.

The Chairman held fast to self-reliance as a precious sword in the whole period of his leadership to the revolution and construction. He put forward the slogan **“Let Us Live Our Own Way!”** and so on, and aroused the entire people to the endeavour to implement them. All of such gigantic creations as the West Sea Barrage referred to as a miracle of the 20th century, a 10 000-ton press and a large oxygen plant are the fruit of his leadership.

In particular, the period after the mid-1990s was the significant one in which the Chairman led the Korean revolution firmly adhering to self-reliance as the strongest precious sword. During the period Korea's neighbouring countries, which had been building socialism together with it, were dragged into the turmoil of “liberalization” at the same time, so Korea had to keep the Red Flag flying single-handed in the face of the imperialists' relentless schemes to isolate and stifle the country. And it suffered an unforeseen great loss (demise of President Kim Il Sung), and had to tide over consecutive severe natural calamities. At this juncture, the Chairman turned misfortunes into blessings, and adversity into prosperity in the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

To ease the strain on electric power he encouraged the working class of Jagang Province to set an example in settling the issue out of trust in them. And the workers of the province solved the problem of electric power by actively exploring and mobilizing the local industrial potentialities and internal reserves, and put production on a normal basis by securing raw and other materials with their own efforts. Then the Chairman referred to it as self-reliance, and saw to it that the entire country positively learned from them.

Thus the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude began to sweep the whole country unprecedentedly. The workers of the Chollima Steel Complex successfully made

- ▶ a UHP electric arc furnace, the cream of the modern metallurgical industry, with their own effort and technique, and those in Kangwon, North Hwanghae and other provinces built large-size hydro-power stations by themselves.

The spirit of self-reliance also enabled the country to make metal and chemical industries and other sectors of the national economy more Juche-oriented and develop its CNC technology on an advanced level.

By Dint of Self-supporting Economy

The building of a powerful socialist nation is under way successfully. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un gave the Korean people a powerful weapon to build a socialist power by themselves—the spirit of self-reliance and self-development and the scientific and technological strength.

Last year the Supreme Leader visited a factory. Looking at a heavy-duty vehicle on the stage of completion he said that it was very spectacular and that he felt very encouraged to see the full operation of its power transmission gears. He went on to say that a fresh turning point should be made in raising the country's automotive industry to world standards, and called on the workers to push ahead with the modernization of the factory so as to prove that their resolve at



The Ryuwon Footwear Factory.



New-type tractors and trucks are launched in December 2017.



Ryomyong Street in spring.

- ▶ the time was correct for the building of a prosperous and powerful nation.

Under his wise leadership a vigorous struggle to build a socialist economic power was under way across the country. The construction of the majestic dwelling districts such as Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street; and the growth of production at industrial bases including Ryuwon Footwear Factory, Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory and Mindulle Notebook Factory demonstrated the might of the country's self-supporting economy.

Over 50 000 hectares of grassland on the Sepho Plateau is a large-sized stockbreeding base built under the slogan of self-sufficiency, for the purpose of developing the animal husbandry and improving the people's living standards. The country's own strength, technology and resources also resulted in the production of new-style five-ton truck at the Sungni Motor Complex, 80hp *Chollima 804* tractors of new type at the Kumsong Tractor Factory, varieties of quality cosmetics at the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory and different kinds of bags at the Pyongyang Bag Factory. Besides, all the commodities presented at the 28th National Consumer Goods Exhibition held in October last year were all made by their producers' own strength, technique and raw and other materials.

A gigantic tree which takes deep root in the ground does not fall down. Korea's economy supported by a firm pillar of self-reliance is successfully developing day after day.

Pae Kwang Hui

Sunchon Catfish Farm

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED the newly built Sunchon Catfish Farm.

At Hatchery

The first building past the front gate of the farm was the hatchery. In the building I saw a girl worker, Cha Ho Jong by name, looking attentively at catfish eggs as tiny as a grain of sesame. I also saw a headline on the noticeboard which read “Girl Communicating with Catfish.” And Cha was the heroine of that noticeboard.

I approached her, and I could see eggs hatching in succession.

merely taking care of the fry, she said and added that they could not readily leave their workplace even in the early morning or late at night with the thought that the first step in improving the people’s diet started there, and that it was the unanimous mind of her fellow workers.

Girl Communicating with Catfish—the words seemed to reverberate in my ears as I left the hatchery.

At Feed Processing Workshop

The buzzing sound of ma-

chines from the feed processing workshop seemed to be the only sound breaking the silence of the farm. What spread before my eyes in the workshop were different kinds of machines needed for processing feed for the fish, including a flour grinder and equipment to produce floating feed. All the machines were in normal operation.

There I met the senior engineer, who said, “Feed is important as the catfish grow and fatten as much as they eat. So machines in this workshop should be provided with enough raw materials. Now they are in good operation.” The engineer continued to say that machines for producing floating feed were made by the machine-building factories in South Phyongan Province, and that as they were manufactured in the province, the farm could easily get the accessories for repairs and servicing of them from those factories within easy reach of it.

The buzzing sound of the machines was not loud enough to reverberate through the compound

► of the farm covering a total floor space of over 24 120 square metres. But his words enabled me to understand the effort of the machine producers to make by themselves hundreds of machines of over a hundred kinds needed for operation of the farm, saying, I was told, that they should make their life happy with their own hands.

At Outdoor Vinyl Sheet-covered Ponds

Outdoor vinyl sheet-covered ponds spread in line, and laughter from one of the ponds induced me to drop in it. It was the one Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited in 2017. The sights of water tanks teeming with catfish and breeders spraying feed over the ponds while having a friendly talk evoked unique feelings.

When I asked them if the amount of feed was insufficient as compared to the schools of catfish, To Un Byol, one of the breeders, said that the fish were put in the water tanks on an intensive basis to the maximum per cubic metre of water, so too much feed could cause shortage of oxygen. Then she explained me in plain language about the number of



The interior of the feed processing workshop.

times of feeding and its amount, the grain fineness of the feed and its content of nutrients needed for providing oxygen and pH for growth of the fish.

At my admiration for her profound knowledge she said, “The day the Supreme Leader visited my farm he sat unreservedly on the rim of the water tank, elucidating all the tasks and ways to make the catfish production scientific and intensive. Rich knowledge can enable us to support his noble intention of providing the people with much more fish. So, we all learned hard at the sci-tech learning space, and now all of us have become masters at breeding

catfish.”

She also said one of them put forward a method of raising the protein content in the feed while the other invented a process to produce assorted feed for the fish in every stage of growth. Her voice was full of pride as being one of members of the farm developing on the strength of science.

When I told the general manager of the farm that I had learned a lot from the farm just looking like a quiet place in appearance, he said, “We take pride of our work in the people’s happy laughter.”

Ri Kum Chol

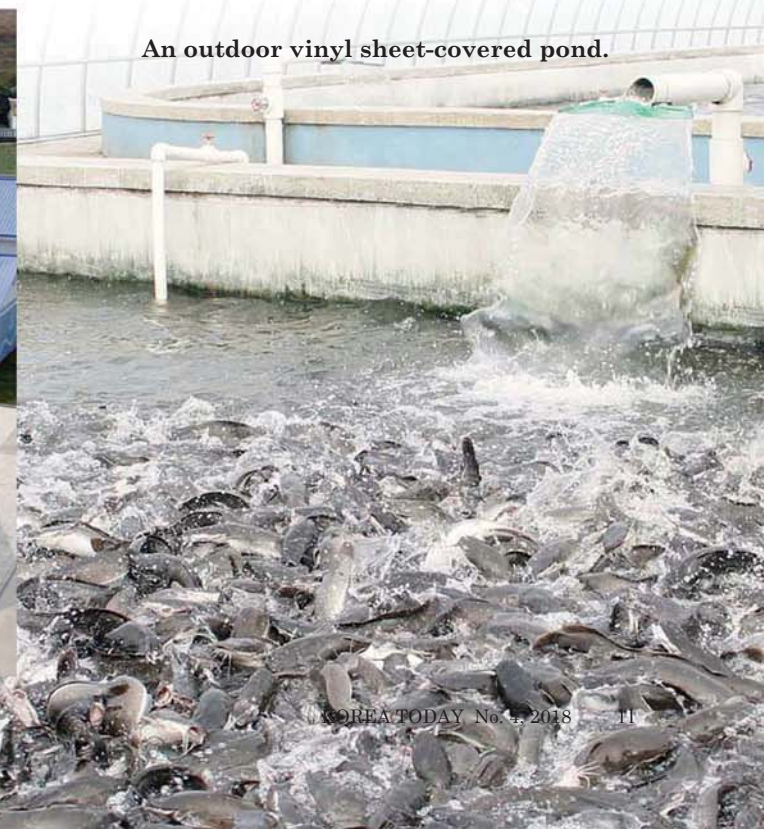
Breeders take care of the fry.



Cha murmured something repeatedly as if she were in conversation with the fry, and recorded on her diary temperature of the water and pH and its amount of oxygen. When I asked her why she did it for I thought the general control room provided the most reasonable condition, she said, “A baby in a modern incubator also needs a helping hand of a doctor.” She went on to say that she still did not have a deep knowledge of the fish as it was a new sort and that though there was a standard condition indicated when the fish had been brought, it was more important to find out more appropriate numerical values from practice. They did not regard their job as



An outdoor vinyl sheet-covered pond.



New Appearance of *Pommaji*

PRODUCTS FROM THE Pyongyang Condiments Factory are very popular with not only Pyonyangites but also all provincial residents. The factory has been recognized as a superior one since the first Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 Goods Exhibition was held, and awarded certificates of the best or excellence at almost all rounds of the national consumer goods exhibition. The factory also has won fame at the 15th national invention and

products said that there was no particular change in them except for their brand name. This made a great impact on the workers of the factory. In fact, they were only content with the increase in production after the factory was reconstructed on a modern basis in 2013. The reality, however, demanded that they further improve the tastes and quality of condiments including soy and bean paste important in Koreans' diet. Looking at the

except for traditional ways, and launched a campaign to create things new. At the time a worker suggested that they produce soybean paste containing lecithin good for health. It was accepted as a good idea. But it seemed unfeasible because the amount of lecithin extracted from strained lees of beans was very small, not enough to produce such bean paste as much as possible. And as the factory's products were in

A fermented soy sauce production process.



new technology exhibition and other sci-tech achievements exhibitions.

"We value buds," said the factory's chief engineer Son Hyon Chol when he was asked about the secret of their success.

In 2014 the brand name of its products changed from *Paek-song* to *Pommaji*. But users of the

brand name *Pommaji*, decorated with patterns of new sprouts and flower buds, Son fell into deep thought. *New sprouts and flower buds literally mean something new. Right. There should be something new*, he thought.

From then on the factory did away with the idea that there was nothing to develop in condiments

great demand, there was a great strain on production at that time.

But the idea was recognized as a valuable new one at a technical consultation of the factory. It was not an easy job. But if it was translated into practice, it would make it possible to pioneer a new field of production of functional condiments and acquire



A soybean paste production process.

relevant experience. The chief engineer concluded the consultation, saying, "The ultimate object of production is to contribute to improvement of the people's diet. We and production are just for the purpose. When we keep it in mind we can do anything, I think."

Thus, the factory's technical forces began to strive to complete the method of reprocessing strained lees of beans to increase the amount of extracted lecithin by their own efforts. At last they completed the method, making it possible to drastically increase the production of lecithin. When it became possible to mass-produce lecithin soybean paste obviously effective in preventing liver cir-



rhosis, retarding aging and improving health, soybean sauce, oil, sodium glutamate and other workshops had already been pushing ahead with a lot of technical innovation campaigns along with production. Thus they produced highly digestible fermented soybeans that function as strong activator of thromboclastic enzyme and antioxidation and dozens of condiments like hot pepper paste mixed with ground hard-finned sandfish,

hard-finned sandfish boiled in soybean sauce, iodic soybean paste, ginger soybean sauce, spice mix, beef powder-based yeast sodium glutamate and vitamin E oil.

Last year a national industrial art exhibition was held in celebration of the Day of the Sun at which the factory's designs and types of packing were awarded a certificate of excellence for their peculiarity and kindness.

Ri Song Chol



A vitamin E oil production process.



Quality Sonamu Schoolbags



Certificates of the December 15 Medal of Quality and the medals.

ONE YEAR AGO, SUPREME Leader Kim Jong Un visited the newly built Pyongyang Bag Factory and was very pleased to see the schoolbags. He even tried shouldering one of the bags.

You must devote yourselves to making even a single schoolbag as mothers should do for their children—this is what he said that day. Technicians and workers of the factory regard his words as

the standard for production of fine bags.

Staff members of the technical preparation section and designing one visited different schools

of the city and had talks with the pupils to know about the colours, pictures and forms of schoolbags they liked. Their liking and tastes were different, but the technicians



Music and Health

MUSIC IS A WONDERFUL stimulus to development of human intelligence. It elevates the memory through its action of controlling circulation of the blood and excitement of the nervous cells.

When playing the musical instrument, you have to use your left hand a lot, which gives full play to the function of the right part of the brain. And this elevates the balance of intelligence between the left and right parts of the brain. For this reason music is regarded as key like mathematics and physics which develop the treasure of human intelligence.

Besides, music that brings man the feeling of satisfaction helps to increase the contractile power of the heart and ensure normal blood pressure. Therefore, music is employed for recuperation, and clear and cheerful melodies are used for the purpose. The sounds of the violin and piano stabilize the nervous system, and those of the flute ease the strain while those of the cello protect the heart.

The sounds used for music are harmoniously combined with the nervous system of the body and drive the organism into the state of vibration. This is called effect of sympathy,

which strengthens the immune system, improves metabolism and activates the recuperative and antibiotic processes. This is how music helps patients recover quickly.

When you enjoy your favourite, beautiful music at home after work, you will recover from the fatigue of the day and feel relaxed—without suffering from the day's unpleasant things, if any. This is related with the rhythm of the cells.

Regular appreciation of music improves your feeling, appetite, relaxation and good sleep—all quite helpful for health.

Choe Sol Mi

► wanted to meet all of them.

As proposed by the technicians, the factory often organized a mass prize design competition. The factory's sci-tech learning space was always crowded with its workers who were trying to know about world trends in the development of bags and acquire knowledge of fine arts. As a result they created over 110 new designs of bags last year alone.

When samples were produced according to the designs, the technicians took them to the schools and had the pupils try shouldering the bags to check whether straps were loose, whether the bags were leaned backward, whether their sizes were right and whether their forms and colours fit them.

Then they asked for the teachers and pupils' opinions. And they met parents of the pupils to ask for their opinions. All the opinions were put down on the "Note of Our Bags."

But good designs did not mean good bags. It was in February last year when they were producing schoolbags for primary school children. As bags of different forms and colours were produced at the same time, the products sometimes included those not as good as the designs.

So the factory launched a mass technical innovation campaign to have the workers master the operation of their equipment and improve their skills. During the campaign, a new prints dryer was

made and added to the textile printing process, helping improve the quality of the prints, and the operators of laser cutters mastered their job so as to ensure fast cutting. The test on the quality of finished products was done strictly in consideration of children's strong activity.

After a lot of discussion, the technicians and workers gave the bags the brand name of *Sonamu* (pine tree), and the bags became very popular with schoolchildren and their parents.

"I really like this bag printed with a picture of cartoon film."

"This bag fits me exactly, and it never gets wet in the rain in the summer."

"Luminous decorations on the straps practically help protect the children from traffic accidents at night."

Kim Un Jong, general manager of the factory, says, "The name of *Sonamu* reflects our sincere hope that children will grow vigorously even in winter like pine trees so as to develop into future pillars of the country."

Sonamu schoolbags were awarded the top prize in a national knapsack-style schoolbags and school things exhibition held last year, and highly appreciated at the 28th National Consumer Goods Exhibition. Five of their kinds won December 15 Medal of Quality which is awarded to the goods most popular at home and of worldwide competitive power.

Rim Ok



Workers endeavour to increase production of children's favourite bags.



Son of the People



President Kim Il Sung visits a farm worker's family in Hyangha-ri, Janggang County to learn about their living conditions in July 1969.

IN HIS LIFETIME PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG received over 70 000 figures from a hundred and tens of countries. Among them were heads of state, political party, government and figures of political, social and cultural circles, and those from the countries which were in hostile relations or had no diplomatic relations with Korea.

After being received by the President, all of them unanimously admired him as great man in the 20th century, model of genuine internationalism, political leader of the international community, veteran and authoritative outstanding leader and brilliant military strategist. Despite the Korean people and other

peoples' such boundless admiration for him and his worldwide reputation the President often said that he was just a son of the people.

Once he suffered from a serious cold fit during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. An old man and his family cured him of the disease. When he recovered, the old man said, "God gave birth to you General **Kim**, and you have been saved in this log-cabin by God's will, not by my family." Feeling greatly obliged the General said to the old man with modesty, **"Grandfather, I don't think I'm worthy of your compliment. It is too much to compare me with a general born of the Divine will. I am the**

► **son and grandson of the common people; I was born into a nameless peasant family."**

His words reflected his true intention to live as an ordinary member in the rank of the people and his firm view of life whereby he took pride in doing so. He embarked on the path of revolution with the determination to dedicate himself to the country and his fellow people, and ever since his love for the people had all times been uppermost in his mind. Even in almost helpless situations in which he had to eat in the wind and slept in the open during the grim days of the bloody anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, he strengthened his fighting spirit at the thought of his suffering nation under the rule of the Japanese imperialists, and when he had to endure cold and hunger by a campfire, he screwed up his courage by picturing in his mind the Korean people who would live happily in the liberated country.

So, when people extended their gratitude to the General, who returned to the motherland after restoring it, he said: You said I took much trouble to fight a protracted war against the Japanese imperialists for the liberation of Korea, but I had no particular trouble. Fighting against the Japanese imperialists with arms in hand was a thing I ought to do as a son of the people. You fellow compatriots, who were under the tyranny of the Japanese imperialists, must have had more trouble than me.

He never thought of him apart from the people. There was a moment he regarded as the happiest in his whole life. It was on October 14, 1945 when he stood on the platform of a rally held in Pyongyang to welcome him as a peerless hero, a benevolent liberator who took back the country from the Japanese imperialists. The people's endless applause and cheers filled the venue of the rally, but what he felt at that time, he said, was not the people's admiration for him but happiness emanating from the pride that he had fought for the people as a son of the people, from the feeling that the people loved and trusted him and from the fact that he was in the embrace of the people.

As he regarded himself as a son of the people, all the things he formulated and achieved were for the people. He founded the people-centred Juche idea, opening up the era of independence for the masses to become the master of all things, and the state, the government and the army he founded through an arduous struggle were the People's Republic, the people's government and the People's Army. In Korea the word *people* is put in the names of lots of places, for

example, the People's Palace of Culture, the Grand People's Study House and the People's Hospital, and such titles as People's Scientist, People's Athlete and People's Artiste.

When the construction of the Grand People's Study House was under way President Kim Il Sung said that he had had the study house for the people set at the head of Kim Il Sung Square, and the building of the (then) Administration Council by the house to make sure that the council serves the people and does a lot of things for them.

He always valued his comrades, who had shared their fate with him, and the people, rather than himself. When visiting factories, he unreservedly held grease-stained hands of workers and discussed state affairs with them, and when visiting cooperative farms he sat knee to knee with farm workers to discuss farming with them.

Therefore the President never permitted things going against the dignity and the interests of the people. During both the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the Fatherland Liberation War he did not tolerate violation of the people's lives and property, and organized even a single battle in such a way as not to damage their lives and property.

Saying that anything should be done if the people wished it, the President steadily formulated plans for the sake of the people, and saw to it that it was implemented through relevant policies of the State and the Party.

Happiness of the people was the President's greatest pleasure. He lived as a genuine son of the people all his life, respecting them. So, in his speech at a banquet given by the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the occasion of his 80th birth anniversary, he said, **"As I look back on my past I can say, in short, that the 80 years of my life as a son of the people have been years of struggle devoted for the people."** He also said that it is the noblest of moral obligations and duties for a revolutionary to serve the people, that nothing was worthier and more glorious for him than to devote his whole life to the welfare of the people, and that he wished to dedicate the rest of his life to the people's cause, being loved and trusted by them.

As he loved the people so much and lived as a son of the people all his life, the President is always alive in the mind of not only the Korean people but also other peoples across the world.

Kim Kum Hui

Juche Idea, Revolutionary Doctrine of Independence (4)

Man Is the Master of His Own Destiny

THE QUESTION OF HUMAN destiny is the one relating to the life and death through the past, present and future of people. By creating the Juche idea Kim Il Sung broke down the fatalism, which had been cemented like a fossil in the history of ideology and philosophy of humankind and the spiritual realm of man for thousands of years, and clarified the absolute truth that man is the master of his own destiny and has the strength to carve it out.

He raised the question of man's position and role in the world as the fundamental question of philosophy and made it clear as a truth of history that man is the master of his own destiny by illuminating the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything. That man is the master of everything means that he is the master of the world and of his own destiny; that man decides everything means that he plays the decisive role in transforming the world and in shaping his destiny. And the Juche idea newly explained man's position and role as the ruler and transformer of the world, and thus man became the master and pioneer of his own destiny.

Kim Il Sung elucidated the basic reason why man occupies the position and plays the role as the master in connection with man's nature. He illuminated that man can become the master of the world and his own destiny and play the role as the master because he is a social being with independence, creativity and consciousness. Independence, creativity and consciousness constitute the fundamental factor which

enables man to become the master of the world and his own destiny.

From his childhood Kim Il Sung shared joys and sorrows with people. In the course of this, he came to have an unusual viewpoint and outlook of man in his early days. What he strongly felt at that time was the question of man's freedom and right. While witnessing the reality of Korea under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists he confirmed the truth that people deprived of their country are more miserable than the dog of a family having a funeral, and keenly felt the philosophical principle that what is indispensable to man even if he dies is just freedom and sovereign right.

And through the do-or-die struggle of workers and peasants across the country against the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, he keenly understood the common aspiration of the people fighting for man's freedom and liberty of the country and nation. And during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, he witnessed the spirit of revolutionaries fighting to achieve the independence of the country and the liberty of the people, and more keenly felt that to live freely is man's most elementary and vital requirement and that the requirement pushes man to give play to the mental strength and will inherent to him to the maximum. Later, the whole course of the Korean revolution actually proved the invariable truth right.

During his revolutionary activities Kim Il Sung established a new viewpoint of man's nature with his fundamental requirement for liberty as its core. At a talk with a foreign political activist on his visit to Korea

Kim Il Sung gave a classic formulation of independence which he had earlier defined as one part of man's nature. He said, **“Man wishes to live freely without being restrained by anything. The quality of man to live freely as the master of the world is termed independence.”**

Kim Il Sung saw that independence, which is expressed by man's demand for and aspiration to his genuine freedom, is a basic attribute of man who is desirous of living and developing as master of the world and his own destiny without being restrained or fettered by anything. On the basis of his firm viewpoint that it is only man who transforms nature and society and develops science and technology, he defined creativity as a second basic attribute of man. And he defined consciousness as an attribute of man which determines all his endeavours to understand and reshape the world and himself, and as another basic attribute of man like independence and creativity.

In particular, he explained that independence, creativity and consciousness are social attributes from A to Z, not the development and perfection of biological attributes, so man himself is a social being. He made it clear that man's nature is not a native and biological quality at all but a social quality formed and consolidated socially and historically through steady social education and social practical activities, so man becomes the only social being in the world.

The elucidation of man's social quality made it possible to clearly explain the scientific ground for why man is the master of the world and his own destiny.

Ri Jong Nam

Solid Foundation of Juche-oriented Education

IN THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea universal 12-year compulsory education is well under way towards the goal of building a prosperous nation and making all people well versed in science and technology. This effort is associated with the immortal exploits of the country's great leaders whose intention is to train lots of scientific and technological talent and make steady economic development by improving the Juche-oriented education uninterruptedly.

Immortal education programme

President Kim Il Sung published *Theses on Socialist Education* in September 1977, providing a guideline of the Juche-oriented and popular socialist education. In his theses, he produced the unique idea on the fullest and sustainable education of all people for the first time in history, and set the coordination of preschool, school and adult education as the formula of socialist education. This was a perfect answer to the pending question. Through a well-organized higher education system that gives instruction to people on their job—as is given by colleges established at factories, farms, fishing stations and other establishments—and the refresher-course system the Korean people can study all their life without suspension and are developing their talent to spearhead the era of knowledge-based economy. Libraries, public halls and social educational and edification institutions are also

to be found everywhere, which closely combine schooling and social education.

The Grand People's Study House, a house for all-people learning, has conducted a lot of various educational activities—services for reading, scientific and theoretical lectures, sci-tech lectures, lectures for information on new technology, and requested lectures—for the last dozens of years.

Like this, the system for all people to learn has been in regular operation for scores of years, as stipulated by *Theses on Socialist Education*.

In 2016 the Sci-Tech Complex, home of everybody's learning which is furnished on the highest level, was opened, thus the Korean people have another palace of learning appropriate to the qualities of a civilized socialist nation.

Chairman Kim Jong Il consistently adhered to President Kim Il Sung's ideology and line of giving importance to education and directed a great effort to the education work even in the most difficult period of the revolution. He gave energetic guidance to the work of glorifying the national dignity on the highest stage on the strength of the latest science and technology.

Speaking to the seminar on the national action programme for all-people learning held in Pyongyang over a decade ago, the UNESCO representative said that Korea with the universal 11-year compulsory education had realized UNESCO's goal by 2015 for giving education to all people long time before, and that the country is a land of learning.

The first item on the agenda

In September 2012 Korea held the 6th Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly. After a report and debate on the first item on the agenda “On Enforcing the Universal 12-year Compulsory Education,” the ordinance of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on introducing the new education programme was adopted with the unanimous approval. This was greeted by jubilation across the country.

The new system of education is permeated with the noble intention of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to develop his country, the land of learning, into an educational power and a civilized socialist nation as soon as possible.

Regarding the younger generation as the treasure of the country, he makes sure that schoolchildren's palaces, halls and camps are facelifted on the highest possible level, and he stresses the need to develop education whenever an opportunity presents itself. When a new school year began he saw that modern educational facilities and sporting goods were sent to educational institutions in Pyongyang.

Under his trust and benevolent care, a bright prospect was opened up to develop general secondary education onto a higher level. The education system has been rearranged, and old-fashioned styles have been broken in the educational sectors to be replaced by the heuristic teaching method; this has brought about a new

► turn in education in conformity with the requirements of the developing revolution and the trend of education worldwide.

Campaign for radical improvement in education

Following the enforcement of the universal 12-year compulsory education, great public enthusiasm has been aroused to provide better conditions and environment for education and give support to the education work.

The teachers are working hard to create new teaching methods at schools. Importance is attached to simulation lessons. Schools organize several simulation lessons a week, which are to be debated by the teachers, exchanging their opinions at reviews. At the meeting, they analyse the activities of the teacher who gave the simulation lesson, and point out his merits and demerits. In the course of

this, teachers assimilate teaching methods from the view of students, not from their subjective point of view, which naturally leads them to give better instruction.

Universities regard field research activities as an important lever for their teachers and researchers to improve their abilities and qualifications.

Reality, which is developing by leaps and bounds, requires them to have deep knowledge not only of their special field but also other fields and combine their research with production.

Many teachers and researchers went to the Pyongyang Corn Processing Factory, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspersons and many other places to solve a lot of problems in cooperation with the local workers and technicians. This contributed a lot to their education work.

A vigorous drive is going ahead to lay modern conditions and environment for education. Schools are establishing multifunctional classrooms. All classrooms are becoming connected with the intranet. The supporters' organizations and parents of students give positive assistance. Outdoor study grounds and solar-heated greenhouses are newly laid and good species of trees, particularly fruit trees, and new kinds of grass as well as flowers are planted in the compound to create green landscape.

Seeing the country laying a solid foundation for Juche-oriented education and making leaps forward with youthful vigour, the experts say unanimously that the day is not far off when lots of young people will grow up into talented scientists and technicians of worldwide fame.

Sim Yong Jin

Natural Monuments

Masikryong Spring Water

THE MASIKRYONG Spring Water gushes out from the bottom of a mountain standing opposite the skiing courses of the Masikryong Ski Resort in the Masikryong Mountain Range. It was discovered several years ago. It came through a granite crevice of Tanchon complex, being purified by natural rocks. This mildly alkaline water is 8.5 degrees Celsius in temperature and 7.2 in pH value. It is good for health and longevity as it has a harmonious content

of calcium, kalium and other mineral matters and its degree of association is low. Especially, the spring water is efficacious in relieving the heart burden and indigestion, and restoring stamina.

Taehwabong Spring Water

The Taehwabong Spring Water discovered in 1974 gushes out halfway up a valley 200 m west of a ridge of the Masikryong Mountain Range in Thap-dong, Wonsan City, Kangwon Province. According to the local inhabitants the water was well known from of old for

its good quality. Its temperature is 9.5 degrees Celsius and its yield per hour 3-3.2 cubic metres. There is little difference in the temperature and the volume of water as it is a stream driven by structural pressure. It is also mildly alkaline water, 7.2 in pH value. This water contains kalium, sodium, calcium, magnesium and other mineral matters. It is good for improvement of digestion and retardation of aging. Those people who regularly drink the spring water say that its medicinal efficacy in health improvement is really remarkable. □

There Is No End

RECENTLY RESEARCHERS of a waste-water purification laboratory of the Environmental Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences established a system of disinfecting the sericultural process by means of sodium hypochlorite.

In the past cocoon production companies of the sericultural sector had to use imported antiseptic materials including bleaching powder and formalin. It badly affected cocoon production in no small measure. Researchers of the sector made efforts to solve the problem but in vain.

On an official tour, Pak Se Chol, head of the laboratory, came to know about the problem while talking with an officer of a cocoon production company. He looked back on his past when he had been proud that he had been solving urgent sci-tech problems arising from the reality.

Back at the institute he said to his researchers, "Even though we did a lot of researches in the past, the sericultural sector still depends on imported antiseptic materials. We must solve the problem without fail."

Thus, the laboratory started the research to solve the problem while continuing with that to purify waste water. Some countries had relied on chemical process and graphite electrodes in producing sodium hypochlorite, but it caused much consumption of electricity and raw materials. So the researchers sought to find a different method.

Let's bravely do away with the existing formula and rely on our own technology and raw materials—this determination made the researchers unite into one. They made a concerted effort to make a sodium hypochlorite generator and then automated the production process. Not satisfied with this, they developed the generator into a more convenient one capable of producing the antiseptic solution with ease. Users of the machine say that the generator consumes less raw materials and electricity than the previous ones, that it is easy to operate as it is simple in structure and that the solution helps improve their working environment, compared with the previous imported ones.

The researchers also established a system of disinfecting different objects including cocoeneries and sericultural machines and tools and thus laid a material and technical foundation for cocoon

production. Their further efforts ensured 99 percent of disinfecting rate, made the disinfecting system Juche-oriented and made it possible to increase production of cocoons.

Last year the sector of sericulture surpassed its peak-year level on the basis of the researchers' achievements. The researchers also laid a solid foundation for increased production of catfish at the Samchon Catfish Farm by establishing a water recirculation process there.

They are now engrossed in other researches for the sake of the people.

Pak says, "We'll expand our endeavour to develop and introduce processes and devices of different kinds for different sectors including sericulture and stockbreeding. We think there is no end to scientific researches for the sake of the people."

Kim Hyon Ju

Developers of an antiseptic solution generator.



No Satisfaction

THE RYUWON FOOTWEAR FACTORY operates a shop visited by many people. It sells shoes produced to order to the pleasure of the customers.

"I'm so glad to wear shoes fitting my feet. My son, too, had difficulty buying shoes as his feet are unusual in shape. Now, however, he benefits from a laser 3D foot measuring device," said a customer.

"I feel proud of my job whenever I see customers leave the shop happily with shoes to their liking," said a saleswoman.

Their words are inconceivable apart from the laser 3D foot measuring device invented by Kim Kum Chol, a researcher of the laser institute of the State Academy of Sciences. The device is highly appreciated, for it costs low and is high in efficiency. The following shows how the device came into being.

The research started long ago to make it possible

Kim Kum Chol (second right) explains the technical specification of the laser 3D foot measuring device.



to use laser beams for human life.

Kim came to think of shoes while researching laser beams. At the time a lot of people wanted shoes fitting their feet, but it was hardly possible to meet their demand. Once, on a business trip to Kangwon Province, he visited the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory. There he saw a lot of people ordering shoes after measuring their feet by means of a foot measuring device developed by technicians of the factory. But the device could measure only the soles of their feet of different shapes, and the shoes thus produced to order were not as comfortable as the customers wished.

Then he decided to develop the laser 3D foot measuring device. He visited libraries, the Sci-Tech Complex and the Grand People's Study House to search for relevant data. While studying the data, he pushed ahead with his own research to make such a foot measuring device. In the course of this he became confident that it was possible to make the device if he set up an optical system whereby three-dimensional laser beams would be focused on one side with high accuracy.

It was also difficult to make the device, but he managed to do the job. In order to make shoes fit feet of different shapes, he had to give satisfactory answers to different indices like height of foot and instep, length of instep and width of foot. So he had talks with workers of footwear factories and made shoes himself.

At last he introduced the device at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, and it was highly appreciated. Based on his success in inventing the device, he developed a laser cutting machine. The Pyongyang Bag Factory equipped with the laser cutting machine is producing quality bags.

Not content with his achievements, he is continuing with the research to preferentially solve sci-tech problems arising in making production processes and facilities Juche-oriented so as to perfect the structure of the independent economy. People are calling a researcher like him *our researcher*.

Rim Hye Gyong

New Guide to Tonguibogam

HAVE YOU EVER READ THE Korean medical book *Tonguibogam*?

Tonguibogam was published in 1613 for the first time, reprinted several times in 1814 and 1874 in Korea and published in China and Japan as well.

After reading the book, a Chinese medical man said, "*Tonguibogam* fills the gaps of other medical books that have been published and has helped everybody improve their health. So to print and spread widely this book is as good as to share the treasure of the world with all the people around the world."

A Chinese historian said that as the only encyclopaedia of Oriental medical science, *Tonguibogam* held the predominant place among Oriental medical books. It is recorded in the *Study of the Clinical Chart of the Royal Palace in Ching Dynasty*, a book published recently in China, and the *Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty* that Koryo insam, a special medicinal plant in Korea, and bezoar cordials, a sort of Koryo medicine, were used for the treatment of diseases in the royal palace of Qing Dynasty (1616–1911), China.

It was recorded in a historical document that China sent for the book nine times between the 17th century and the 19th century alone. In Japan it was also reprinted in Kyoto in 1724 and in Osaka in 1799 and 1991. On the basis of the book, Japan compiled several medical books, and one of them was very popular with not only Japanese medical men but also ordinary families as it was recognized as a textbook for longevity.

A medical encyclopaedia compiled in the former Soviet Union referred to *Tonguibogam* as one of the three major encyclopaedias of Oriental medicine.

As the crystallization of the successes achieved by the 16th century in the development of Koryo medicine, *Tonguibogam* and the two similar books *Uibangryuchui* and *Hyangyakjipsongbang* are well known worldwide as the three major classics of Koryo medicine.

Unlike other classics of medicine, *Tonguibogam* is characterized by systematic description of the physiological functions of the five viscera and six entrails, symptoms and treatments of different external and internal diseases, causes of the diseases and the relevant prescriptions.

The book shows that cultivating your body and mind and regularizing your life is the first and treatment the second in maintaining your health for long.

In Korea, *Tonguibogam* written in Chinese characters was translated and published in Korean in 1962. In 1982 it was retranslated and published in five volumes with notes along with copies of the original. Then it was widely used for the improvement of the people's health.

Recently, the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University newly digitized the already translated and published classic. In other countries, medical classics are digitized only by using the mode of image input with an emphasis placed on preserving the original.

But the college made a computer database for about a million Chinese characters of the total

25 volumes of the original classic and the letters of the translation and had it actively introduced in the Koryo medical education and research and clinical practice through information exchange based on it. The college also made sure that the e-book can be read through mobile phones and other similar means.

The e-book of *Tonguibogam* helps the readers not only read with ease the contents of the original and translation on *Tonguibogam* section and kinds and conditions of diseases but also understand the contents instantly and comprehensively by means of a Chinese character dictionary and a dictionary of Koryo medical terms. As they wish, the readers can see the original of the classic kept in eternal preservation as image files.

Choe Hyok, the main developer of the relevant program, says, "To make the e-book of *Tonguibogam* fully play its role as a guide for the readers, we ensured one-to-one correspondences between the paragraphs of the original and the translations for the first time in digitizing Koryo medical books and newly established a system of grouping, searching and statistical analysis according to the scientific system. In particular, we made sure that through the searching program of the e-book, the readers can read about the cause of their diseases and the usage of the relevant Koryo medicines. On the basis of the achievement, we will digitize much more medical classics and conduct brisk exchanges of information technology through them."

Kim Ye Ryong



Home of Child Prodigies

SINUIJU MUNICIPAL PONBU KINDERGARTEN is situated in the centre of the border city of Sinuiju on the lower Amnok River.

It is not so large a kindergarten with a three-storey building, but it has produced lots of child prodigies.

Not long ago I visited the kindergarten for news coverage.

It was surrounded by a row of armful-thick willow trees whose budding branches were swinging in a warm spring wind. Spectacular were its sunflower-patterned fence, a roller-skating rink in the compound and the style of the building similar to a baby's rattle. I found myself becoming a child again at the first sight of the kindergarten.

Merited Teacher Kang Sun Hui, director of the kindergarten, welcomed me. Kang had been introduced across the country through TV for her having trained many little prodigies. Among the prodigies was Ku Tae Hong who was introduced by *Korea Today* as a little calligrapher for his having written well the title of the mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang*, a Kim Il Sung Prize winner.

When I told her I was there to collect news materials on the pride of the kindergarten in producing a lot of child prodigies, the director said with an awkward smile, "Your words sound excessive. We have done what we have to do. Our duty is to cultivate the future of our country. We've always kept it in mind while working." She then explained about the principle for their work as follows: They fully grasp and study the characters, mentalities and tastes of children when they are in the junior class, and give them early artistic education in the senior class.

I was guided to the room of senior class No. 3 first, where the children were practising in writing with a brush. Though at a young age when they would otherwise play on their mothers' affections, the children were writing letters admirably maintaining the balance between strokes and dots and between blanks and margins on the basis of formative analysis of the structure. I also saw calligraphic works *We Are the Happiest in the World* and *Flower Buds Bloom Only Red* by Jon Chol Jin and Hyon Tae Ung. The works enabled me to read their laudable determination to develop into noted calligraphers of the country.

On the first floor the director guided me to the room of senior class No. 4 where the children were

practising in drawing pictures. They were using colour pencils to draw pictures reflecting their hopes and dreams. Their teacher Choe Chun Hui said, "It is not an easy job to have an understanding of the child's mind and develop their aptitudes and intelligence." And she told me the following story about Kim Su Yong, a little "artist."

In her infancy Su Yong was unusually clever and good at singing and sight reading. So her parents intended to have her learn how to play the kayagum or xylophone. But the teacher judged that drawing was more appropriate for the child who had good powers of observation and imagination.



So she taught her the knack of drawing. Several months after she began to learn drawing Su Yong distinguished herself by presenting a good picture at a national kindergarten children's talent contest to the amazement of the participants and experts.

The teacher told me that it was more difficult to find out a bud of success than to succeed.

Appreciating her words, I went upstairs. On the floor I heard sight reading, sound detection and sounds of national musical instruments. I also saw the photos of child master flutist Ri Jin U, Kye Thae Hun who won a special prize by playing *jangsaenap* (a Korean trumpet) and a bass drum well on the stage for a kindergarten children's general performance held in Pyongyang in September last year and those who had remarkably performed the folk play *Rope Jumping* at the aforesaid mass gymnastics and artistic performance, deeply impressing the Korean people and foreigners from across the world.

While looking round the kindergarten I could not help but be struck with admiration at the children's talent and the teachers' faithful efforts dedicated to the development of their talent. The director said, "Every year our kindergarten produces many children of talent. We trained such children as little poetess Kim Il Sin and master hourglass drummers Kim



Teachers discuss how to improve children's intelligence.

Chol and Nam Se Yong. That's why people affectionately refer to ours as kindergarten of talent, and it is visited by not only our people but also foreign delegations and inspection groups. They number as many as hundreds of thousands. All foreign visitors to the kindergarten say they have seen the future of Korea in the children playing and singing happily."

They are right. It was one of ordinary kindergartens, and I could fairly see the future of the country in the children of talent. When I left the kindergarten, what Merited Teacher Pak Myon Suk said patting Thae Hun on the lovely cheeks—"You smile brightly and bloom into a good man!"

Kim Son Myong





Kim Song Ju Primary School

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED Kim Song Ju Primary School situated in Taedongmun-dong, Central District, Pyongyang.

On the right side of the school compound stands a statue of young Kim Il Sung in school uniform with a book in his hand. There I met Ri Yong Ryol, headmaster of the school, who said, "The statue depicts the great leader [President Kim Il Sung] determining in his childhood to study hard for Korea following his father Kim Hyong Jik's instruction that a man born in Korea should know well about it. In order to follow the example of the great leader in his childhood, all pupils of my school study hard every day under the slogan 'Let's learn for Korea!'"

Then the headmaster said as follows: The President visited the school on September 1 (the first day of the school year at that

time), 1972. After having a talk with some pupils and hearing about the teachers' experience, he said that the teachers' qualifications were on a high level and that they were educating and

edifying the pupils well. It was thanks to the teachers' good education and edification that the pupils understood well what they were taught, were lively and disciplined and were active in the



► organizational life of the Children's Union, he added, showing his trust in the teachers.

The President's words were still touching their hearts, the headmaster said and added that all teachers of the school were engrossed in the educational work to turn theirs into a model for the whole country. Then I noticed that the teachers took unusual pride in working at the school associated with the immortal exploits of the President.

Recently the school put a great effort in improving the teachers' qualifications while improving the content of education and the educational environment as required by the education programme of the new century. They constantly created new teaching methods and regularly organize a meeting for presentation of experience, an inspection of a class at work and so on by week, month and quarter.

Therefore, a lesson given by a teacher at the event for primary school teachers of the social subjects teaching sector of the national teaching contest held last year on the 40th anniversary of publication of the *Theses on Socialist Education*, won special prize for its being the one suited to pupils'

psychological peculiarities, and was introduced across the country. The school also won first place at the 23rd national discussions about teaching methods and the national educational multimedia contest, distinguishing itself as an excellent unit among primary schools.

The school also made achievements in creating teaching aids. Many of its teachers created new teaching methods one after another, including the one of using a jigsaw puzzle for Korean map to help pupils have a vivid idea of mountains and fields in Korea, an animation to improve pupils' intellectual powers and a method of making and testing a kite to help them easily make kites, thus being awarded certificates of registered new teaching method.

Most of the inventions were introduced across the country, Ri said, guiding me onto the second floor, where there was a nature study hall designed in such a way as to make it possible to observe at a look the sky, land, sea, mountains and fields, animals and birds. There I could see models of the national bird of goshawk, the national dog of Phungsan, the national tree of pine and the na-

tional flower of magnolia. The hall enabled me to know once again how hard the teachers strove to implant love of their country in their pupils and help them acquire practical knowledge.

Showing me a thick record of visitors' impressions, Ri said that the school was often visited by many foreigners. On the last page was what Zhang Jin Quan, Zhang Wei Hua's son, wrote after looking round the school during his visit to the country last year. It read, "Under the care of respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, Kim Song Ju Primary School is changing splendidly day after day. I hope the school will train much more pillars of the country. April 26, 2017"

Ri said, "Many graduates of my school have become a Hero of the Republic, a Labour Hero, a People's Artiste, a People's Athlete and holders of academic degrees or titles. So the State awarded it Order of Kim Il Sung and Order of National Flag 1st Class. In the future, too, we'll strive to train fine pupils, as befits teachers of the school associated with the great leader's immortal exploits."

Sim Chol Yong



Miraculous Vaccine

IN PHYONGCHON DISTRICT, Pyongyang, there is the Tumour Institute of the Academy of Medical Science. It is a scientific research institute whose mission is to research, prevent and treat cancer diseases.

Staffed with many able researchers the institute has invented lots of cancer medicines including cancer vaccine.

The cancer vaccine is a biological substance capable of killing cancerous cells by raising the immunity of the human body, with no side-effects, and thus it attracts the attention of many other countries.

The institute started the relevant research in the 1990s, and there was formed a powerful national research team for the research. This led to development of the cancer vaccine in a short span of time. The vaccine was highly appreciated at the 1st International School on Molecular Oncology and the Russian Conference with International Participation on Molecular Oncology held in 2008.

Those, who had been diagnosed as having but few days left to live, recovered miraculously after being injected with the vaccine. The vaccine helped treat liver, gastric, lung, breast, rectal, colorectal, laryngeal, bile duct and many other cancers.

Some time ago, the institute made public the result of 17-year-long clinical examinations, which showed that the cases who were treated with the vaccine after having operations had 22 to 45% higher rate of additional ten-year-long life than those who were treated with anticancer medicines.

In particular, the vaccine was most efficacious in treating liver cancer. Kim Yun Bong, a resident of Sosong District, Pyongyang, was diagnosed with liver cancer as well as liver cirrhosis in 2003, and the size of the cancer was 8×7cm. After having an operation he was injected with the vaccine, and the result showed no relapse and metastasis. Having lived for

15 more years since then, he says, “Frankly speaking, nobody believed me to be alive for more than one year after the operation. They thought that the cancer would recur and metastasize in my body in a few months, and that even if I was treated with anticancer medicines or radiation, it would not be successful with serious side-effects as I was so weak. I chose to be treated with the vaccine. It was my feeling at the time that I would never regret even if treatment ended in a failure. My choice was really right.”

The cancer vaccine gained public favour at home and abroad. In 2013, the researchers of the institute received a letter of thanks from Chinese writer Lu Ming Hui. He had had an operation on cancer in one of his kidneys, but it soon metastasized to the other kidney. His condition was so poor that he could not receive a kidney transplant. Then he was diagnosed as having only three months left to live.

After much agony, he decided to be treated with the vaccine developed by the institute. The result was good beyond imagination. Three months and another several

months passed since his disease was pronounced incurable, but he was still alive and getting better and better. This is why he wrote the letter of thanks.

Having witnessed his recovery, Zhao Xi Fu, former director of the Bureau of Justice in Tonghua, Jilin, China, had an injection of the vaccine after undergoing an operation on his gastric cancer, and thus he was restored to health. His wife, too, was cured of gastric cancer through the same treatment. Zhao, now a lawyer in Tonghua, is convinced that his and his wife's life indexes are normal.

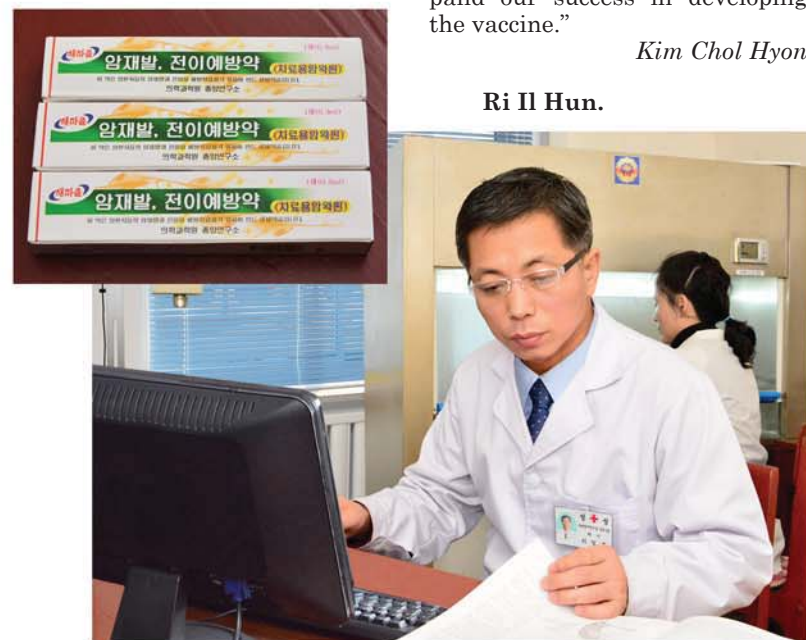
Recently, the developers of the vaccine have completed a method of treating cancer relapse and metastasis by combining the vaccine with anticancer medicines in small quantities, thus further meeting the patients' expectation.

Now the demand for the vaccine is increasing day by day at home and abroad, and more and more people are benefiting from the vaccine.

Ri Il Hun, main developer of the vaccine and head of a laboratory, says, “We still have a lot of things to do to put an end to the origin of cancer. We'll further expand our success in developing the vaccine.”

Kim Chol Hyon

Ri Il Hun.



Unusual Pleasure

THE MORNING SUN RISES, AND IT SHINES through rows of high-rise apartment blocks. The streets of the downtown are crowded with people on the way to work. Among them is Choe Chung Hyok, a doctor of the Koryo acupuncture and moxibustion department of Sinuiju Municipal People's Hospital No. 2. Always early at office before anyone else every day, he cleans the room and makes preparations for treatment. Then he takes out from a drawer of his desk letters from his patients. He reads each of the letters with a happy smile.

Dear Mr. Choe,

I cannot forget you visiting my house three months ago with a first-aid bag on your shoulder. When I refused to get treatment, you said, “There is a phrase ‘Combination of spirit and medicine treats diseases.’ What is important is to have confidence.” And you took pulse of my paralysed hand and foot, and applied acupuncture to several acupoints. It was really marvellous. For the previous seven years I had taken different kinds of medicines and treatment to cure my disease but in vain. But a week after I had begun to get the treatment from you, I began to feel strength and pains in the hand and foot. A month later I began to be gradually relieved of paralysis. Then I was free from indigestion, and my blood pressure became normal.

Now I have completely recovered from the aftereffect of cerebral hemorrhage, and regained my health. I sincerely thank you for helping me lead a new life.

O Jong Gun, workshop manager of the Sinuiju Footwear Factory

There is a saying that grandchildren are more lovely. As anybody does, I care for my grandson very much. And it was my wish to walk with him taking him by the hand as others do. But it was only a dream to me until half a year ago as I had not been able to move about for the previous several years owing to thoracic slipped disk. I suffered from a serious lumbar pain caused by the deformation of the waist, and from intercostal neuralgia, neuromuscular pressure, and urination and defecation disorders. But today I walked around the children's park five times with the grandson on my shoulder. I can find nothing



ing pleasanter than holding in my arms as much as I wish the child who follows me, calling out, “Grandpa, grandpa.”

Ri Jin Hyok, worker of the Sinuiju Epidemic Control Centre

Dear Mr. Choe,

Today I bought a new hand mirror at a shop. I went shopping for the first time since I had been stricken with facial paralysis at the young age of 16. To be frank with you, I broke all mirrors in my home as I hated to see my crooked lips and imperfectly closed ugly eyes. Anything else that mirrored my face disappeared. Others probably won't imagine my sorrow. I could not help but wrap my dream, hope and smile in a thick kerchief for a dozen years. But today I shed tears again and again looking at the mirror I bought, tears of happiness, not sorrow.

Mr. Choe, I'll keep this mirror with much care all my life. And whenever I look at it, I'll always think of you as you have made my life full of hope again.

Kim Un Jong, worker of the Sinuiju Disabled Soldiers' School

Reading such letters is an unusual happiness to Chung Hyok. He still receives letters from those people who have become able to go to work again after getting treatment from him.

Choe Sol Mi

Pine Nuts Good for Treatment of Heart Diseases

IF YOU EAT PINE NUTS, IT IS SAID, YOU CAN prevent an ischemic heart disease, hypertension and atheromatous arteriosclerosis. The pine nuts are good for health as they are rich in unsaturated fatty acid.

If you eat pine nuts it will help improve the function of your heart and prevent blocks of chole-

sterol from forming in your veins.

Unsaturated fatty acid quickly dissolves fat to be absorbed into the human body. Vitamins of the pine nuts make the hair and skin beautiful and bone tissue strong.

Pine nuts also have a positive effect on improving the function of the digestive system. □



Winners of EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2017.

Reliable Women Footballers

IN JANUARY LAST, PYONG-lyang selected the best footballers 2017 of the DPRK. Among them were Kim Yun Mi, Kim Nam Hui and Kim Myong Sun who had won prizes of Top Scorer and MVP, the prize of Best Defender and the prize of Best Goalkeeper respectively in the women's football of EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2017.

Correct Prediction

Kim Yun Mi runs very fast and is flexible in dribbling, so her colleagues call her *lightning*. In her childhood she was interested in rhythmic gymnastics, but she chose to play football for the following reason.

It was when she was in the third grade at a primary school. One day there took place a sports

meeting of the school. Unexpectedly, she was chosen as a relay racer. As the last runner of her team, she overtook her rival to cut the finish tape. The scene attract-

ed attention of the school's physical education teacher. The teacher visited Kim's family several times, telling her parents about her natural aptitude for running fast and

► her flexible movement, and about her prospects as a footballer. His sincerity touched the hearts of her parents. Under the warm care of the State valuing the bud of her talent even her parents had not known the girl learned the ABC of football at primary school and juvenile sports school. Later she systematically improved her skill at a sports club. The teacher's prediction proved right.

At the Women's East Asian Cup 2013, the 17th Asian Games and the EAFF Women's East Asian Cup 2015 she made a decisive contribution to her team's victory by fully displaying her ability to run fast, high mental spirit and fight. She was also awarded the Top Scorer prize and the MVP prize by scoring four goals at EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2017.

Sport Is Also Science

Kim Nam Hui is a back and captain of the Korean women's team, and her colleagues call her *cholbyok* (iron wall). But those who know well about her say: She runs doggedly in a match, but

when observing her inner world, you can understand that she is an internally-minded girl of mild temper who likes thinking.

Her characteristic disposition finds expression in her dribbling skill. As she was fond of solving mathematical problems in her childhood, she always pictures the position of the ball in her mind while dribbling: she quickly calculates inwardly the position to which the ball will come and the position from which she will pass the ball to other player. When people asked her about the secret, she said, "You can do anything when you are conscious of taking responsibility for it before the motherland." She often tells her colleagues that sport is also science.

She won the prize of Best Defender at EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2017 by making a conspicuous contribution to her team's win.

Not Even a Goal

Kim Myong Sun is the goalkeeper who never missed the ball at the aforesaid championship. When people asked her about the

secret after the championship, she answered that she thought the goal she defended was a gate her motherland allocated her to defend.

She grew up while receiving education from her father who was the headmaster of the then Sok-da Secondary School in Jungsan County, South Phyongan Province.

It was when Myong Sun was a five-year student of the secondary school. One day her father saw her frequently missing balls during training. Then the father said, "Myong Sun, the goal you stand before is not merely an ordinary goal. It is like a gate to defend the honour of the country. If you miss one goal today and two tomorrow, then what will become of it? With what will you defend the honour of the country? If you don't understand it, you'd better give up."

His words touched her heartstrings and left an indelible impression on her. From then on she managed to make not even a trifle mistake in training. Thus she developed into a goalkeeper of the national team. She is still training hard to defend the honour of the country.

Sim Yong Jin



Kim Yun Mi.



Kim Nam Hui.



Kim Myong Sun.

Secret of Sixth Consecutive Victory

“MAY ×, 2017 FINE
“Today our team won the final match by defeating the opposite team from Sinam Senior Middle School in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, and thus we achieved the sixth consecutive victory. As soon as the match was over, we rushed to our instructor and threw ourselves into each other’s arms, weeping and laughing with joy. When we received the trophy and gold medals on the honour platform, tears blurred our eyes. They were the tears of pleasure and pride in that we had displayed the honour of our school, our team and ourselves and that we had lived up to the expectation of our parents and classmates. Full of the pleasure and pride, we had a souvenir photograph taken with the instructor.”

This is part of a diary written by Yu Jong, captain of the volleyball team of Haeun Senior Middle School, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang. Her team won first place at the women’s volleyball competition

at the 43rd National Schoolchildren’s Sports Contest for Jongilbong Prize and she was awarded the Best Player Prize at the contest.

It was when a volleyball circle was organized for the first time at the school. Members of the circle all felt so tired as hard training continued, and they had no experience in the sport. Some of them often wept with pains in their wrists and knees. Still Mun Kyong Hui, physical education teacher in charge of the circle, further intensified the training, saying, “A real player should understand the value of tears correctly. Your tears only express your weakness. Try again.”

With their teeth set, they managed to master basic movements of volleyball one by one. When they became able to do the basic movements fairly well, they suggested having a match with a rival instead of continuous training alone. After a lot of discussion, the school administration agreed with them.

In a tactical discussion.



They thus had a volleyball match with a team of the juvenile sports school in the district. But it ended in their defeat. When the players returned to the school in a low spirit, Mun let them go home without saying a word.

At night, however, Mun received successive calls from their parents telling that they hadn’t come home yet. As she expected, they were running round the schoolyard with sandbags tied around their legs. She told them to stop running and return home, but they said that they came to understand what tears they had to shed after losing.

It happened when they were in a match with a team before an important elimination match. With a draw of 1:1, the third round was started. If they had the last ball, they would win.

Suddenly the situation was changed. The opposite team built up points by means of consecutive sudden smashes and light tapping. Finally, Mun’s team was defeated, because her players were not alert enough and lost psychological stability whenever they allowed the opponent a point.

After that they trained hard to attain a higher goal of possessing the high psychological ability and collectivism by which to control any circumstances in a match without being conceited or confused as well as being prepared physically and technically.

In this course, they developed into a competent hitter, a skilled organizer and a stiff defender, who became one in mind and intention. A player was injured during training, but she took part in a match to the end, helping the team win.

Kim Ye Ryong

World of Service Workers

THE PEOPLE’S OPEN-AIR Ice Rink, situated on the picturesque bank of the Taedong River, resounds with people’s laughter all the year round. Some time ago, I visited the place and had a chance of meeting its service workers.

Invariable Daily Work

Ri Hyang Mi, service worker of the ice rink, begins her daily work with lending people with skates. She often has trouble picking up proper skates out of hundreds of them according to their liking. But she always wears an affectionate smile on her face, carefully advising them to put on skates fitting their feet and tie well the laces of the skates lest their feet should be injured. This made the people feel friendly to her. Certainly, she seems to possess her own vocabulary to attract people. When asked about it, she said, “I treat my visitors the way I should do my own brothers and sisters.” Her answer was very simple, but it gives the impression that she works, always bearing in mind that she should treat her visitors as kindly as she should do her kinsfolk in order to make them benefit better from the benevolence of the State that provided the ice rink operated in every season. After work she classifies skates by type, size and colour, and repairs and keeps them in good condition. She really takes pride in her job.

White Swallow

One day in November 2012, U Jong Hyang went to the above-mentioned ice rink with her



Ri Hyang Mi.

friends to skate. But, she never thought that she would see there Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un she had wanted to see even in a dream. After looking round the ice rink, the Supreme Leader said that the ice rink, as a mass sports facility, should be used by amateur ice skaters, working people, youths and schoolchildren. Presently, he observed Jong Hyang and other children skating for a

long while highly appreciating their skating skills. And accepting their impertinent request, he had a souvenir photo taken with them.

That day U determined that she would work on the ice rink all her life. Later, after graduating from Korea University of Physical Education, she volunteered to work as an instructor of the ice rink. People affectionately call her *white swallow* as she always wears white sportswear while instructing people in skating. She takes pride of her life in her nickname rather than pursuing beautiful illumination and applause of spectators. Now she is translating into reality her hopes and dreams for the future on the ice rink.

The ice rink invariably reverberates with happy laughter of people thanks to the effort of such service workers.

Kim So Yong

U Jong Hyang.



Idea of Flower



PEOPLE USUALLY REGARD it as the best virtue to present the most beautiful and rarest flowers to those they deeply respect and admire. Whenever I see the flowers blooming in streets and villages in spring, I always think of my mother.

From her early days, my mother actively took part in the anti-Japanese underground struggle at home to win back the country from the Japanese imperialists. At that time she often heard legendary stories about General Kim Il Sung, the brilliant commander born of Heaven, but she had never seen him before.

On August 15, 1945, at last, Korea was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists. Cheers of joy for national liberation reverberated across the whole country. Because of her past underground struggle my mother, at the age of 20, was allowed to work at the then women's affairs department of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea.

At the end of September, a young man, always with a bright smile on his face, used to visit the department to scrupulously

explain to my mother and its other members women's position and role in the building of a new country. But my mother never imagined that he was the peerless patriot General Kim Il Sung all the Korean people were eagerly waiting for.

On the evening of October 13, an official gave my mother the task of preparing a bunch of flowers and unexpectedly told her that there would be held a citizens' rally in Pyongyang to welcome the General on his triumphant return home. My mother could not contain her excitement and made a bunch of flowers all night.

Early in the next morning she hurried to the then Pyongyang public playground (Kim Il Sung Stadium at present) to find the place already crowded with lots of people with bunches of flowers in their hands. At 1 o'clock p.m., the General appeared on the platform smiling all over his face. Suddenly the cheers of "hurrah" swept the playground rocking heaven and earth.

"That's him, the General," my mother exclaimed herself. Only then did she recognize the General who had often visited her office to teach what and how women should do in the building of a new country. He had been so modest and informal that she failed to recognize the General who had won fame as Tiger of Mt. Paektu while making one-million-strong Japanese Kwantung Army tremble for fear, appearing now in the east and now in the west in a flash. With a throbbing heart, she presented the bouquet to the General who had returned home in triumph after defeating the Japanese aggressors, on behalf of the Korean people.

She said that it was the most unforgettable moment in her life. And when I was born the next year, she named me Hae Bang [liberation]. From then on she, together with us, would visit the

playground, taking a beautiful bouquet, on different occasions including April 15, the birthday of the General, August 15, the day of Korea's liberation, and October 14, the anniversary of his making a historic speech after his triumphant return home. The playground has now turned into Kim Il Sung Stadium, at which there stand a large-sized memorial mosaic mural depicting a scene of Kim Il Sung making a historic triumphal speech at the aforesaid Pyongyang citizens' rally, and a monument inscribed with his autographic instructions. Regarding my mother's honour as my family's, I have invariably followed the road all my life like my mother had done. And I think it was the common will of the world's progressive peoples to present beautiful flowers to the leader. The very will gave birth to the rare and precious flower Kimilsungia, a reflection of boundless respect and admiration for the leader.

The State highly appreciated her long service in nursing and upbringing of children and awarded her National Flag Order 1st Class of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and invited her as a representative to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Many years have passed since then. I'm now over 70. I'm wont to tell my descendants, "You never forget the care and benevolence of the great leaders of our nation (President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il). Our respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is leading the implementation of their plan of building a socialist power, and you should faithfully support him from generation to generation."

Mun Hae Bang, resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 25, Kaeson-dong, Moranbong District, Pyongyang

Asset of Family

SOME TIME AGO, I WENT to the apartment houses for teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology in Mirae Scientists Street to meet Kim Min U, department head of the power science faculty, Kim Chaek University of Technology. Kim's family lives in flat No. 1 on the 32nd floor of block No. 1. The flat consists of a cosy living room, a room for the Kims and that for their children, a study and so on. A bookcase in the living room contained many certificates of registered sci-tech achievements and of applied sci-tech achievements and those of invention Kim had received. All his family members are graduates from the aforesaid university and teachers.

It was under the influence of his father that Min U chose his present career after graduating from the university.

His father had worked as a teacher at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School for over ten years. As a child, Min U often heard his father talking about President Kim Il Sung who had frequently visited the revolution-

ary school. What follows below is an anecdote he heard from his father. One day, during his visit to the school, the President found the school's barber feeling ashamed of his job. Then the President encouraged the barber, saying, **"I cannot pat all the schoolchildren on the head. But you're cutting hair of the lovely precious children, stroking their heads. What a good thing it is!"** At that time, Min U's father made up his mind to do a lot of things for the pupils whom the President held so dear. Since then he always shared bitters and sweets with his pupils and took his great pleasure in teaching them.

When Min U was to give a first lecture, his father told him in detail about how to behave before students and how to teach them. Min U's wife Yu Kwi Ok also gave her "first lesson" in front of her father-in-law before beginning to work as a teacher at a junior middle school. Yu is held in respect as an able teacher. She and her husband were classmates studying at the same desk in their university days. Min U positively helped

his wife. Thanks to his effort, Yu distinguished herself at national educational experimental apparatuses and teaching aids shows.

Their eldest daughter Kim Jin Hyang is also a teacher with the shortest term in the career among the family. But she is regarded as a promising teacher. She took lessons from her mother in her school days and from her father in her university days.

Her father and mother were popular with their students and pupils for their good lectures, and they were very glad to get the news that their disciples had become heroes and doctors. This made her determined to work like her parents. And, it is said, the images of her parents were the first to rise in her mind when she stood before pupils at class for the first time.

Jin Hyang's younger sister Un Hyang began to work as a librarian at the information service office of the Sci-Tech Complex after graduating from the electrical engineering faculty, Kim Chaek University of Technology. She takes pride in providing information to all parts of the country.

On New Year's Day and other holidays, the house is visited by lots of people including disciples of Min U, his wife and Jin Hyang and readers frequenting Un Hyang's office. Min U said that his family took greatest pride in dedicating themselves to the education of the country's future pillars.

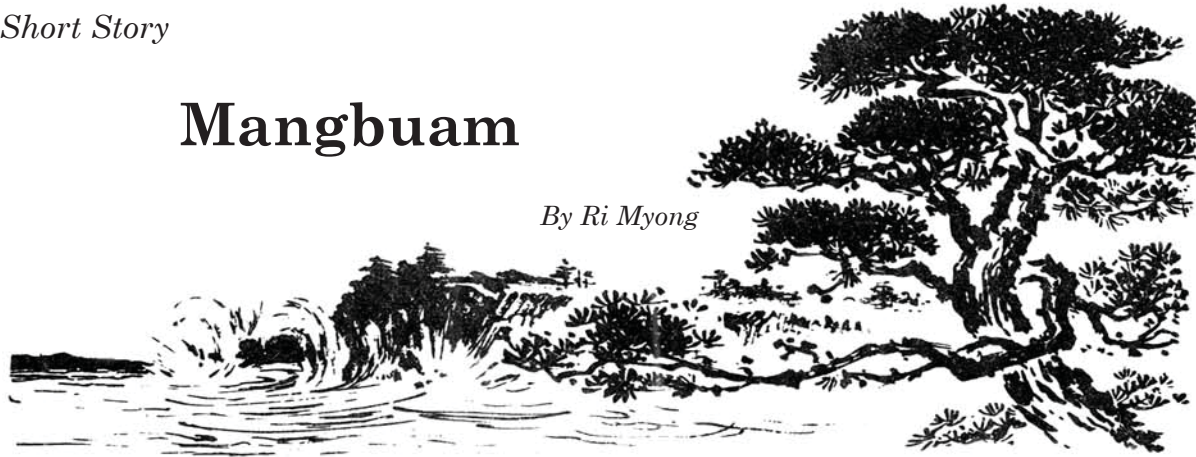
Thinking that the family's pride in their career was the great asset of not only the family but all other similar families across the country, I left the house.

Sim Chol Yong



Mangbuam

By Ri Myong



(Continued from the last issue)

RI U JIN LEFT HOME without sharing much conjugal affection early in his newly-married life. Having his wife live in the home in the city for the convenience of her in going to and from work, he always stayed for his research in the Mangbuam area over 40 kilometres away from the city. It was only once or twice a month that he came home. Ye Rim had to tacitly put up with such a boring life for the sake of his unusual ideal and the future of her family.

Why is he late like this? Ye Rim wondered. Having prepared the supper, she was worrying that he might not come. Right at the moment Ri walked into the house. His cap, shoulders and padded winter shoes were covered with snow. Beside herself with joy, Ye Rim shook snow from his back and helped him take off his knapsack. Ri's face with thick whiskers was expressionless. Wondering what countenance he would put on at the unexpected news, Ye Rim managed to stifle laughter, but grew mischievous.

"Darling, didn't you have a good dream last night?" she asked. There was no response.

"The snow lady showed you a harbinger of spring, didn't she?" she asked again.

Thick wrinkles appeared on Ri's reddish forehead, enlarging

his eyeball areas that seemed faded in the sun. Ye Rim said no more, thinking he was now curious to know what she meant. Then their son, who had been reading his parents' faces, took part in their conversation.

"Dad, mom said today is the birthday of our home."

"Ah! Your mother seems out of her mind today," Ri said, with an absurd smile on his lips.

"Perhaps I might be," she pretended to agree.

Now she did not want to hide the fact any longer. Looking affectionately at her husband's moist whiskers, she sat forward to her husband. His broad shoulders and body smelled of cold slime.

"It seems," she said, "that the tree saplings you sent to the academy for analysis for the purpose of planting them in early spring are successful. Today I received a telegram from the laboratory of the main institute."

Ri raised his doubtful eyes, which looked a little tense and then shined in the bluish electric light.

"Is that true?" he asked calmly. His tone, however, revealed inward joy. His wife produced the telegram related to his destiny, and watched her excited husband concentrating all his attention on the small sheet of paper.

"Oh, darling, what numbers are written here on this? Bring me my glasses, please," Ri entreated,

lowering his head down onto the paper. Suddenly his lips trembled. And his cheeks with whiskers unusually tightened and the space between his eyebrows narrowed as he was stubbornly looking at the paper with a searching gaze. Then a strange premonition flashed through Ye Rim's mind.

"Let me read it," she said snatching the paper from his hands. "Congratulations to you on your success. And then some numbers are written here."

"That's what I want. Read them!" Ri urged

"The base is 0.5, the humidity 15, the extent of cold resistance 20 degrees below zero..."

"What? The extent of cold resistance is 20 degrees below zero?"

"Oh my! What's the matter?" Ye Rim demanded.

"The number means the lowest temperature the saplings can endure. And they thought it success. No, it's not a success at all!"

"Why is that?"

"They considered the saplings only in terms of the average climate and natural features of our provincial coast," Ri explained infuriated. "It should be based upon the characteristics of the Mangbuam area that might be more unfavourable, that is, the worst condition in which damage by wind, cold and salt water is severe."

Ri's face stamped with disappointment was twisted with pain, and perspiration stood upon his

flushed forehead and temples.

Ye Rim looked him in the face, her heart burning with the wish to support the collapsing pillar with her delicate shoulder.

"Should you surely select Mangbuam?" she asked.

Her unexpected question took Ri by surprise. And he breathed out a sigh of agony, looking into her sorrowful face.

"You know it well," Ri said. "What sort of land is Mangbuam? The wind and cold is severe in the area. Otherwise our people would not have woven a story of a couple's sad separation around it in the past when they were deprived of their country. We cannot neglect it."

"I know it. But if you give up the saplings again..." Ye Rim could not complete her sentence.

"You're right. This is the third time," Ri groaned with difficulty, interrupting her. Suddenly Ye Rim was struck with dismay. The fact that he thrice failed to breed the saplings, not annual plants, meant that he had wasted half his life. The many years of his efforts came to nothing. The amount of water turning a water wheel for the same period might have made a hole in a rock. Ye Rim told herself: *Who said that enthusiasm and sincerity make it possible to do anything? He lives without knowing the pleasures of a happy home. Are the beads of sweat he has shed on the land not enough yet? Doesn't the profound world of science presuppose something different from sincerity? A good singer has a natural voice. Then doesn't he lack natural wisdom and talent?*

At the moment rang the doorbell. To her surprise it was Choe Il. She had completely forgotten that she had invited him to her home. She did not imagined that he would come at the time when they were at an unsettled atmosphere. In the daytime she met Choe Il who had arrived at the theatre for giving the provincial art troupe guidance in its affairs.

When he asked her about her husband's health and the development of his research, she showed the telegram to him driven by a strange and indescribable feeling of pride. Choe Il looked very glad to read it. And he jokingly told her to treat him to a feast. She readily invited him to her house in response to his request.

Neatly dressed in a deep grey woolen overcoat, Choe Il stepped into the house with a bright smile.

"This is Pyongyang Beer and fruit. It seems that I already learned the happy event of your family," he joked cheerfully, putting down the heavy plastic bag he had brought.

Ye Rim was bewildered and restless. Luckily Ri, who had followed her to the door, showed him into a room. What she had said to him became a lie against her will, so she walked up and down uneasily. And she wished her husband would say nothing. Then it flashed into her mind that she should do something to keep up the prestige of her family without hurting the guest's feelings. What offended the eye most was the floor of the entrance. It was scattered with shoes disorderly—Choe Il's shiny black fur shoes and Ri's shapeless padded winter shoes wet with muddy water. She knew her husband was the kind of man denying himself luxury and ostentation. But somehow she now felt sorry for him. She quickly put the shoes into the shoe chest. Then she took the table she had prepared with sincerity into the room along with the beer Choe Il had brought.

"Help yourselves. You're here after a long time," Ye Rim offered kindly.

"Oh, you're a great hostess," Choe Il exclaimed with laughter. "You must have done a lot of things. It is a happy event to the country, and you've got a spread at home like this. Mr. Ri, you are really happy."

The expression of his friendly feelings made Ye Rim feel so uneasy that she left the room hastily.

She thought she'd better do something in the kitchen. But as time advanced she could not help but strain her ears to catch what the two men were talking about in the room.

"What? Is that true? You mean this is a cup of agony from the failure?" Choe Il asked in surprise. Then Ri said slowly, "In all ages and countries of the world there have been similar episodes related to scientific research. A scientist, for example, made lifelong efforts to produce gems in a laboratory but in vain. Then his disciple, who had been helping him in his work, felt pity for him, so one day he put a real gem in the test tube. The sight of the gem in the tube touched the scientist to the heart. Of course I don't think my institute feels similar pity for me. Forgive me. My wife misunderstood the telegram and hastily told you."

Dear me! Ye Rim said inwardly. *Why did he say it? Doesn't he have something else to say?*

"Do you remember the Korean poplar trees I had planted for the first time in the Mangbuam area and you saw on your visit to the place in your university days? The attempt, too, failed owing to wind and salt water. Those I planted later several times also failed," Ri added.

He is being so talkative today. Is he proud of the failure? Ye Rim felt angry.

Her displeasure grew stronger when Ri asked where his winter shoes were as he followed Choe to the door to see him off. She couldn't open her colourless lips. She did not want his provincialism to be shown to the guest, but things did not go as she wished. Now she wished to sink into the ground with shame. That night she could not help but give vent to her indignation when she and her husband were left alone.

"Why don't you try to understand how I feel?" she asked.

(To be continued)



Munsu Water Park in Spring

IT WAS ONE DAY IN EARLY SPRING WHEN the land and trees were still fresh from wintering. While crossing Chongnyu Bridge, we saw a lot of people crowding at the entrance to Munsu Water Park. Their liveliness motivated us to visit again the place to which we had been for coverage several times.

Inside an indoor swimming pool area we encountered familiar sights—water slides circling around white pillars up to the tops, varieties of natural rocks and palm trees, and the visitors were enjoying swimming amid a light folk melody. Then we came across the general manager of the water park. When we asked him if the pool was crowded every day like that, he replied, “Yes. On average it is visited by hundreds of people a day.” He went on to say that

► though the temperature rose a lot, the weather was still cold, that the number of the visitors never decreased even in winter and that the State saw to it that the park was equipped with expensive, modern geothermal facilities so as to constantly ensure the proper temperature of the water for swimming.

Now two young men in a pool drew our attention. It seemed that they were in a race. When we asked them if they had a competition, one of them, who had reached the finish line first, said, “It’s a test of a disciple’s ability

rather than a game.” Then the loser said, “I was his coach. But he has now surpassed me as he practised hard in swimming all winter long,” and laughed a hearty laugh. Introducing themselves as workers of Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, they expressed their determination to keep practising so as to distinguish themselves in a swimming contest of the factory to be held during the swimming months—July and August.

After seeing them diving back into the water, we turned our eyes to a seawater pool crowded with a lot of people.

“I used to develop symptoms of skin allergy when the temperature went up in spring. Then I heard that seawater is good for skin protection. So I come here every spring. Wading in the waving pool makes me feel a peculiar sensation like in a sea, and it is also sensational to be in the seawater pool,” said Han Jong Ju from Munhung-dong No. 2, Taedonggang District.

Now we went upstairs. On the floor there were catering facilities from famous restaurants in Pyongyang including Haemaji Restaurant and Mujigae Restaurant. They were serving good

foods for health in spring. A lot of people who had just finished swimming asked for cool radish pickles with wild garlic or steaming bean paste soup of pickpurse.

Ri Un Hyang, a staff member of the water park, said, “Koreans have long used wild garlic as health tonic as it contains varieties of vitamins, proteins and minerals. With sweet and hot tastes and a peculiar smell, wild garlic is effective in the treatment of vitamin deficiency diseases liable to occur in early spring, women’s diseases and gastric cancer. And pickpurse is effective in getting rid of lassitude and fatigue in spring, and is good for different constitutions, so anybody can eat it.”

Many people said in admiration that foods served there in the water park were especially tasty and that they had felt the first aroma of spring there. Coming out of the pool area, they were enthusiastically talking about their happiness and impressions. This made us feel warm in spring even though it was still cold, and the water park looked like a large flower that bloomed first in spring.

Chae Kwang Myong



Thought about Light

LOST MY EYESIGHT A YEAR after I was born. But I have lived for 40 years without any care about the reality that I am blind. When I was born, I caught the degeneracy of retinal pigment owing to the optic atrophy, which was known as an incurable disease. My parents did their best for my cure but it was useless. I only listened to the sound of other children's playing but it was impossible for me to imagine them.

Later, I heard that I could go to school. When I was taken to the Taedong School for the Blind it seemed to be a light to me. I repeatedly asked a teacher in charge of my class if I could study. She said embracing me, "Sure is. You can achieve everything when you exert great efforts."

One day I headed for a room attracted by clear and fine sounds of a musical instrument. A teacher led me into the room and told me that it was a violin. When she asked me if I wanted to be a violinist, I said, "Yes, I'm eager to learn."

I was full of confidence and hope of learning to play the violin. At that time there were senior pupils from some circles who were learning to play instruments including accordion. As I knew it, I became courageous. Teachers taught me everything about the violin including its shape, characteristics of each string and how to use the bow. I was often confused about the strings and sounds, but teaching voices were always full of tenderness in earnest. During the period I cultivated the sense of my finger tips, and I became as sensible as if I played the violin using my own eyes. An incomparable

hearing power came for me at that time.

I sometimes recollect the day when I made my debut at a concert held on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the school. I was afraid I might be a laughing stock for my mistake. I was so nervous that I put too much stress on the bow. One string was broken. There was a moment of embarrassment, which was soon followed by a loud applause from the audience. Thanks to the applause, I returned to my senses and I continued to play the violin with the remaining three strings tapping all my abilities. The audience clapped their hands until my performance finished. Then, I recited a poem impromptu. Now whenever I remember it, I find it surprising, and I don't think I'm such a kind of person. I chanted that I felt happiness on the stage that my parents could not provide me with, and I declared I would be a great character admired by people around the world. Now I am working to attain a new tar-

get of learning a foreign language. It is so difficult that I sometimes feel like to give up, but when I remember the impressive applause which gave me strength and courage, I feel refreshed.

After graduation I decided to give performances at some major construction sites so as to dedicate all my abilities I developed at school to my country.

One day I visited a construction site to give my premiere. I was excited to hear the sounds like the whistle and the buzzing crane. My heart swelled at the performance when the audience cried encore twice and thrice for my song. I could not see their faces, but their sincerity made me confident that I could achieve anything I hoped for.

Later I learned the accordion, guitar, cello and even computer thanks to the true-hearted assistance of those who were impressed by my intention not to idle my life away. At that time I was sometimes seized by the self-confidence that I was born to enjoy success

Ri Chun Hyang (second right).



National Intangible Cultural Heritage (17)

Manual Woodcut

CREATED BEFORE THE 8TH century in Korea the manual woodcut has been handed down until today, making a contribution to the development of the nation's fine arts. It is a form of woodcut by which pictures are manually made from woodblocks. Based on the principle of depiction of the Korean painting manual woodblock prints are clear and mild in colour, and feel clean and fresh.

Korea's manual black ink-based woodcuts, the earliest in the world, were created in the period of the Three Kingdoms, and a lot of similar works were produced in the period of both the Koryo dynasty (918–1392) and the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910).

In the 19th century *Pyong-*



Pyongyang in Spring, a coloured woodblock print.

yang in Spring, the first coloured woodcut, was created, and many other similar works were created. Typical of them are *Outing* (1956), *Haircut* (1962), *The Revolutionary Army Has Come* (1971) and *The Vanguard of Reunification* (1989).

Like other prints, you can make a manual woodcut through such processes as drawing an original picture, engraving it on a woodblock and impressing the block on paper. In the course of this, the relevant technique is ap-

plied to create its unique formative depiction.

The woodcuts with a long history inspire people with diversified and delicate aesthetic feelings and national sentiments and help them improve their cultural attainments.

In Korea education in the technique of manual woodcut and creation of the woodcuts are becoming active, and the technique is developing.

Rim Sang Jun

► and happiness. However, it would have been hardly possible if I had had nobody to look after me.

I cannot forget the year 2004 when I was miraculously saved from the jaws of death. In September that year I was rushed to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital due to an acute pain—just before childbirth. When I was delivered of a child it was all right, but I was almost dead as a result of haemorrhage. Learning the fact, a lot of people donated their blood to me. Doctors had consultative meetings day and night, and I was administered priceless medicines. When I cuddled my pretty baby after I got full well, I was full of determination to exert myself for the sake

of my benevolent country, rather than feeling the happiness of being a mother.

In 2016 a lot of people in the northern area of my country became homeless in a great flood. It seemed they were just the kind-hearted people who saved me by giving their blood. I knew I had to do something for them. I began to make a quilt with the help of my daughter and prepared some food as well. Now I entrusted the Mangyongdae District People's Committee to send them to the northern area. To my surprise, this brought me a state citation—I had never imagined it. When I was called for the first time at the relevant ceremony I was full of

pride of being a dignified citizen of the country.

I am still blind. However, I readily declare that I've enjoyed my life under the warm care of the country, which never discriminates against any people. It sheds fresh light on me so as to help me go ahead without any frustration. It is more than my eyes. I am seeing the prosperous tomorrow of the socialist Korea, a great garden of human love.

Ri Chun Hyang,
resident at
Neighbourhood Unit No. 10,
Tangsang-dong No.1,
Mangyongdae District,
Pyongyang

Mt. Chilbo (3)

Sea Chilbo

SEA CHILBO CAN BE SAID to have both feminine and masculine beauties as it sometimes looks beautiful and graceful, sometimes formidable and dauntless.

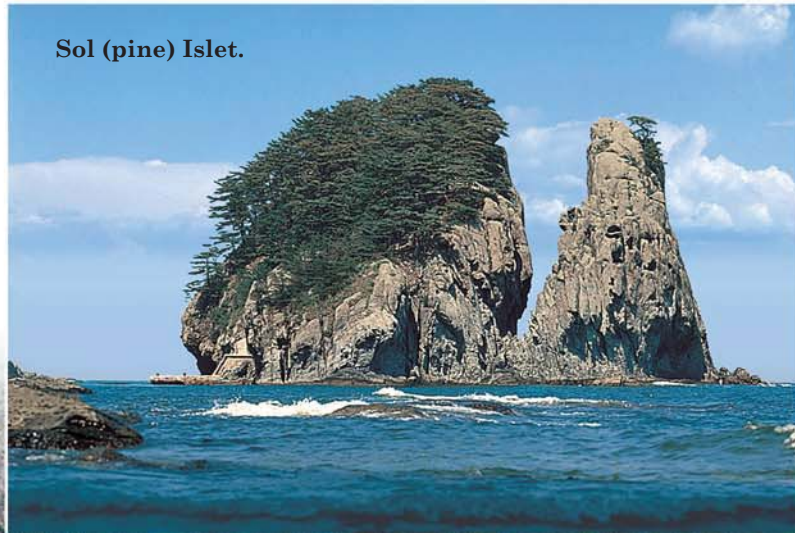
The area of Sea Chilbo boasts picturesque coastal scenery: cliffs and rocks of fantastic shapes on the coastline and singular islets

rising from the surface of the sea go well with the waving sea.

The most scenic spot in the area is Sol (pine) Islet. About 80 metres off shore, the islet is named so as its top is scattered with clusters of dwarf pine trees.

The scenery of the islet, whose cliffs, rocks and pine groves blend in with the vast expanse of the sea, makes it widely known as a scenic spot.

Sol (pine) Islet.



Originally the islet adjoined the land. Later, it is said, the spot was separated from the land as the middle part was washed away with the passage of time.

The north, east and west sides of the islet have dangerous rock walls, and in the breast of the islet there is a deep cave. Created by seawater washes, the cave's bottom is connected with the sea. In the cave you can hear subtle sounds when the waves ripple. But when violent waves sweep into the cave you can hear very loud sounds like thunderclaps.

The islet is designated as natural monument for its beautiful and fantastic scenery.

The area of Sea Chilbo also has a spot called Talmun, or moon



gate, as it is shaped like the moon. As a rock cave situated at the southeast end of the mountain, the spot is backed by a high cliff and fronts a scores-of-metres-deep water area.

Legend has it that the moon, which had risen from the East Sea of Korea, stayed all night over a rock in the spot, fascinated by its nocturnal scene and that in the daytime the moon took a rest in the spot, seeing its scenery.

Looking at Talmun that stands like the gateway to Sea Chilbo, the beholders appreciate nature's sculpture.

Among scenic spots of Sea Chilbo is Mujigae (rainbow) Rock. The rock has long been known as widely as Sol Islet and Talmun. One end of the rock is fixed on a hillside, and the other end on the bottom of the sea. In the shape of a crescent, the rock seems to hang on clouds when waves sweep through its opening, tossing up silvery sprays. The rock is about 8 metres in height, and the opening is 4.5 metres in height and 3 to 4 metres in top width.

Sea Chilbo also has lots of other scenic spots including Khokkiri (elephant) Rock that looks like an elephant with its trunk immersed in the seawater, rocks of fantastic shapes such as Choksok Rock that resembles a group of scores of thousands of candle lights, Unson Cave in which a legend says fairies would hide themselves when sensing people approaching while seeing the scenery of the area, an



Talmun (moon gate).

angling site where it is said one can catch a fish as big as forearm as soon as one drops the line, and Jikdong Falls named so in the meaning that the falls faces exactly east.

The area is also famous for lots of stories of origins and legends associated with it. Among the stories is the one of the origin of *myongthae*, a sort of pollack. The story is as follows.

Once upon a time a fisherman, surnamed Thae, lived in Myongchon, Korea. One day the fisherman caught in the sea off the locality a fish he had never

seen before. Then he named the fish *myongthae* after the first syllable *myong* of the locality's name and his surname Thae.

And the legends are all interesting including those of Put (brush) Rock, Yonjok (ink-water bottle) Rock, Mok (ink) Rock and Pyoru (inkstone) Rock.

The sea off Sea Chilbo is so rich in fish as to be recognized as a good fishing ground. And miyok (a kind of seaweed) and kelp from the seashore are widely known as specialties of Korea.

Yun Sin Yong

Mujigae (rainbow) Rock.



Severe Counterattack against the US

WHEN THE PRESENT ruler of the US insulted Iran at a session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) describing the country as “dictatorial state” and “murderous regime,” the commander-in-chief of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IIRGC) said that the American ruler’s inflammatory, reckless words were suitable for the US and his corrupt rogue government. The US is eager to attack Iran to make up its heavy defeats, he said, and declared that his country would launch a severe counterattack against the US.

Recently, Iran is further striving to strengthen its self-defence capability against threats from hostile forces. The Iranian Navy waged large-scale military exercises in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz. During the exercises they test-fired a laser guided anti-submarine missile and a latest-type cruise missile they newly developed. The IIRGC frightened the hostile forces out of wits by launching modified advanced missiles in a desert area. Mentioning that the efficiency of their long-range ballistic missiles was improved, Iran’s Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics declared that the range of the missiles was extended and that their higher accuracy could be ensured. The foreign press commented that it was an answer to the sanctions the US was imposing on Iran using the latter’s ballistic missile launch as a pretext.

In July 2015 a nuclear agreement was reached between Iran and the world powers through negotiation. Later the US made an issue of Iran’s efforts for missile development and has been absorbed in intensifying pressure on the country. In early 2017, when Iran succeeded in test-firing a mid-range ballistic missile, the US launched another anti-Iran sanction campaign. Moreover, Washington unhesitatingly threatened to call public attention to Iran and strongly cope with the matter.

In July 2017 Iran successfully launched a satellite-carrying space rocket of its own make. Frightened by this, the US denounced it as a violation of the nuclear agreement and added six companies of the country to the sanctions list. The US Secretary of the Treasury said that the additional sanctions reflected the US’s deep concern about Iran’s missile test and other activities and that it would continuously cope with Iran’s ballistic missile programme including its “provocative satellite launch.”

In August 2017 the American ruler signed a bill for the US to cope with hostile countries by means of sanctions. This resulted in adoption of a formal act of the US’s additional sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Russia and Iran. The US’s sanctions against Iran are mainly aimed at checking its economic and missile development.

To cope with the prevailing sit-

uation, the Iranian government is further accelerating the strengthening of its defence capability. It is positively promoting the missile programme while striving to make military hardware and systems with its own efforts and materials. Recently it unveiled its newly developed stealth fighter, and it is just about to start mass-producing indigenous tanks good enough to be compared with those of Western countries in firepower, precision and mobility. The IIRGC successfully test-fired marine ballistic missile Hormuz-2 of Iranian make and unveiled a multi-purpose helicopter that can be used for transport of cargo and people, relief work and aerial photography and reconnaissance.

This year, too, the Iranian government is making more vigorous efforts to safeguard its sovereignty and dignity of the country and nation and achieve peaceful development with the active support of the Iranian army and people, against the US and the Western countries’ growing sanctions and pressure.

The Korean people are actively supporting and encouraging the Iranian people who are struggling against the US like they do. It is 45 years since the DPRK and Iran established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level on April 15, 1973, and the leaders and people of the two countries are further deepening their mutual relations.

Kim Hyon Ju

King Kwanggaetho and Monument to Mausoleum of King Kwanggaetho

KING KWANGGAETHO IS the 17th descendant of King Tongmyong, founder of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668). His name was Tamdok, and he reigned for 22 years from 391 to 412. He became a crown prince in 386, and ascended the throne in 391 and actively pushed ahead with the policy of southward advance that had been pursued by Koguryo.

In 391, in order to check the invasion by Japan that was in league with Paekje and Kaya, Kwanggaetho attacked and defeated Paekje by sea. From 392 to 395 he waged several battles and occupied over ten fortresses of Paekje, including Sokhyon Fortress, the country’s northern bulwark, and Kwanmi Fortress.

In 396 he attacked Paekje by dint of land and sea forces, dashing into its capital and accepting its king’s surrender. And he turned Silla into his country’s inferior ally in 392. In 400, at the request of Silla, he dispatched 500-strong infantry and cavalry forces to assault troops of Paekje and Kaya and their subordinate ally Japan, dealing a severe blow to the states.

In 404 he won a great victory by annihilating innumerable Japanese troops, and in 407 defeated Paekje once again. From 391 to 395 he punished and subdued Piryō tribe of the Khitai who had been menacing the northwest border of Koguryo, and attacked Yan dynasty (Later Yan), which had invaded the country several times, to frustrate its attempt of aggression. In 407 he improved relations with north Yan.

In 410 he attacked east Puyo northeast of his country, occupying and subjugating 64 fortresses and 1 400 villages.

As a result, Koguryo, during the period of his reign, became the strongest country in the Orient.

As to domestic affairs, he vigorously pushed ahead with the construction of the Walled City of Pyongyang, including the building of nine temples in the city in 393.

As the king of feudal state he pursued anti-popular policies to intensify repression and exploitation of the people. He, however, made a contribution to strengthening the might of the country in no small measure by expanding its territory and making great progress in unifying the three states—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla.

His personal history and achievements are inscribed in detail on the Monument to the Mausoleum of King Kwanggaetho in Jian, Jilin Province, China.

The epitaph on the monument is divided mainly into three paragraphs.

The first paragraph, as preface, describes how King Tongmyong founded Koguryo, succession of the following kings to the throne, a general review of King Kwanggaetho’s feats and why the mausoleum and the monument were erected.

The second describes King Kwanggaetho’s feats by year and event. The description includes the fact that the king punished Piryō tribe, Siksin tribe and east Puyo on the north, demonstrat-

ing the prestige of the country and expanding its territory, and the fact that on the south, he dealt a decisive blow to Paekje, Kaya and Japan, occupying many of Paekje’s fortresses, and helped and put Silla under its stronger control, demonstrating the might of his country and expanding its territory.

The third describes the formation of a grave keepers’ group to manage and protect the mausoleum and the provisions of an act to permanently maintain the group. Therefore the monument can be said to be the one to the king’s achievements and the one to the act on the principles for keeping the mausoleum.

The epitaph contains details of many facts never found in historical records at home and abroad. Thus it serves as indispensable fundamental data for having a correct understanding of and systematizing the history of Koguryo and that of the Orient.

The epitaph consists of excellent compositions engraved on the basis of outstanding calligraphy, and the monument is a magnificent natural rock trimmed enough to be inscribed with characters. It shows the extent to which Koguryo people’s aesthetic taste developed.

As one of the oldest inscribed monuments in Korea, the monument is regarded as the nation’s precious cultural heritage for its valuable historical data with rich content, its imposing appearance and the liberal style of the characters.

Kim Un Jong

Seventy Years of Patriotic Desire for Reunification

TO UNITE TRANSCENDING DIFFERENCES IN ideology, ideal and social system is the consistent principle of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the movement for national reunification.

Now over seventy years have passed since Korea was divided into the north and the south by the US imperialists. The DPRK has struggled to achieve national reunification by dint of great national unity. It is one of the typical examples that the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea was held in April 1948.

After Korea's liberation on August 15, 1945, the country was faced with a risk of national division owing to the US's plot to partition its territory and scheme to rig up a puppet regime in south Korea under the American occupation.

At this juncture, Kim Il Sung, leader of new Korea, suggested having political negotiations and strove to that end. From April 19 to 23, 1948, there was held in Pyongyang the north-south joint conference, a broad national meeting, with the attendance of 695 representatives from 56 political parties and public organizations in the north and the south.

The conference solemnly declared within and without that the Korean people resolutely opposed the US and its puppets' manoeuvres to split the nation and that they would surely set up a genuine unified government by their own efforts.

It was a historic meeting which united the whole Korean nation under the banner of patriotism for reunification and a brilliant result of Kim Il Sung's independent line of national reunification and idea of great national unity.

Later the July 4 North-South Joint Statement was adopted in July 1972, the one whose main content is the three principles for national reunification put forward by the leader; the plan of founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo was published in 1980, the original one of reunifying the nation by establishing a unified state in the form of a federal system on the basis of the three principles of national reunification; and the Ten-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country in April 1993.

In June 2000, thanks to the wise leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the heads of the north and the south had a historic meeting in Pyongyang, which was the first of its kind since the division of the country, and adopted the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration. The declaration was born thanks to the noble intention of bringing about reconciliation and unity, peace and prosperity on the land of

confrontation infected with distrust and hostility by pulling down the barrier of division—built by foreign forces—with the nation's concerted efforts. Though the days go by, it still remains an eternal programme for reunification common to the nation.

The present situation urgently demands that a vigorous struggle be waged to frustrate the war provocation manoeuvres of the anti-reunification forces at home and abroad, safeguard peace and security on the Korean peninsula, improve the deadlocked inter-Korean relations without delay and make a turning point in achieving independent reunification.

Now is the time for the entire Korean nation to unite and resolutely smash all the challenges and obstructive manoeuvres of the anti-reunification forces at home and abroad, and improve the inter-Korean relations so as to make this year noteworthy in the national history.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's ideas of great national unity and their relevant exploits are just being carried on by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. He is pursuing a programme of noble patriotism by which to embrace anyone who sincerely wishes for national reunification and peace and prosperity of the nation and achieve great national unity, the great foundation of national reunification, by overcoming misunderstanding, distrust, antagonism and conflict.

All political parties and organizations in the north and the south should promote dialogue, contact and travel on a broad scale to remove mutual misunderstanding and distrust, and fulfil their responsibility and role as the motive force of national reunification, thus creating a favourable climate for national reconciliation and unity.

It is an invariable stand of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK that on the patriotic road of reunification they will not hesitate to join hands and share their ideals with anyone who cherishes a national conscience, even if he or she pursued fratricidal confrontation in the past.

The Korean nation has the programmes and traditions of great national unity and patriotism that have been created through the protracted struggle to achieve reunification of the country.

The north-south joint conference of seventy years ago still inspires all the fellow countrymen with confidence that there will be realized a pan-national, grand meeting for reunification involving all the political parties and organizations including the authorities of the north and the south, and Koreans of all strata at home and abroad.

Kim Hyon Ju

The Spirit of April 19 Popular Uprising Is Still Alive

ON APRIL 19, 1960 THE south Korean people turned out in an anti-US, anti-fascist uprising to oppose the US's military occupation of the southern half of Korea for new government, new system and new life.

Students and citizens of Masan started a struggle against the fraudulent March 15, 1960 "election" of the pro-US stooge Syngman Rhee who was seeking a prolonged seizure of power (fourth term), and flames of the struggle spread rapidly across south Korea. Students and other uprisers of Seoul fought against the puppet army and police under the slogans of "Out the corrupt government!" and "Down with the Syngman Rhee regime!" Rushing to the "Capitol Building," they burned down the "Anti-Communist Hall," the building of the Seoul Sinmun office and the "Headquarters of the Liberal Party."

And they broke down with stones the US economy coordinating office and the office of the US economy cooperation agency, the colonial predatory organs of the US imperialists, in south Korea. The news of the struggle quickly spread over south Korea, and the people in Pusan, Kwangju, Incheon, Taegu, Taejon and all other cities turned out in the uprising. This led to the ousting of the sycophantic traitor Syngman Rhee from power. The widely unfolded April 19 Popular Uprising was an outburst of the south Korean people's strong will to liquidate without fail the pro-US stooge who had turned south Korea into a colony of the US and a living hell devoid of independence and democracy. The precious fruit of the bloody uprising, however, was trampled mercilessly by the US and pro-American forces.

Still alive is the struggle to

oust from power the minions of the colonialists who are desperate to keep power while being given to sycophancy, tyranny and fratricidal confrontation. In late October 2016, an unheard-of scandal of Park Geun Hye and her clique caused an all-people resistance. At the beginning of 2017, it developed into the struggle to put an end to the rule of the pro-US conservative forces. The popular resistance waged under the slogan of "Let's impeach Park Geun Hye by the strength of candlelight!" resulted in her dismissal from "presidency" on March 10 that year. The mass candlelight struggle spanning over 130 days was an all-people resistance to overturn the corrupt politics in south Korea which was governed by the conservative forces, and achieve the social justice and progress.

In the spirit they had displayed in toppling the Park's regime, the south Korean people turned out in a new struggle to frustrate the conservative forces' scheme to return to power. The declaration of the candlelight rights 2017, made public by the 20th nation-wide movement on the subject of the "Day of Victory" on March 11, has served as a guideline for the masses of all strata in the struggle.

Though a new "government" has appeared in south Korea, people of all walks of life put it forward as a fighting task to eliminate conservatism and evil legacy, shouting, "The establishment of a new government does not mean the completion of the candlelight revolution," and "The resistance continues!" and are struggling to this end. At the same time, they are conducting vigorously the anti-US, anti-war struggle for peace which condemns Washington's moves for war against Pyongyang. They are intensifying their

struggle against the US which has shipped THAAD into south Korea, thus turning it into the first target of preemptive strike and counter-strike in case of emergency, and is bringing dark clouds of a nuclear war over this land.

Over 70 women's organizations formed the world women's peace movement against THAAD and war and have engaged in an urgent action, and other 43 organizations including the solidarity for participation in public affairs and the meeting of lawyers for the democratic society have joined it. And uninterrupted struggles against THAAD are in full swing in Songju and Kimchon and in front of the bases of the GIs in south Korea. Meanwhile, the mass organizations such as the anti-US reunification vanguard and the People's Democratic Party's special committee against Trump, the US, and war are organized one after another amidst the ever-growing zeal of struggle for peace against the US, Trump and war, and they turned out in the struggle for peaceful reunification against war.

As the US persists with its military occupation of south Korea and the policy of hegemony, and its pro-US treacherous forces keep resorting to the revival of the Yushin dictatorship and the moves to provoke a nuclear war against the DPRK, misfortunes and sufferings of the south Korean people can never be removed, and reunification of the country, the long-cherished aspiration of the nation, cannot be achieved.

The flames of April 19 Popular Uprising for democracy against the US and dictatorship 58 years ago are now flaring up as the candlelight of struggle across south Korea.

Kim Il Ryong

Disaster Japan Is Incurring

JAPAN IS LOCATED NEXT to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea geographically, but she is a distant country for Korea because of her government's hostile policy.

The policy finds expression in the issue of Japan's liquidation of its past. During their 40-odd-year-long military occupation of Korea in last century the Japanese imperialists took by force over 8.4 million Koreans, murdered more than 1 million Koreans and mercilessly killed 200 000 Korean women after abusing them as sexual slaves for the Japanese army. Instead of making apology and reparation for the crimes, however, the Japanese authorities are refusing to recognize the past and embellishing it on the contrary. And the new generations of Japan are given new textbooks which describe its past war of aggression as a "righteous war," and its colonial rule of other nations as "cooperation" and "contribution" for the nations' development and prosperity.

Meanwhile, Japan is putting spurs to its militarization, talking about Korea's "threat." Recently she earmarked about a record ¥ 5 190 billion of the budget for the fiscal year 2018 for the military. This is aimed at purchasing advanced lethal weapons to be used for realizing its ambition.

Making a propaganda of Korea's "missile threat" Japan decided to introduce a long-range cruise missile and the surface

MD system Aegis Ashore. It is said that the range of the cruise missile is over 5 times longer than that of the fighter missile possessed by the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, and that the surface MD system can be used as a weapon of attack if it is loaded with a cruise missile.

At present many people of the world are very worried about the fact that the SDF is putting off its mask of defence while developing into offensive forces, and the voices are rising even in Japan that the increase of war expenditure by the authorities is further aggravating the already unstable situation of the region.

After his assumption to power Abe set a goal of freeing his country from the restrictive postwar system and making his country into a "country capable of waging a war." In 2013 he had a "national security strategy" adopted for the first time in his country's history of politics, and, insisting that she should "more actively contribute to peace and stabilization of the international community than before on the basis of active pacifism," he created a legal framework that can support the exercise of the right to collective defence theoretically.

In April 2015 he newly revised the 18-year-old US-Japan defence cooperation guideline, which specifies cooperation between the GIs and the SDF and their separate roles in operations, information and logistics in case of emergency.

With this the range of the SDF overseas military operations has extended in all directions.

In September 2015 he had the "national security law" adopted, a combination of 11 security acts capable of legally backing the US-Japan defence cooperation guideline. And on March 29, 2016 the law formally went into effect. Accordingly, the SDF was granted the right to fulfil a mission of military operations in any place in the world under the cloak of exercise of the "right to collective defence."

Korea is the first target of their attack. Like in the past the insular country intends to occupy Korea and use it as a stepping stone to invade other Asian countries so as to realize the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere." To that end she, together with the US, actively joins nuclear war rehearsals based on a simulated nuclear attack on Korea, and is arming the SDF with advanced lethal weapons, spreading the theory on Korea's "threat."

Japan's scheme for reinvasion is seriously jeopardizing peace and security of Northeast Asia, and Korea and Japan are becoming more distant neighbours.

Politicians of Japan would be well advised to behave well with a good understanding of what sort of tragedy they will have if the Korean people give vent to their pent-up grudge against it.

Kim Kwang Chol

Ryangchon Temple

THE RYANGCHON TEMPLE IS SITUATED in Rakchon-ri, Kowon County, South Hamgyong Province. It was built in 753 and later rebuilt several times. It is famous for its invaluable paintings and other historical relics preserved intact.

Now there remain Taeung Hall, Muryangsu Hall and Manse Pavilion at the temple. Taeung Hall is a gabled building supported by tapering pillars, with three bays in front and three on each side, and the tops of the pillars are decorated with pot-bellied brackets. The present building of the hall is the one reconstructed in 1636.

The hall is decorated with colourful paintings of various geometric patterns such as circles, triangles or hexagons, all linked with one another in succession.

The wall between the right brackets is decorated with six gorgeously painted pictures. The first shows a young man playing the Korean lute under a big pine tree and a crane flying in the sky on the right of the man; the second one is of a man looking at a falls similar to Kuryong Falls in Outer Kungang of Mt. Kungang; in the third one are seen several persons listening to what a grey-haired elderly man is saying; in the fourth one you can see three persons enjoying the sight of a rocky cliff; and the fifth and sixth pictures show several persons following a grey-haired elderly man seeing the sight of mountains and

streams. The space between the lintel and brackets in front is decorated with paintings of a Buddha, dragons, a phoenix, lotus flowers, waterlily flowers, cranes, tigers and clouds. Quite vivid are blue and yellow dragons playing with beads.

The walls between the brackets in the hall are all decorated with pictures of many colours and designs. From the pictures you can see the then degeneration of the Buddhist world and a dissipated life of monks engrossed in double-dealing. And the hall has a painting of 13 men and 9 women dancing while playing music of peasants with a flute, a horn, a Korean bamboo flute, kayagum, a Korean mandolin, large and small gongs, a drum and an hourglass drum, and another of a woman holding fruits on a tray in her hands and two women dancing in robes of feathers.

Manse Pavilion, rebuilt in 1729, is a building with five bays in front and three on each side. Its gable roof is supported by tapering pillars.

The pavilion, too, boasts a lot of gorgeous pictures.

The temple is well preserved as national cultural heritage showing the high architectural standard of Korean ancestors.

Ri Song Chol

The Taeung Hall and its interior at the Ryangchon Temple.



