



# KOREA TODAY

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(2015)

# Happy New Year

**D**EAR READERS, Greeting in the new year, the *Korea Today* editorial board extend congratulations to all our readers and those who have rendered sincere help to our magazine's activities.

Last year we in the *Korea Today* staff have done all we could to give wide-ranging and deep-going introduction of the successes achieved in all the fields of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Last year was a significant one when enormous creation and innovation have been effected in the strong campaign to create the Korean Speed throughout the country. Our magazine introduced the completion of construction projects like the Korean People's Army January 8 Fishing

Station which supplies fishes to the baby homes, orphanages, orphans' primary and secondary schools and old people's homes across the country all the year round, Songdowon International Children's Camp which is called palace of the children, Kalma Foodstuff Factory, workers' hostel of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, apartment houses for lecturers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, Wisong Scientists Residential District, Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp, Pyongyang Baby Home, Pyongyang Orphanage and the wire netting fence factory of the Kosan Fruit Farm.

Besides, we dealt with various matters in the fields of education, culture, public health, the art, physical culture, history, etc.,

active struggle of the Korean people for national reunification as well as the will of the Korean people who are advancing along the way of independence, Songun and socialism unwaveringly, repulsing all kinds of challenges.

In the New Year, too, you readers are going to learn about successful endeavours of the Korean people who will march ahead vigorously to build a civilized socialist nation and attain global independence through our magazine. The *Korea Today* editorial board will make every effort to help you have a good understanding. Hoping that you will continue to read our *Korea Today* this year, we sincerely wish you great success in your work and happiness in your families. □



# KOREA TODAY

Monthly Journal (703)

Printed in English, Russian  
and Chinese



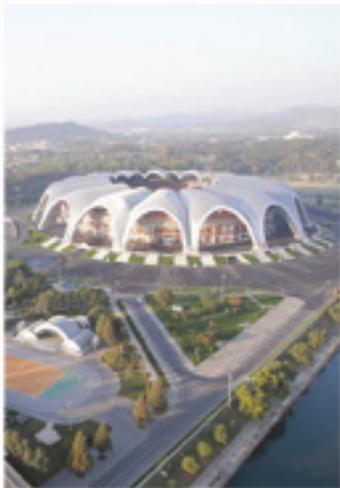
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**Front Cover: Pyongyang in the morning**

*Photo by Ra Phyoung Ryol*



**Back Cover: The refurbished May Day Stadium**

*Photo by courtesy of the KCNA*

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# Year of Creation and Change



**Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, gives on-the-spot guidance to the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage on their completion (October 2014).**



**N**EW YEAR'S DAY OF 2015 has dawned in the land of Korea pulsating with a youthful vigour.

Let's grow the valuable seeds sown by Chairman Kim Jong Il into rich harvest—this is the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un's determination. In the month of tears when the Chairman passed away (December 2011) Kim Jong Un declared his will to implement the Chairman's instructions faithfully without yielding a step in all fields of the revolution and construction. Announcing 2014 as the historic year of opening up the ►



**Researchers of the State Academy of Sciences devote all their wisdom and enthusiasm to their research work.**

glorify 2014 as the year of scientific and technological success and the year of victory of science and technology, the scientists, technicians and all other people turned out as one and brought about creation and innovation.

Researchers of the State Academy of Sciences successfully developed a plastic digital vernier caliper, an integrated circuit for monitoring and measuring the battery capacity, an electronic refereeing system for wrestling, an air purifier & sterilizer and a chlorophyll tester. They also built laboratories and a production base arranged

► heyday of Songun Korea he visited the State Academy of Sciences in January. There he recalled with emotion President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's immortal exploits associated with the academy. Noting that science and technology is a motive force propelling the building of a powerful nation he set forth important tasks in pushing ahead with the scientific research work of the country as required by the developing reality. In order to implement the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to

with latest equipment by themselves befitting a cutting-edge scientific research village. And teachers and researchers of the Pyongyang Agricultural College of Kim Il Sung University developed sophisticated experimental and practical training apparatuses and measuring instruments, including a gene amplification device, a soil salinometer and an instrument for measuring humidity in grain.

The effort to improve technical index of the iron-making process by oxygen-blast fusion and reduction ►

**Pyongyangites enthusiastically welcome the winners of the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games on their return home.**





**The Wisong Scientists Residential District.**

► which is conducive to the realization of Juche-oriented metal industry is making headway at the Sunchon Chemical Complex. The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex is waging a dynamic campaign to raise the rate of brown coal used in the Juche-iron-making furnace and update itself true to the instructions of the Chairman. Scientists and technicians working at different units of the national economy including the metal industry and the chemical industry that the supreme leader set as the twin pillars supporting the building of an economic giant conducted dynamic struggles.

The sportspersons of the country demonstrated the national honour at international competitions. It is Kim Jong Un's determination to put the country in the position of a sports power in the coming several years. Under his close concern a well-organized system of supervision was set up for sports affairs, and measures of radical importance like the one of strengthening scientific training of reserve athletes were taken in succession for the sports development. The national leader taught how to improve sporting skills, arrange tactical modes and develop training methods and indicated directions and ways to build a sports power, giving instructions on developing sports science and making sports mass-based and part of everyday life. True to his words the sportspersons of Korea registered good successes at international contests. In particular, they won 36 medals including 11 gold medals at the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games held from September 19 to October 4 last year.

**Apartments for lecturers of Kim Chaek University of Technology.**





**The Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp.**

► A strong campaign went ahead to open up a golden age of construction, bringing about eye-opening miracles and innovations. Structures perfect in formative and artistic representation were constructed in a few months; the workers' hostel of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp, the Wisong Scientists Residential District, the apartments for lecturers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, the Pyongyang Orphanage and the Pyongyang Baby Home went up newly and the Songdowon International Schoolchildren's Camp underwent facelift. The October 8 Factory project was completed in no more than ten months. The factory has been renovated in such a way as to represent industrial facilities of Korea and befit the era of a knowledge-based economy and a civilized socialist nation. Equipped with a computer-assisted integrated production system and up-to-

date facilities as well as a geothermal heating and cooling system it has changed into an energy-saving factory based on information technology. The visitors to the factory say in unison that it has become worthy of praise around the world thanks to the wise leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Today Korea is advancing forward racing against time and making remarkable events under the seasoned leadership of the national leader. "Like a burning fuse and a sweeping storm"—this is a phrase denoting his extraordinary mode of making revolution and his fighting spirit, breaking through any hardship without yielding to any impossibility. Now the Korean people who effected great creations and innovations last year are dashing forward confident of their victory.

*Kim Il Bong*

# Chonji Lubricant Factory

**T**HE CHONJI LUBRICANT Factory is located at the entrance to Nampho City nearly 40 kilometres away from Pyongyang.

The factory that took the first step with a small plot and poor equipment about 10 years ago, has now turned into a comprehensive lubricant producer with a perfectly integrated production system and automatic, IT-based and unmanned production processes. Compared with the time of its initial operation, the variety of products has expanded 13 times, the production capacity

increased 3.9 times, and the technical personnel increased 2.5 times and the lubricant satisfies international standards.

## **Spearheading the campaign for greater ability**

General Manager Kye Chol Ryong's office reminds you of a study. Two big bureaus are piled with documents on latest science and technology and technical patents related to a wide-ranging area including robot and electricity. A graduate of Kim Chaek

University of Technology, he is proficient at some foreign languages and leads sci-tech projects with an initiative for introduction of new technology. He regards the process of guiding and understanding the production as an important occasion to create and develop a new technology. So he easily grasps which technical matter will make a breakthrough in the realization of modernization of the production process, development of a new product and improvement of quality.

And despite his busy hours he meets researchers and technicians on a regular basis and holds a discussion about possible keys of technical matters which are of critical importance in production. He is wont to say that without being forerunner in the campaign for ability themselves, they could not manage the production and business as required by the modern times or apply sci-tech achievements in practice.

## **The primary task**

Once there cropped up a necessity to buy expensive experi- ▶



► mental and analytical facilities. As the factory was entering a heyday, it had many projects to carry out by huge investment. It had to choose one of the two matters—whether giving priority to current production or the modernization of the experimental and analytical equipment.

At that time the general manager gave a definite conclusion. He was determined to give priority to the analytical laboratory, the eye and ear of the factory. The factory invested in the modernization of experimental and analytical equipment by tapping all reserves and potentials. Now in the analytical laboratory furnished with scores of kinds of up-to-date experimental and analytical equipment able researchers get a lot of accurate data. This facilitates development of new products.

**Organically integrated factory**

In this factory the researchers are not concerned merely with technical development. True to the principle of attaching importance to the talent the factory assigns able young college graduates to the production field to have them get experience for a certain period before moving them to the technical develop-



ment department. Satisfactory conditions are provided to introduce successful research results and worthy technical innovation ideas into production soon after they come. Researchers have got good knowledge of the robot, electricity and mechanical engineering as well as lubricant making, and they are appointed as work-team heads. As a result the research centre and production base are combined organically so as to break through the cutting-edge.

**Five workers and one production process**

The factory's total floor space is one thousand and hundreds of square metres. Here five workers

produce scores of tons of lubricant a day. In a control room in a corner of the production site one technician controls and keeps watch on the weighing and combination of the raw materials and storage by means of the computer. Another control room is to be ►



▶ found on the opposite side of the production site. The operation of the site used to be done by ten workers. In the pouring-in process which is the first course of packing a worker controls the pouring speed and the amount by an NC device. The roller-based flowline that carries drums has natural

inclination in its whole section. The brand spraying is done by a robot saving the work of three or four workers. Thus, the consumption of labour and materials has decreased and the efficiency of production increased two to three times.

Kye Chol Ryong says, "We will

make a greater progress in the modernization of production processes, including the introduction of a flexible manufacturing system by building on our success and experience and develop and produce localized lubricant with international competitiveness."

*Jo Yong Il*



# Happiness Comes from Their Hands

**Y**ONTHAN COUNTY IS rather a small region in northwest North Hwanghae Province up the Hwangju River. As a mountainous district it had long been far away from modern civilization and lived on growing foxtail millet, kaoliang, beans and potato. Industrial facilities which could produce simple necessities of life were not to be seen.

After national liberation (August 1945), this region was established as a county involving different local district. Then it developed foodstuff, daily goods, textile, chemical and building materials industries by relying on

its different resources like the plenty of agricultural and forest ones and now it was equipped with a good local industry and agriculture.

Getting on the way of development, all the people in the county buckled down to the work to change their locality into the one befitting a civilized socialist nation. They first reconstructed dozens of the existing factories and enterprises like foodstuff, paper and chemical necessities factories in some steps. Meanwhile, they newly built structures like a mushroom factory, a furniture factory, a rabbit stock farm, a

noodle restaurant and Undok health complex, which contributed to the improvement of the living standard.

They also directed efforts to the building of streets and dwelling houses in the county seat. The construction campaign begun in 2007 changed the appearance of the county in a few years; the roads are laid wide and straight, and more than 5 000 dwelling houses have been newly built or reconstructed and they are furnished with new furniture made of the locally available raw materials and resources—bedclothes chest, wardrobes, bookcases and



► dining tables, etc.

Now the county relies on minor power stations it built by itself for electricity, and it sees that all the local factories and enterprises exert themselves to produce daily necessities for the inhabitants.

Furnished as a comprehensive food-processing base, the foodstuff factory produces not only soy sauce, soybean paste and oil but also cake, drops, taffy, bread and milk every month on a regular basis from raw materials of barley, wheat, beans and maize that are produced in the raw material base covering tens of hectares and supply them to the inhabitants, and nurseries and kindergartens. And soya milk processing centres are set up near nurseries and

kindergartens in remote communities, thus the children are supplied with fresh milk every day. In addition, cooperative farms produce various fruits—apples, pears, plums, peaches and others—and send them to nurseries, kindergartens and primary schools.

One interesting thing about the county is that foodstuff processing workteams are in operation for the residents. They not only prepare various foods on the order of inhabitants but also offer mobile services every morning and evening. The workteams produce tens of kinds of foodstuffs, and most of the raw materials come from the county.

The Noodle Restaurant serves cold noodles made from buck-

wheat, which is good for the health, and it is frequented by people for its original cooking method and cheap cost.

Besides, the mushroom factory produces spores enough to produce tens of tons of mushroom in a year and grows mushroom a lot to improve the eating habits. And thousands of rabbits of good species are grown in the rabbit stock farm and supplied to cooperative farms of the county and province and their inhabitants. The farm has a plan to grow more rabbits that serve the medicinal purpose and supply them to the inhabitants in the future.

All the local officials and inhabitants say that happiness comes from their hands.

*Sim Yong Jin*



# Stockbreeding Farm in the Mountains

**T**HE KYENAM STOCK-breeding Farm is one of the well-known farms in Korea. Located in the basin surrounded by the Suyang Mountains, Mt. Jinam, Mt. Taedok and the Sambong Mountains, it mainly grows goats, pigs and rabbits.

According to the local old folks the Kyenam area was thought unfit for human inhabitation for the rugged mountains and barren land. For example, the Komnol Valley lies north of seven peaks standing side by side 355 metres above sea level. It is so cold that bears alone were there to live. Hanphyong, part of the district, was so named because they wished to live without natural troubles caused by the cold weather, flooding and mountain slide.

After the liberation of the country from the Japanese imperialist military occupation (August 15, 1945) the state set up a farm in the area and took several measures to improve the people's standard of living. In June 1959 the present stockbreeding farm was established.

The landscape of Kyenam began to change with the organization of a workteam specializing in growing domestic animals in the Komnol Valley. When Korea was un-

dergoing the Arduous March and the forced march in the 1990s, South Hwanghae Province set up an ambitious plan to build a modern farm there true to the policy



of the Workers' Party of Korea on obtaining meat from grass. Some were worried whether they could build such a large farm by themselves.

*We are not to ask the country for something when it is in hard times. Let's do it boldly with our own effort, and wonderfully.* This was the determination of the young people who volunteered to undertake the project. Demolish- ▶

► ing old buildings was a kind of struggle to completely shake off the tendency of dependence on others found among some people. Regarding the job of erecting new buildings as an important matter intended to give confidence in victory and optimism of tomorrow young builders brought about

vehicles. When the workers of the farm received a species of goat which can give 800–1 000 kg of milk a year each and the one having great vitality and acclimatization as well as a good breed of rabbit that weighs 5–7 kg and pig with high productivity they made up their mind to produce

much more meat and milk to be supplied to the people. The scene of flocks of goats in each valley and countless well-fed pigs and rabbits add to the scenery of the farm.

Recently the farm benefits from the introduction of the cyclic production process. It has set up the process of producing methane gas from animals' excrement and compound organic fertilizer from the residue. Methane gas is supplied to the residents or used to boil animal feed. And the compound organic fertilizer helps increase the grain production. The production of meat and dairy goods has increased so much that some of them are supplied to the people around the farm and other counties. The farm also built a holiday home for the employees. Model workers are admitted in the home at the foot of Mt. Jinam. Foreign visitors express their admiration looking around the farm.

Kim Sang Ho, deputy general manager of the farm, says proudly, "A local pathetic legend says the people in Kyenam wished to live well off when they planted a cinnamon tree. Today our farm is well-known to the country as a comprehensive stockbreeding farm."

*Kim Il Ryong*



innovations day and night. They built scores of pens and laid ten hectares of artificial grassland by reclaiming hillocks overgrown with weed. Along with this, they built dwelling houses for the farm workers wonderfully.

Appreciating the exploits performed by the young builders the state sent the farm new breeds of goat, pig and rabbit, and latest milk processing equipment and



# Anecdotes of Songun Leadership

## The most important hour

**T**HE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE Korean People's Army Kim Jong Un visited a KPA unit on a cold winter day of January Juche 101 (2012). Saying that the unit was preparing the soldiers so that they could perform their task independently and positively, he instructed that the officers of the unit should pay deep concern to the life of the servicepersons.

Then he first went to the room of education and sat on one of the chairs used by the soldiers. After hearing a duet sung by the company commander and the company political instructor he praised that they sang very well. When he dropped in the barrack he looked at the thermometer to know the temperature indoors and unfolded a quilt used by soldiers to see the quality of it. He was pleased to hear that soldiers liked the quilts as they were warm and soft. When he saw steam rise from the water tank in the wash-cum-bath room, the Supreme Commander asked officers how they heated the water, and said that the company commander and the company political instructor should work together to look after the life of the soldiers.

Hours passed as he went around every corner of the company. When he heard from the accompanying officials that he had spent much time looking around the company, Kim Jong Un said that it is a very important hour for him to be with soldiers, and that he values the hour spent for them. Then he looked into the mess hall, soybean storehouse and other supply service facilities. In the mess hall he learned about what measures the company took to keep the mess hall warm. He went into the kitchen and grasped the cooks one by one. Seeing the duck among the food materials on the kitchen table the Supreme Commander said that Chairman Kim Jong Il had often talked about the duck farm of that unit in his lifetime, and continued to emphasize that the unit should keep the duck farm in good operation all the time.

The most important hour passed like that.

## The story associated with the Ryugyong Health Complex

In May Juche 101 (2012) the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un visited the Ryugyong Health Complex under construction. Though the handrails were not fixed yet on staircases he made the rounds of the interior of the building. Looking around the public bath he said that water tank should be well designed, and pointed out the problems not to be missed in the construction of ultrasonic bathtub. Then, he continued to say that visitors would be pleased if TV sets were fixed in the rest halls of bathrooms as they could have some rest watching TV. Walking up to the last and third floor of the building he stressed the need to use the spaces effectively and rationally, and put much attention to the work of improving the quality of the building as the content is most important for a structure.

In July that year when the complex was near to completion the supreme leader visited the complex again. While looking around several places of the complex including the beauty salon, public bathroom and barber's shop Kim Jong Un said that final touches should be given until the day of completion with the consciousness that there is no satisfaction in the work for the people. In November he made his third visit to the complex just before inauguration. Passing a spacious and clean corridor he entered the rest hall. There he expressed his satisfaction over the fact that circular lounges were placed in the hall with flower decorations to the liking of the people. Sitting on a lounge and looking down carefully at the carpet on the floor he said that the floor should be covered with quality timber again.

Going around the public bathroom, curative exercise room and cold room the supreme leader said that people would frequent the complex when it opened, and that they would greatly benefit from it in the winter. He emphasized that service activities and operation of the complex should be well organized.

*Choe Chol Jin*

# *Song of the River Amnok*

**I**N MARCH 1923 THE YOUNG KIM IL SUNG left his parents in Badaogou, Changbai County, northeast China, crossed the Amnok River and came to his village of Mangyongdae. While studying at the local Changdok School, he experienced the Korean people's miserable life and yearned for a society where working people could live an enjoyable life. Meanwhile, burning hatred against the Japanese imperialists and their stooges settled in his mind.

When he heard the shocking news that his father had been arrested again by the Japanese police, he left Mangyongdae again for Badaogou in January 1925 with a determination to take revenge on the enemy for his father's arrest and the Koreans' misery and regain his country at the cost of his life.

Recollecting those days President Kim Il Sung wrote in his reminiscences *With the Century*:

I was held back by a vision of my grandmother and grandfather who had seen me off at our brushwood gate, weeping, stroking my hands, adjusting my dress, and worrying about possible snowstorms. I felt I could not hold back the tears that welled up if I crossed that river. And, looking back at my motherland in misery at the bleak border I could scarcely suppress the impulse to rush back to my home town, to the house where I was born.

I had spent only two years back in my motherland, but I had learned and experienced much in those years. My most valuable experience was to have acquired a deep understanding of our people. Our people were simple, and industrious yet brave and strong-willed. They were staunch people who did not yield, whatever the adversity or hardship; they were polite and kindhearted and yet resolute and uncompromising against injustice.

... ..

The oppressive situation in the motherland gave me a firmer belief that only through a struggle would the Korean nation be able to drive out the Japanese imperialists and live in happiness in a liberated country.

... ..

Across the river, which was only 34 metres wide, was the town of Badaogou and my house which was in the street near the river bank. But I hesitated again, obsessed by the uncertainty of whether I would ever cross back to my homeland to which I was

going to bid farewell.

I stepped back and picked up a pebble from the river bank, holding it firmly in my hand. I wished to take everything that could be a token and memento of my motherland and to keep it as a treasure.

... ..

I walked slowly towards the opposite side of the river singing quietly the *Song of the River Amnok*:

*On the first of March in the 19<sup>th</sup> year*

*I crossed the River Amnok.*

*The day will come round every year*

*I'll return when my work is done.*

*Blue waters of Amnok, my homeland,*

*Wait the day I return to you.*

*I crossed to attain our dearest wish*

*I'll return when we have won.*

I looked back at the mountains in the motherland over and again with sorrow and indignation. I thought: My dear Korea, I am leaving you. I know I cannot live even for a moment away from you, but I am crossing the Amnok to win you back. Across this river is a foreign land, but I will not forget you, even in there. Wait for me, my Korea.

Then I sang the song again. As I sang this song, I wondered when I would be able to tread this land again, when I would return to this land where I grew up and where my forefathers' graves lay. Young as I was, I could not repress my sorrow at this thought. Picturing in my mind the miserable reality of the motherland, I made a grim resolve not to return before Korea had become independent.

Later Kim Il Sung waged the anti-Japanese revolutionary war often crossing the Amnok River to the homeland. A typical example is that he, leading the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, crossed the river in June 1937 and carried out a victorious battle in Pochonbo, Korea, and thus gave a heavy blow to the Japanese imperialists and the dawn of national liberation to the Korean people.

He achieved the cause of national liberation 20 years after he had made a grim resolve singing the *Song of the River Amnok*.

*Jo Yong Il*

# Mother's Life

*(Continued from the last issue)*

## **With the Setback of the Independence Army**

**I**N 1922 A UNITED ACTION of the independence movement organizations was urgently needed. There were scores of large and small armed units with different names in Northeast China. The higher echelons of the armed units were steeped in factional strife and conflicts to expand their own spheres of influence each. Sometimes bloody gunfights took place between them.

Ryang Ki Thak, a veteran member of the independence movement, came to south Manchuria on the recommendation and under the care of Kim Hyong Jik (father of President Kim Il Sung) and O Tong Jin. He met and exchanged opinions with Kim Tong Sam of the Soro Military Station, Jon Tok Won and Ri Ung Hae of the Independence Corps, Hyon Jong Gyong of the Kwanghan Group and others to get concessions from them to the need of unity. Hyon Jong Gyong and Ko Hwal Sin of the Kwanghan Group had no objection to the proposal for uniting the independence movement organizations, but Jon Tok Won of the Independence Corps took exception to the matter of setting up an office and the issue of military command, betraying his discontent with Ryang Ki Thak. At first, the delegates from the headquarters of the Kwangbok Independence Army, Soro Military Station, Kwanghan Group, Independence Corps and other armed units had meetings at several places including Wangqingmen. But they failed to reach agreement on the question of merger. Swayed by the old fashion of thinking, they only slandered and disparaged other armed organizations, sticking only for the hegemony rather than caring for the

overall interests of the independence movement.

In those days I (Ri Kwan Rin) was seriously ill from the aftereffect of the tortures I was put to at the Jongno police station in Seoul. Someone who heard that I was in my sickbed asked an old doctor of the Independence Corps to treat me. So, one day he came and took my pulse. He was a man liable to speak ill of the headquarters of the Kwangbok Independence Army, so he sneered at me while feeling my pulse. From olden times it is said that medicine is a benevolent art, and that there are two good jobs on the earth, one being to cure people of their diseases and the other to make people laugh merrily. Nevertheless, the old man who calls himself a physician ridiculed me, a girl dedicated to the struggle for the country's independence, just because I was not one of his number. I said to him sternly, "I'm a young unmarried woman up in arms fighting for national independence, and what's wrong with it that you jeer at me? What's the use of abusing me?" At this, he was flurried and went away in shame without a word.

The merger negotiations between the armed independence movement organizations which had been long-pending without reaching agreement were settled by the untiring efforts of Kim Hyong Jik, O Tong Jin, Ryang Ki Thak and Kim Tong Sam, and thanks to the ardent desire of the members of all the organizations concerned. As a result, the Army Headquarters was set up at first. Then, the Thongui-bu was formed under it. This was located at the Maquanzi village of Huanren County, China as a unified military and political organization including almost all armed organizations and independence movement bodies in Kuandian, Huanren, Xingjing and Liuhe. The Thongui-bu had departments of civil affairs, business, military

affairs, education, finance and transportation under the control of the chief, Kim Tong Sam. Kim was arrested by the Japanese police at Harbin, China in the 1930s and died in prison.

The commander of the volunteer army of the Thongui-bu consisting of eight companies was Kim Chang Hwan; O Tong Jin and Kang Je Ha were department chiefs respectively, and Choe Si Hung and Kim Sok Ha were appointed company commanders while Ryang Se Bong was platoon leader. Under the Thongui-bu as a local administrative organization came the General Administration Offices, each exercising jurisdiction over an average of 1 000 households, and there were over 20 offices which had a general administrator, councilors, inspectors and liaison men respectively. Under the General Administration Offices were 100-household heads. The general administrators were under the control of the army of the Thongui-bu stationed in their districts.

With the emergence of the Thongui-bu the contradictions between the bigoted nationalist forces and the young forces adhering to advanced ideas came to a head. Jon Tok Won headed the malcontents after the formation of the Thongui-bu. When he was appointed police inspector, a post lower than the department chief, he resolved not to take office and did not go to Maquanzi, the seat of the Thongui-bu's headquarters, on the pretext of training the army. Seeing that Jon had an antipathy for his appointment to an inferior post under the Thongui-bu, Pak Il Cho and others tempted him to join in terrorist acts, doing serious harm to the anti-Japanese independence movement.

Under such circumstances, O Tong Jin, Hyon Jong Gyong and other reformists agreed to form an organization affiliating all the independence movement bodies

► and, centring on it, unite the independence movement bodies all over Manchuria. So they worked to this end. Towards the end of 1924, the veterans and leading figures of the independence movement met in Jilin and founded a new organization uniting the anti-Japanese movement groups, and named it Jongui-bu. The name signified their aspiration for achieving the great anti-Japanese cause in the spirit of justice and national prosperity. Different from the Chamui-bu which was founded as a military organization, the Jongui-bu put much emphasis on the development of national industry and education in the area under its control, and had an organizational structure on the principle of separation of the three powers of legislation, administration and judicature.

At first the Jongui-bu established General Administration Offices in the areas under its jurisdiction in Jilin and Liaoning provinces which were inhabited largely by Koreans, instituting the posts of ten-, hundred- and thousand-household heads, and stationed armed units there. It recruited soldiers in its jurisdiction and waged armed struggles, while setting up schools and promoting anti-Japanese national enlightenment education in the areas under its control. At a meeting of general administrators and hundred-household heads, O Tong Jin called upon them to establish a preparatory committee for school construction and to raise the necessary funds by collecting contributions. As a result, many more schools were built by the Jongui-bu than the Chamui-bu and Sinmin-bu. Famous among them are the Hwahung Middle School, Hwasong Uisuk School and South Manchuria School. Meanwhile, in the spring of 1925 the anti-Japanese independence organizations were merged in north Manchuria, so that the Sinmin-bu was formed in Ningan. In 1925 when I was working at the South Manchurian Women's Education Federation in Jilin, the city was a gathering place for the leaders of the Jongui-bu, Chamui-bu and Sin-

min-bu which represented the main forces of the Korean nationalist movement in Manchuria. In particular, nearly all cadres of the Jongui-bu lived in the city with a large body of guards.

One day I received an order from O Tong Jin to attend a meeting to be held at the house of Pak Ki Baek, father of Pak Il Pha. So I went to Niumagang a few days later. Present at the meeting were Kim Hyong Jik, O Tong Jin, Ryang Ki Thak, Jang Chol Ho, Hyon Jong Gyong, Ko Hwal Sin and so on. An important item on the agenda was the issue of closing the ranks of the independence movement as early as possible and ensuring unified leadership over the military bodies and autonomous organizations operating in different places, under the existing conditions in Manchuria where the Jongui-bu, Chamui-bu and Sinmin-bu emerged and established themselves in their own domain respectively, trying hard to extend their spheres of influence. In August 1925 a meeting was held at Wanlihe, Fusong County, with the participation of many independence movement leaders. The meeting lasted for over ten days and many expressed their views. Kim Hyong Jik made a speech stressing the need to unite the broad anti-Japanese forces.

In the spring of 1926 Kim Hyong Jik was laid up with the diseases he had contracted during the struggle for national independence including the after-effect of the severe tortures he had been put to in the Pyongyang prison and the awful frostbite he had got on the Amnok River. Even in his sickbed he met many independence movement fighters who came for his counsels and never stopped his struggle even a moment. Then one day in June 1926 I unexpectedly received from Jang Chol Ho the sad news that he passed away leaving his last wish for the liberation of Korea. The moment I heard the news, I felt everything going black before my eyes and the heaven falling down.

I walked hundreds of kilometres day and night to Fusong,

where Kang Pan Sok (wife of Kim Hyong Jik) met me. Seeing her, I was overwhelmed with grief and buried my face in her breast bursting out crying. The next day I visited the tomb of Kim Hyong Jik with her to pay homage to the deceased. I moved unwilling steps away from the tomb and returned to the house with her. At the time she was in ill health. Nevertheless, she did cooking and washing for the independence army soldiers, sparing no pains.

One day Kim Song Ju (the childhood name of President Kim Il Sung), now a student of the Hwasong Uisuk School, came home. Having heard many stories about me before from his parents, he treated me without reserve. During my stay in Fusong I saw Kang Pan Sok running a night school and conducting publicizing work for the village women every day though she was busy. In those days Kong Yong living in Wanlihe often came and helped her in her housework. After that, I went to Jilin where I heard the news of the arrest of O Tong Jin. Frenzied with indignation, I was quite at a loss what to do for a while. After O's arrest, Ryang Se Bong took over the command of the independence army.

After triggering the September 18 incident in 1931, the Japanese imperialists occupied the whole of Manchuria, and intensified the suppression of the Korean independence movement fighters unprecedentedly. The Japanese police ran amuck to capture us. Danger shadowed me all the time and it was very hard to find a shelter. Now I would often take a walk along the Amnok River at night. My old home was just across the river within a hailing distance where I had spent my memorable childhood, and the running water before me was the Amnok River that I had crossed backward and forward so many times with my comrades. My retrospection in the moonlit night was ever so heartbreaking. My soul was roving in the wilderness of loneliness, rancour and longing and my youthful days were vainly passing away. □

# Instruction of Fast Reading Develops

**A FEW DAYS AGO** A reporter of the Korea Today had a talk with Kim Jong Sun, department head of the Pyongyang Secondary School No. 1, about the instruction of fast reading which is developing briskly day by day.

**I think fast reading is not merely intended to read quickly.**

You are right. It has been a long common understanding that fast reading is essential to get more information quickly than others in this era when the amount of information increases explosively. According to our studies, the training of fast reading can develop the brain, especially the right brain that has great potentiality.

This means fast reading may be a shortcut in training talented personnel more rapidly and in

greater numbers for the building of a powerful nation.

**I think it is not so long since fast reading was introduced into reality in Korea.**

Yes, it's only several years. However, the Korean-style fast-reading instruction has got a firm foundation in the true sense of the word. A professional research team was organized and an energetic research work has progressed on a full scale to find out a method suited to the local reality and the psychology of the Korean students. And its theoretical system has been set up one by one in keeping with the condition of the country regarding the content and methodology. In the course of this, techniques of fast reading, mental calculation and memorization have newly developed in our style. Today lots of people

who have undergone a course of fast reading as students, are displaying their ability satisfactorily in important fields of the building of a thriving socialist nation, especially scientific research sector.

**I'd like to know what kind of efforts are under way to promote the fast reading instruction.**

First, a national fast-reading training course is given to instructors in March every year. On the occasion they attain smarter techniques themselves and have a discussion to further complete the methodology of fast-reading instruction of the Korean style and raise it up to the standard of the world.

There are many groups of fast-reading students in colleges, secondary schools No. 1 and foreign languages schools. The enthusiasm for fast reading has spread to schools of general education where they work hard to introduce fast reading.

Every August and October a national fast-reading contest is held attracting students of the senior middle schools and colleges, and this contest offers a good opportunity to improve their fast-reading skills. Many books are edited and published including *Fast Reading* and *Fast Reading to Develop the Brain* which can help train in fast reading of the Korean style. □

**The students who won the 6<sup>th</sup> national fast-reading contest of middle school students.**



# By Strenuous Efforts

**A**HEMOSTATIC POW-  
dered medicine prepared with vermiculite, which abounds in Korea, as the main content, has been developed to enjoy popularity among the users. According to doctors of Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 2, the medicine resulted in the average bleeding-checking time of 180 seconds in nose-bleeding cases, accounting for 26.5 per cent shorter time than the 245 seconds of Phyongbaeksan medicine that contains mica. The new preparation also cut the bleeding-checking time to the average 150 seconds in tonsils extirpations in the treatment group, which is a 49 per cent reduction of time compared to similar medicines. It has turned out to have no side-effect including troubles to the skin and be quite convenient to use.

This medicine was the result of years of inquiring efforts of a research team of the mineralogy and lithology department of the Geology Faculty of Kim Il Sung University.

Earlier the department had succeeded in making an additive to animal feed by using vermiculite. The additive was highly commented upon by the Tudan Duck Farm in Pyongyang and other stockbreeding farms.

The researchers got the idea of making an anti-bleeding medicine from vermiculite when they read that their ancestors had prepared a bleeding-checking material using mica and applied it in practice. In the past they usually stopped bleeding by applying materials containing calcium—typical of them is the cuttlefish bone. The story that mica which has no calcium in it was used to stop bleeding gave the researchers a new idea. Now they decided to find out a kind of mineral with



great adsorptive power and use it to make an anti-bleeding material. Soon they launched into the research project. A mineral was chosen and studied. The department staff are largely engaged in clarifying the composition of minerals and ores and picking out certain qualities of them to bring them into use. So it was not easy for them to manufacture a medicine that is badly needed in the people's life.

Chief of the department Song Chang Nam recalls, "We used to search the underground secret. Now studying the human physiology, we had many pains. But we all knew it was our duty and task to make a nice medicine for our people by using a mineral which is abundant in our country."

A research team was organized headed by Doctor and Assistant Professor Pak Hye Suk who had certain experience in studying vermiculite. She first made a scrutiny of the effect of vermiculite on the human body while browsing historical records. In an effort to have a better understanding of anatomy which studies the structure of the living thing and the law of its develop-

ment, histology which studies the microscopic structure of the tissue of the living thing and cytology which digs into the form and function of the cell, Pak visited the then Pyongyang University of Medicine Teaching Hospital and Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospitals Nos. 1 and 2 to consult the experts, have their lectures and swap experience. Sometimes she made a long way at night to find a clue and sometimes she spent several days and nights to solve a single knotty problem.

Finally there came the first product, and the test application to animals turned out successful as it stopped bleeding faster than earlier preparations.

Pak felt little content with it, though. Now she continued with her research to develop a medicine which would be applicable both to external and internal cases. At last she made a bleeding-checking medicine with a broad-spectrum and immediate effect in stopping bleeding due to traumatic causes, stimulating the activity of the thrombocyte, coating the bleeding spot, adsorbing the moisture, making the blood, supplementing microelements, ►

# Matter of the Utmost Importance

**T**HE ANJU HERO SENIOR Middle School in Anju City, South Phyongan Province, has produced 150 winners of the July 15 Honour Student Prize, 17 Heroes and Labour Heroes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and over 100 persons with academic degrees or titles. Thus, the school is well known across the country. Now it is waging a dynamic campaign to retain the honour.

Two years ago the school had a discussion on choosing teachers to be sent to a provincial teaching contest in a few months. Some made a suggestion that competent teachers with rich experience should attend the contest. But

Kim Tae Ha, headteacher of the school, had a different opinion. *Of course, competent teachers should be sent if we are to keep the honour of the school. But as there is the shift in generation among the teachers, and the new-generation teachers make up a good percentage of the teaching staff in the school, the matter of the utmost importance is to raise the ability of the teachers as soon as possible*, he thought. He said, "It is important to further improve the qualifications of teachers in order to develop the education of the school to suit the universal 12-year compulsory education to be introduced in the near future. So I think the new teach-

ers should participate in the contest. It will be a good occasion for them to improve their qualifications in the process of preparing for the contest and kindle the flames of competing for higher attainments."

All of the teachers agreed with him. The school saw to it that Choe Jong Ok, head of the mathematics department, and other able teachers with long career took the lead to help the new teachers improve their qualifications. The school also made sure the new teachers observed the lessons given by the good teachers and analyzed the important points for assimilation. The school also saw to it that the new teachers gave demonstration lessons to improve and polish their teaching methods continuously while the experienced teachers actively helped them methodologically. Along with this, the school provided them with necessary books and data to let them learn the global trend of their major subjects and acquire comprehensive knowledge.

In this process, they attained profound knowledge and practical teaching methods and waged a campaign of attaining a higher level with the belief that they could catch up with the leading teachers if they redoubled their efforts.



**New teaching methods are discussed.**

► and sterilizing.

The medicine can be dissolved in water before taking. It is also effective in dealing with the bleeding in the stomach, pile, gullet and straight intestine and womb. Its application to the bleeding cases due to cerebral cancer, cerebral hemorrhage, incised wound, purulent trauma

and functional troubles in the menopausal period and their surgical operations, has proved it is far better than existing medicines. Moreover, it has greater anti-bleeding effect than similar vermiculite medicines that are in wide use in other countries.

The medicine that can be carried with ease and taken at any

place and at any time received a silver medal at the 13<sup>th</sup> national invention and new technology exhibition.

The research team is now focusing their study of vermiculite on its application to the purpose of preventing radioactive damage.

*Kim Yong Mi*



Students are engrossed in practice and experiment.



▶ The zeal for competition grew intense when the new teacher Kim Yun Mi, 25, won first place at the provincial teaching contest. Not resting on its laurels the school steadily introduced new teaching methods and made multimedia for lessons by itself. It also made experimental apparatuses and teaching aids such as a model of manufacturing caustic soda by electrolyzing salt water,

the one which explains the character of the movement of an object in the air after throwing and the one showing calculus of classes. Recently, many new-generation teachers were awarded the certificates of the October 8 Model Teacher and the certificates of the Registered New Teaching Method.

Last year the students of the school who were admitted into

central or local colleges including Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology accounted for the biggest passing rate in the province, and Han So Yon won top place at a national academic contest.

Kim Tae Ha says, "We will continue to steadily pay the primary attention to the improvement of the teachers' attainments and qualifications to add glory to the honour of the hero school."

*Jo Song I*



# Maker of Six Straight Wins

**T**HE RANGNANG DISTRICT Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang has won the wrestling event of the national games of the juvenile sports schools six times consecutively since it came off the victor in the 46<sup>th</sup> round in 2006. This year's triumph means its sixth laurel. This achievement is inconceivable apart from the effort of Pak Chol Ung, wrestling instructor of the school, who has worked enthusiastically to bring up promising wrestlers.

Pak began to work at the school in 2000. During his days at the Korea University of Physical Education, he achieved good results at the DPRK Championships, the Mangyongdae Prize Games and the University Students' Games. So when he chose to be a wrestling instructor at the juvenile sports school, many of his colleagues were sorry for his choice because they believed he would be able to cut an admirable figure for his ability and skills if he was included in a sports team. Chol Ung expressed his thanks for their expectation but was more determined to work at a school to be an honourable instructor to be remembered by the nation and the rising generations for his training of strong wrestlers

who would bring glory to their country.

The new teacher decided to achieve supremacy in the Greco-Roman wrestling. He started his work determinedly. He knew he had a lot of things to do as his school had just begun the wrestling event. First, he got to selection of trainees. Visiting schools in the district, he found out a dozen children for his disciples. As the Greco-Roman wrestling demands carrying out movements by taking the arms and upper body of the opponent, the wrestler has to have a great power, fortitude and patience.

Chol Ung made up his mind to pass all his techniques to his students and pushed technical study and practical training of the Greco-Roman wrestling simultaneously. On the basis he sent his students to a national contest, but to no avail. Full of remorse, he began to renew the instruction plan. Drawing up the plans to suit the psychological qualities of the schoolchildren and groping for a shortcut to the teaching of the basic technical course, he often spent painstaking nights of inquiry. But he found it quite difficult to make the children attain marvellous basic techniques of

wrestling. Yet he did not give up, but made strong demands on the trainees while giving them encouragement. By applying amusement games suitable to the mentality of the children, he helped them engross themselves in training without feeling bored.

He created an example in training and let it be learned. He picked up a few cleverer children and gave them perfect instruction for each movement. The boys were taught special skills for 30 minutes after the daily exercise. When they mastered the movements, they helped other trainees learn them so that the day's lesson was assimilated on the daily basis.

Meanwhile, all the students saw videos on basic techniques to learn the principles of the basic techniques. The instructor's effort was not limited to his high demand on training. He worked hard like a parent to help the students relieve their fatigues after the exercise.

His endeavours paid off. Some years after they learned the Greco-Roman wrestling, his students overturned the public estimate by coming first in the wrestling event of the 46<sup>th</sup> national games of the juvenile sports schools. As it was a victory won by young children who had learned the Greco-Roman wrestling which is thought difficult to learn, the win was a great pride to the school and the district.

Now Pak put greater efforts in teaching various techniques, thus winning the sixth straight victory at the 51<sup>st</sup> round of the national games of the juvenile sports schools.

He is working with all his wisdom and enthusiasm for the training of wrestling reserves for the country.

*Kim Il Ryong*



# The Couple in High Regard



**H**YON SONG RIN AND KIM MYONG WOL working at the North Hwanghae Provincial People's Hospital are held in high regard by the public for their medical service. The man and his wife have achieved a good deal of achievements in treatment. Hyon has written scores of treatises while Kim has also produced many papers and new conceptions which are of significance in clinical practice.

The achievements of the couple are largely attributable to the man who has helped his wife's work sincerely although he is engaged in a different field of treatment.

Kim is an ophthalmologist. A lot of people come to see her, and most of them are cataract cases. Hoping to bring sight back to them so that they can see the bright image of the society, she has persistently solved sci-tech problems related to the transplantation of artificial crystalline lens and applied the good results to the practical service.

Hyon has also helped her sincerely, while engaging himself in the study of neurological diseases. He translated foreign documents on cataract and offered his own opinions. In the course of this Kim was more confident of her skill in the operation of cataract. One summer day eight years ago she succeeded in her first surgical operation on a cataract case aged 73. By the end of that year she conducted operations on a dozen patients with success. More people got back their sight thanks to her the next year.

One May day, she carried out an operation on an old man from Songnim City, North Hwanghae Province who was completely blind. That evening she said to her husband when he returned home in the eve-

ning, "Treating the patient today, I rebuked myself for not paying attention to those people who are unable to come to hospital for different reasons. I was wrong when I thought I was devoted to the patients. Now I think I have to go for mobile service. But if I'm away from home, I'm afraid you have to look after the family for yourself. That's worrying me."

Hearing her words, Hyon said to her encouragingly, "We're doctors who are responsible for the care of the people, you know. Don't be worried about our home but look after your patients well. I'd be glad if I see people regain their sight thanks to you."

This is how Kim toured to dozens of counties and mountain villages in the province, including Phyongsan, Thosan, Yonthan and Koksan counties. Thanks to her good hands hundreds of people regained their sight. Now there are innumerable letters of thanks she has received.

One February day a few years ago when she was working hard to develop a more scientific and faster method of operation of cataract, an officer of the Korean People's Army who had been seriously wounded while performing his task was rushed to her hospital. He was diagnosed as the case of serious burn and traumatic injury all about his body, a third-degree shock and loss of sight in both eyes. When the emergency aid was given, Kim volunteered to take charge of the treatment of the eyes of the patient. Then she did all she could for the patient who had been diagnosed as a case of retinal concussion, keratitis, traumatic uveitis in the right eye, traumatic cataract and closed pupil in the left eye. Her husband also called on the case frequently during his stay in hospital, looking after him in every respect. After the 150-day treatment, the patient became able to see again and was restored to good health. The day he left hospital, he was said to shed tears of thanks, calling Kim "mother." The following year when he was married she visited him on his wedding ceremony bringing him the wedding suit.

In high appreciation of her service, she was recommended as "provincial person of merit in the Songun era" in 2009.

The couple are now in their fifties, but they're still energetically engaged in the work for the people's health improvement, so they are fondly called "our doctor" and "happy couple."

*Kim Yong Ok*

# In Their Own Style

**A**CROBATIC GYMNASTICS dates back to not so long a time ago in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Taeryonggang Sports Team began the event in 1986, when some people were doubtful of the Korean performers' physical constitution. At the time Kang Yon Suk, a coach, said, "I'm sure we'll be able to launch into the international arena if we find out a suitable methodology of training and develop the acrobatic gymnastics in our own way. Why don't we try to make it a strong event of our sports team?"

Now Kang had discussions with her colleagues repeatedly, reaping propitious opinions. The coaches' efforts produced a tactical frame of training suited to the physical constitution of the Koreans. Then, training programmes were drawn up and the players began to have drills in real earnest. Taking advantage of the condition that those who had been on the callisthenic course made up the mainstream group, the coaches put efforts in bringing out the strong points of each gymnast.

Meanwhile, they directed the training to the task of making the upper and lower gymnasts in the two- and three-person modelling acts share their emotion, properly combining movements with the dancing art, giving full play to the performers' feelings, and similar things. The endeavours of the coaches and acrobats brought them high appreciation in the international arena in 1990 and 1992. The spectators gave a big hand whenever the Korean performers carried out graceful movements to their wonder. The rhythmic and admirable acts that

were well matched with sweet melodies left deep impression on the audience. The efforts of the acrobats and coaches of the Taeryonggang Sports Team went on to develop more graceful and attractive movements while relying on their own things. The past performances were reviewed to rectify the weak points. The coaches found scientific training methods for technical improvement and positively applied them to practice. The acrobats made persistent efforts to attain the ability to carry out very difficult movements such as three consecutive throws and holds and a thrust with one hand. With a determination to have their national flag hoisted at international contests, they worked hard at training.

At last the acrobatic gymnasts won admirable achievements at an international acrobatic contest in 2014. In late June last year they took first place in the mixed two-person modelling and women's two-person modelling at an international competition in Kazakhstan. Since it was participated in by stars from different regions of the world, the contest took place fiercely from the beginning. Many of the 300 contenders were winners of important international competitions in earlier years. But the Koreans were complete novices in the international arena. Yet they successfully performed very difficult movements in each of the stages of the contest.



Whenever they carried out highly technical acts with the accompaniment of cheerful Korean folk music, the audience and fans gave an enthusiastic applause in congratulation.

Sin Yun Chol recalls, "We felt confident to think we were breathing the same air with our people back in the motherland."

The honourable acrobats who added glory to their country are working hard at training to attain novel techniques.

When asked of the secret of the victory, Kang says that it is of primary importance to find out a competing mode of the Korean style as well as to develop proper physical preparedness on the part of the acrobats.

*Kim Hyon Ju*

# A School Famed for Football

**I**N JUNE LAST THE BOYS and girls' football teams of the Rungna Senior Middle School in Taedonggang District won the national football contest of middle school teams. This was the third straight win for them.

The football teams were organized in middle schools all across the country five years ago. At the time Ri Hyang was appointed as headmistress of this school that was known to be poor at sporting activities. She was worried about the low football level. *An instructor who is able to lead the football team must be selected. A great tree comes from the strong root*, she thought. She saw the ability of a football instructor in two things: one was the “eye” to find a suitable physical constitution and another one was the ability to develop a method of training suitable for the young boys and girls. In ac-

cordance with her principle and suggestion the school selected good football instructors before adopting players when a new school year was round the corner.

The appearance of the talented and enthusiastic football teachers completely changed the daily training routine that had been stereotyped. They newly created and applied rhythm- and time-controlling methods combined with music and second and third reaction-based training for developing the intelligence of the players so as to improve their flexibility and proactivity. In the dribbling exercise, the basic football training course, they applied the method of dribbling while hopping over stepping-stones and other obstacles, instead of the one of dribbling in a certain position. In those days parents of the pupils named the new training method “musical football” and

“rhythmic football” and joined hands to solve the problem of purchasing sporting goods. The football class became more active with each passing day.

As a result in 2011 this one-year old football team ranked among the strongest teams in Pyongyang and next year they became the winner of the all-Korea middle school football games. The best player and scorer in many contests came from this team, and the team that is possessed of such players won the third straight victory in the abovementioned contest in 2014. The success raised the school's morale. The pupils who won national academic contests several times say that their rivalry to win the favour of the whole school like the footballers brought them the top honour of the contests.

When everybody was full of pride and self-confidence, the



# A Factory in the Park

**E**NTERING THE COM-pound full of 30-year-grown *Metasequoia* and fruit trees such as peach, plum, apricot, cherry and so on, we felt as if we were in a park. This was the first glimpse of the Taedonggang Battery Factory. There are many visitors there admiring the factory for its green area. The managers say the trees stand witness to the history of the factory.

Commonly, the factories that produce batteries are harassed with the problem of harmful gas. Despite establishment of cleaning equipment, it is not easy to entirely remove the gas from the production process.

In Korea the people's health is considered to be of prime importance, and there is a story about it. After liberation (August 15, 1945) there was a great demand for steel as they had to reconstruct the economy destroyed by the Japanese. However, according to the policy of the state that holds the human health dearest a crude electric furnace in the then Songjin Steel Works was blasted with no trace.

Upholding the state policy that gives top priority to the workers' health the management of the battery factory drew up a pollution-prevention plan to install gas-removing equipment and plant different species of trees.

First of all they planted evergreen trees like pines, fir trees and varieties of fruit trees along the roads in the compound. After ten years, seeing the tall trees the workers were pleased to work in a clean environment. In recent years the state took a measure for factories and enterprises to push ahead with not only modernization programmes but also tree-planting to meet the demand of the developing reality. The management and workers of the battery factory rose up to refurbish the factory in a modern style.

A big problem in pulling down the old buildings was what to do with the nice trees close to the buildings. *Keep the trees and remodel the factory admirably*—this was the final decision. They put their heart and soul in looking after the trees lest the branches and roots should break. Construc-

tion sites are usually dusty, but the trees in this factory kept fresh and green.

When the modernization project finished giving smart looks to the factory, the employees recalled the past taking a walk in the fragrant ground and saying, "I know who planted that tree and how much persimmon we picked from this tree." The factory's green area increased year by year. More and more trees including fruit trees were planted, giving vigour to the workers. The factory is widely known for not only fulfilling annual plans but also the workers' high material and cultural level. Last year the factory was awarded an honorable title.

Kim Yong Nam, a manager, says, "Today we benefit from the well-laid compound. Due to the prevention of pollution and clear atmosphere as well, the visitors say my factory seems to be in a park." The devoted effort of the workers to develop their working place better is continuing.

*Kim Yong Un*

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► instructors repeated their admonition in the training place, "Victory or defeat is not the point. Remember the most wonderful 'goal' for you is to possess the perfect basic technique and skill." They did not separate the training from the match. All training was conducted in the real competing atmosphere with the real

intensity. The school has turned out a large number of footballers for the April 25 Sports Team, Kigwancha Sports Team and other teams.

Ri Hyang says, "Today my school is famed for football. Yet all my teaching staff wish to boastfully say ours is really famed for football only when the players

from my school become seed players bringing honour to the motherland." The teachers are redoubling their efforts to train better young players with the aspiration to make the school's third victory the nation's win at international competitions.

*Chae Kwang Myong*

# Visit to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum



(Continued from the last issue)

**A**FTER THE HALL DEDICATED TO THE second stage of the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953), we went into the hall dedicated to the third stage of the war.

## The Start of a New Counteroffensive

The guide said, "This hall is dedicated to the third stage of the war. In the period from October 25, 1950 to June 10, 1951, the Korean People's Army drove out the US imperialist aggressors that had intruded deep into the northern half of Korea to the south of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel by conducting five operations." In the hall we first saw an oil painting *The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung Contemplating on the New Counteroffensive Strategy*.

The enemy had calculated that the Korean war would end when they reached the Amnok and Tuman rivers. So they boasted that they would occupy the whole of Korea by November 23 and conclude the war before Christmas Day at the latest. They organ-

ized two attacking forces and advanced rapidly along the highways in the eastern and western sections of the front line. But such military actions of the enemy had a disadvantage that a vast vacuum was left between the flanks of the attacking forces.

Perceiving the enemy's weak point, President Kim Il Sung set forth the strategic tasks of the third stage of the war to frustrate the enemy's offensive and enter upon a counteroffensive, pushing him back to the south of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel while ceaselessly destroying and weakening the enemy troops by a war of attrition, and making preparations for the final victory in the war. He took measures to strengthen the counterattacking forces by continuously beefing up the main and reserve forces of the Korean People's Army, increase the overall strength of the KPA, make thorough preparations against the enemy's airborne troops and build up the coastal defences. Meanwhile, he put forward the tasks of forming a powerful second front behind the enemy lines, ensuring plentiful strategic reserve materiel, reorganizing the commanding system for the front-line units, rehabilitating and keeping the rear in good order, ▶



**KPA soldiers crush the enemy's desperate offensive.**

- ▶ stabilizing the people's livelihood and stepping up wartime production and the work of assisting the battle line.

When we were carefully observing the historical relics and the data on display, the guide went on to say that Kim Il Sung had set up his field command post on the front line and led the war to victory always living among the combatants and the people. With this the guide gave us an explanation about the third stage of the war by the aid of a sketch map.

The map showed the data of the five operations of the third stage of the war. In this stage the KPA units fought the enemy by cleverly combining regular and guerrilla warfares, large- and small-unit operations, mountain and night battles, and the large units on the front line conducted joint operations in close conjunction with the second front forces behind the enemy lines. Through many operations and battles including the powerful counteroffensive in the area north of the Chongchon River, exterminatory operations by encirclement of the enemy groups on the Chongchon River and Lake Jangjin and in the Chongjin area, the staunch defence operations on the Hwangcho and Maedok passes and in the areas of Kilju and Chongjin, and the harassing operations behind the enemy lines by the second front forces, the people's guerrilla armies and the

youth and children's guards, all areas in the northern half of Korea temporarily held by the enemy were liberated, the enemy troops were driven back to the south of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, and heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy's effective strength and armaments.

In that stage of the war the DPRK Hero Kang Ho Yong died a heroic death in the battle wiping out enemy troops by rolling into the enemy position with a grenade in his mouth when he could not move any more as he suffered severe wounds in his arms and legs. The People's Army units dealt heavy blows to the US imperialist aggression forces and the south Korean puppet army, while the KPA airmen and sailors, too, inflicted great losses on the US Air Force and Navy. As a result, the "Home by Christmas" advertised so noisily by the US aggressors was completely frustrated, and their scheme to advance to the shore of the Amnok River ended in the most shameful defeat of general retreat. At that time, the enemy lamented that the Korean war was "an unwinnable war" and that "it is a wrong war fought against a wrong enemy at a wrong place in a wrong time." The then US Secretary of State Acheson went so far as to declare that "armistice is the only way out for us."

Thanks to the heroic and self-sacrificing struggle of the Korean people and the KPA soldiers, the third stage of the war ended in victory, and the conditions ▶



- ▶ ripened for the final victory by steadily weakening the enemy's force and substantially enhancing their own strength.

*(To be continued)  
Choe Chol Jin*

**KPA soldiers expand their successful counter-offensive to areas south of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.**

**Exhibits showing the battle on Lake Jangjin.**



# Blessed Family

**T**HE OTHER DAY I LOOKED round the newly built Wisong Scientists Residential District. It consists of tens of blocks of flats, a dozen public buildings like a hospital, a school, a kindergarten and service facilities and small parks—all these make up an architectural form of an artificial earth satellite. A sports park where they can play basketball, volleyball, tennis and

roller-skating and other sports games is located in the centre of the district.

Looking round the residential quarters decorated in bright and soft colours, I felt like visiting a flat. I stepped into the first entrance of Block No. 10, and walked up to Flat No. 2 on the third floor.

When I knocked on the door, the host Choe Song, director of the Industrial Information Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, and his wife Sung Myong Sil welcomed me in.

They led me into a lounge which is large and sunny and looks comfortable. “You must be very excited to live in this wonderful flat,” I said for congratulation. Choe Song said, “We feel as if living in a dream. A few years

ago the state provided me with a flat with three living rooms. This time I was given a new nice flat with a floor space of one hundred and tens of square metres. My flat is modernly furnished with a table, beds, a dining table and other furniture. The state sent each of the families a TV set, high-quality quilts, hard-porcelain bowls and dishes and even glasses. We are overwhelmed with gratitude. All rooms are perfectly furnished. We are more than satisfied.”

Then the host led me around all rooms—the study, a man-and-wife’s room, an elderly’s room and a children’s room and a toilet. I asked how many there were in his family and where they were at the moment when it was Sunday. ▶



► Sung Myong Sil said that there were five of them—her mother-in-law, her couple and two sons. “My mother-in-law went to the Wisong Health Complex and my children to the sports park to rollerskate and play badminton with their friends,” she told.

We looked into the kitchen, too. It looked very convenient for cooking, equipped with different cooking utensils. Fresh vegetables—cucumbers, lettuce and crown daisy—beside the kitchen unit attracted my eyes. Sung said, “There is a greenhouse based on solar heating in our district. It has a cyclic production system, so we can get fresh vegetables from there any time. All shops in this quarters provide us with all kinds of foodstuffs such as fruit, candies, meat and vegetables and various industrial goods.”

At the moment, the host’s

mother Ju Sun Hwa came in. Learning why I was there, she said, “I brought up five children, but I had no problems. The country gave them education free of charge and put them in due positions. My son has done nothing special. He’s done what he is obliged to do, but the country bestowed such a solicitude. I am tearfully grateful.”

Sung said she, as wife of a scientist and mother of the children, would do her best to help her husband and children pay for the care of the country.

While we were talking, their younger son Choe Kon returned. Putting his rollerskate in his room, he was going out again. When his grandmother asked where he was

going, he said he was going swimming at the school. She said there is an indoor swimming pool at the Wisong Primary School open for all seasons.

When I said not only the host but all of the family were blessed, the host said, “It’s not my family alone. All the scientists’ families are blessed as the state spares nothing for the scientists.”

Wishing the scientists big successes in their research work, I left the district, bidding farewell to the bright LED lamps along the street.

*Jo Yong Il*



# A Faithful Mind



**I**N RECENT YEARS, BIRDS of a southern origin have nested in the arboretum of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, adding to the scenery and giving a pleasure to the visitors.

According to the officials of the arboretum, *Egretta intermedia* and *Nycticorax nycticorax* that belong to kinds of the oriental region of a southern origin, have lived in the arboretum of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun for some years and now their numbers are increasing.

One of those who are delighted to see the birds which used to live in the sultry southern wetland

settle and propagate in the arboretum is Pak Rae Bon, an old man resident in Janghyon-dong, Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

Pak used to be an ornithologist for a good many years. As student of the Korean birds, he wrote books on the Korean birds such as *Distribution of Birds in Korea* in which he gave a comprehensive analysis and collection of all he had studied and existing theories on 456 species of birds.

He is nearly 80 years old, but his love for the birds remains the same. In 2008, he fell in deep thought when he heard that some new rare birds were coming to

the arboretum of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun. There was a record on *Nycticorax nycticorax* seen in some areas of the country in 1925–1931, but no mentioning of their propagation. *Egretta intermedia* had lived in some parts of central Korea, but their number decreased because of the Japanese imperialists' indiscriminate deforestation before Korea's liberation (August 1945). The story that such rare birds began to make their nests in Pyongyang, the central part of northwest Korea, made the ornithologist quite excited.

To increase the number of the birds, he decided to breed *Rana* ►

► *ornativentris* in this area. This breed of frog lays 1 100~1 600 roes each in the pools in March and April, and they are not only

useful animals as they eat harmful insects in the trees and crops, but also feed birds including *Egretta intermedia* and

*Nycticorax nycticorax*.

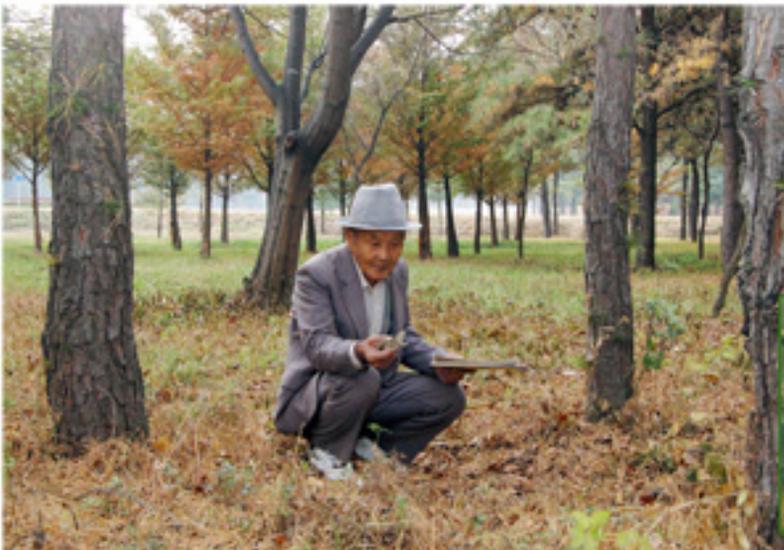
He travelled some places to get frog roes from the beginning of the year. He felt exhausted sometimes, but he rose up renewing his resolution to enrich the Korean fauna. From then on he bred more than ten thousand young frogs every year and spread them in the arboretum of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

Now the arboretum began to have a new feature. Frogs' special croaking in a breeding season added to the beauty of nature, changing the environment. A large number of *Egretta intermedia* and *Nycticorax nycticorax* came there in large flocks every year, their number increasing to 400 in 2010, 1 200 in 2013 and 1 600 in 2014. As the arboretum has a favourable condition for habitation the two species of the birds that have an ecological character of intensive distribution and collective breeding in nature, the number of these birds is increasing day by day.

Asking Pak to take it easy as he is old, many people give him a helping hand. Pak usually says that as the palace area on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River has turned into a large woodland with various species of trees and all kinds of flowers, a favourable ecological environment has come into existence for birds' habitation and different kinds of birds from across the world have settled there.

More and more rare birds are coming to Korea that is changing into a wonderland of socialism.

*Rim Hye Gyong*



# Entertainers of Memory and Vigour

**I**N KOREA VARIOUS FORMS of artistic activities are in full swing, encouraging the army and the people to make a new upsurge in their work. Among those engaged in the activities a team is gaining favour of the public for their unusual programme. All the members used to be stars on the stage and TV in their heyday of career.

Their performance is quite original. The programme is mostly made up of the songs from *The-Sea-of-Blood*-style revolutionary operas in which they first played the major or minor parts. When a new phase was opened up in the creation of opera in Korea in the 1970s, a series of operas were produced in a short span of time, including the revolutionary operas *The Sea of Blood* and *The Flower Girl*, adapted from the immortal classic works of the same titles, and *Tell O Forest*, *The Story of a Nurse* and *Song of Mt. Kungang*. Those five operas played a pivotal role in the awakening of the ideological consciousness of the people at that time. Meanwhile, the actors and actresses who performed their parts well in the operas were later called by the name of the characters in the operas for a long time instead of their original names.

Over 40 years have passed since then. Time flies like an arrow, and they are now grey-haired. But their voice remains clear and their vigour unmitigated, impressing the audience. Hearing the songs of the operas

people emotionally recollect the 1970s when they built edifices of the era in succession in their land in the spirit of speed campaign. The elderly entertainers' team was organized three years ago, and the number of their performances exceeds three hundred. Their singing rang at different construction sites such as the Munsu Water Park, the Ryugyong Dental Hospital, the Okryu Children's Hospital and the Unha Scientists Street; major industrial establishments and mines across the country including the Chollima Steel Complex, the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, the Pyongyang Condiment Factory, the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory and the Kujang Area Coal-mining Complex; and scientific institutes like the Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences.

Last year former movie stars joined the team, making their programme more colourful. After

seeing their performance a worker of the Chollima Steel Complex said, "Your performance gives us both laughters and tears. And what is important is that it is powerful and vigorous. Frankly speaking I grudged to spare one hour to see your performance, but now I feel as if I got 10 or 20 hours to increase the per-shift production." Ryu Yong Ok, 72, the initiator and head of the team— she had played the role of Kkotpuni in *The Flower Girl*—says, "The older they are, the harder they try to look after themselves and retain their vitality, and the same goes for us. The feelings of being youthful are gratifying to everyone. And yet, we wanted to have worthwhile pleasure. Living in the animated reality of the country we felt inspired, and we couldn't sit idle. I think the fame we gained in our youthful days and the return of our youthful vigour are all attributable to the reality of our land."

*Kim Chol Ung*



# My Subworkteam Members

By Pyon Chang Ryul

(Continued from the last issue)

**E**VEN AFTER LOADING the passengers aboard, the bus stood a good while waiting for any more passengers. Presently, it started, and Chun Hwa was fixed to the ground, seeing off the receding bus with her eyes. She had left to attend the TV stage, but gave up her journey halfway for her self-discontent, her sense of guiltiness towards the members of her subworkteam and the shock she had got from Myong Sik.

Chun Hwa walked slowly along the road—to look round the fields of her subworkteam. She fancied she was hearing the rice plants developing branches after striking their roots. A worker was making his way across the field, applying vegetable germicide with a sprinkler. Beans sowed along the ridges in the field were timidly pushing up their sprouts through the crust of the earth to breathe in the spring air.

Chun Hwa put off her shoes and stepped into the paddy. She counted the number of branches of a rice plant and carefully saw if there was any insect troubling the rice. The moth lamps, tightly-woven water filter set to each of the plots, proper height of the water—all those were indicative of the meticulous and responsible manner of work of the old worker Ung Thae who was in charge of controlling the water in the field.

Chun Hwa returned to the main road to see the maize field

on the slope. The maize stalks were swaying as if inviting her to come and see how good Cha was at plowing between lines of the crops. The weed was being buried under the earth before they could have strong roots. The green maize lines were stretching straight afar, all stalks refreshing and clean. There were clear traces of honest and diligent work in every line, and the true mind that was seeking no glory or authority. True to their duty as a farm worker and their obligation of the social being and for the sake of their country's prosperity, the workers dedicate their life to the field. *But how did I treat them?!* Chun Hwa thought. *When did I begin to be proud of myself, ascribing the honour of having come first in the farm and the county to my ability and organization?* Since she began to have a business-oriented attitude towards the members of her subworkteam carried away by her self-conceit, Myong Sik began to doubt her heart. It was utterly obvious that when you have no true heart for other persons, you won't be able to be loved in the true sense of the word. "I wouldn't trouble to make any apology to you, Myong Sik. But you didn't take me wrong. Wait for me, please," Chun Hwa told herself.

Leaning against the railings of the Songwonchon Bridge and hearing the sound of the water flowing, she made up a new mind. She took out the man-day bill she had tried to work out hours ear-

lier, and threw it down into the stream. Then she crossed the bridge and turned right. She could see the bus running along the straight road that led to the county town. Now she felt an urge to go to the maize field where her workers might be working, and draw up a new man-day bill. She wanted to open her heart to them and ask for their pardon. Nothing was thought more important at the moment.

At that time the tractor driven by Myong Sik ran up to her from the workteam headquarters. Getting down from the tractor, Myong Sik asked Chun Hwa, as if nothing serious had happened between them, "Well, why didn't you take the bus? The members of your subworkteam might be waiting by the Ssangbawi Pass to see you off."

Chun Hwa looked up and cast her glance over to where the road stretched towards the town. She could see some people coming towards her place from the pass.

"Come on, Chun Hwa," Myong Sik urged. "Get on the tractor. Fortunately, I'm on my way to the Material Supply Company to bring the microelement fertilizer. Hurry up, or you'll be late."

Myong Sik was pressing, but Chun Hwa would not move. She said, "Please leave me. I wouldn't like to go."

"What do you mean?" Myong Sik shouted. "You're the head of the subworkteam. You're thinking of your own things again when you have to represent your work-

► ers and talk to the gathering on behalf of them. That's a pity."

Chun Hwa looked at him ruefully, but the man made a broad smile. The girl pretended as if she hadn't seen it, and turned towards the hill again.

"Chun Hwa—" Yong Ae was calling her in a high-pitched voice. The green kerchief on her head was fluttering dancingly and a bundle of wild flowers was coming before the girl. The members of the subworkteam surrounded Chun Hwa with pride, honour and delight.

"When you are over there, you'd better talk big," the New Radio asked in a confident voice. "You can say our subworkteam will make something great just as they launched an artificial earth satellite."

"That's right," Ung Thae agreed readily. "We know how to make it. Everything depends on our work. The crops are in good condition, and you can talk big about our harvest."

"Today we saw a performance that was arranged just for us alone thanks to you, Chun Hwa," said Chol Ryong's mother. "Seeing my child Chol Ryong play the trumpet, they were all surprised that I have got such a son."

Feeling the blood rise in her face, Chun Hwa replied in a timid voice, with her head falling, "I beg your pardon, Chol Ryong's mother. As a matter of fact, I knew there was going to be a performance that day, but I..."

"You needn't ask for pardon," Ku Jong Sim interrupted, "since we saw a separate performance today. We were proud and elated."

"No. You don't know it," Chun Hwa said embarrassed, "I didn't

arrange the performance for our subworkteam. Hyo Sun and some others went to the Eighth Workteam late at night to..."

"You were at a meeting at the farm management board, so Myong Sik and I went there," Hyo Sun's voice said from behind. Chun Hwa turned back.

Hyo Sun said to her in a low voice, "Chun Hwa, the man-day bill you left by the brook has been found. Don't be worried, and leave for the town now." She presented what she had got in her hand. "The fowl keeper found it by the brook when she was there driving ducks. I've made haste here thinking you could not leave because of this bill."

Chun Hwa became tearful finally. She said, "As a matter of fact, I was making another bill after my random guess, Hyo Sun. Thanks."

"Is it that worry that made you miss the bus, Chun Hwa? That's surprising, and yet it's important that you regarded it as important as the head of the subworkteam," Ung Thae commented in a thoughtful voice. He rolled a cigarette and puffed at it a few times before admonishing, "You are liable to mistakes and errors at work. We know you're more than busy these days. What is important is that you speak frankly about your mistake and accept your friends' advices modestly. That's a true heart. We members of your subworkteam treasure that point of all your merits."

Chun Hwa flushed further at his unexpected praise.

Ku Jong Sim came up to her, and said, "This morning the chairman of the farm management board saw the performance

together with us. After the performance we unanimously told him that we recommend you for the position of the head of the Fourth Workteam."

Chun Hwa was at a loss what to say, when Ung Thae said meaningfully, "We old folks also suggested that a person who is an industrious and honest-minded character like you should be the leader of the workteam."

Cha Jun Ho who had been watching Chun Hwa silently made a remark, "We don't like to let you go, but I believe we'll have another person who is as good as you. I know like begets like."

"When our subworkteam leader becomes head of our workteam, our workteam will be the leader in farming in the county next year as our subworkteam is leading the county at the moment," someone declared.

"That's right," another agreed. "Our workteam might be the leader in the province as well."

The workers were all talking as if Chun Hwa was already the leader of the workteam.

Chun Hwa was perplexed, and said, "I'm far from eligible for the subworkteam leader, to say nothing of the workteam leader."

"Let your eligibility be decided in a few days, and we ask you to leave right now. You're going to be late for the TV stage," said the New Radio, driving Chun Hwa towards the tractor. Supported by the unanimous heart of the subworkteam members, Chun Hwa got on the tractor.

Now the tractor began to run pleasantly across the green carpet of paddies that was forecasting a rich harvest.

*(The End)*

# Korean Folk Game *Paduk*

ONE OF THE LONG-standing folk games played by the Korean people is *paduk*. It is a contest of intelligence played by two people putting stones on the board by turns to take territory. *Hunmongjahoe* published in 1527 called *paduk padok* which means placing stones on the board in certain arrangement. The game had other names like *hyokki* which means playing with wooden pieces (pronounced *ki* in Korean) or stone pieces (*hyok* in Korean), and *wiki* meaning a game of encirclement by *paduk* pieces.

*Paduk* is said to have come from the ancient people's conception of the space. People had the simple idea that the sky was round and that the ground was rectangular, and they made the *paduk* board flat to signify the ground, the shape of the board square to indicate the four seasons, and drew lines straight and across to make 361 crossings to indicate the length of time of a year. *Wonchonjom*, or the Original Point, in the centre of the board, was also named so as they thought the ground was the centre of the space. And the round shape of the *paduk* pieces was symbolic of the round space and the white and black colours of the pieces meant the day and night respectively. There are many sayings and phrases related to *paduk*. Typical of them are: when the chess is based on a thousand tricks *paduk* employs ten thousand tricks; and the older player is given the white stones. These indicate that there are innumerable tricks and moves and that the older player is offered the white stones and the person of a



higher level is permitted to take the first turn—this is to show a noble etiquette.

*Paduk*, a popular game, was widespread in the Middle Ages as well as in the ancient time, and influenced foreign nations. According to *Samguksagi* published in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Torip, a monk of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) during the late mid-5<sup>th</sup> century, helped a lot to weaken an enemy nation by taking advantage of *paduk*. There are also foreign historical records that describe the Koguryo people's fondness of *paduk*. In the period of Koryo, *paduk* was widely enjoyed by women and children, to say nothing of the men, according to a historical record. Kang Jo, a man in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, played *paduk* in Thongju Fortress (in Tongnim County, North Phyongan Province at present) while drawing up a superb strategy.

In the Koryo time those who were good at playing *paduk* were referred to as *Kuksu*, or national treasure, and those talented people went for away

games in other countries.

Some books published during the period of the feudal Joson dynasty, like *Yongjaechonghwa* (late 15<sup>th</sup> century) and *Ojuyonmunjangjonsango* (mid-19<sup>th</sup> century), have a good deal of stories and poetic passages on *paduk*. As the public interest in *paduk* grew, a book titled *Ohangwigibop* was issued, which contains tactics of *paduk*.

There are now a lot of axioms concerning *paduk*. Some examples: Large groups of stones are seldom captured; In the game of *paduk* attacking is the best means of defence; What is important for a *paduk* player is to maintain his own way and plan his own operations; Don't take the stone until you decide its destination; Capturing one stone in the centre is equivalent to taking 30 points.

Now *paduk* had developed into a popular folk game in Korea, adding to the recreation.

Kim Hyang Ok,  
Kim Il Sung University

# Korean Folklore Museum

*(Continued from the last issue)*

## Ceramic workmanship

**WE** STEPPED INTO THE NEW HALL where relics and data on ceramic workmanship and the art of gem cutting were on display.

The guide first told about the earthenware production in the primitive age. "The Korean ancestors made several kinds of earthenware in the Neolithic era. A lot of earthenware were unearthed in the remains of the Neolithic era including the First Layer of the Jithap-ri Remains in Pongsan County, North Hwanghae Province. Various kinds of earthenware were unearthed in the remains belonging to later eras as well, showing that the quality, manufacturing methods and baking temperature kept developing." Among the relics on display is a piece made 8 000 years ago with a clear engraved pattern in the shoulder, which is characteristic of the earthenware in the primitive age.

The guide went on to say the Korean people produced porcelain in the 30<sup>th</sup> century BC, the first period of state establishment. In the years of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla) they came to make glazed earthenware and porcelain by further developing the kiln facility. Typical relics are those of the Ancient Joseon such as a vessel with a thunder pattern and a flower pot-shaped vessel and those of

the Three Kingdoms including a vessel with an engraved decoration which dates back to over 1 500 years ago. The vessel with an engraved decoration has a compact-earth ground divided in clear parts and several decorations in the shoulder, including the models of chicken, horse, china and a lady with a baby on her back.

A particularly interesting thing in the hall was an old Japanese record that mentions the Korean people went across to Japan and taught porcelain-making techniques about 1 500 years ago.

The guide also talked about relics of the Koryo dynasty (918–1392). In this period the ceramic workmanship developed to a high level. Koryo porcelain has unique colours, patterns and shapes. In particular, their clear and greenish colour is elegant and glossy, giving a profound sense of feeling. These kinds of things were called jade-green ceramics to liken them to the blue and clear sky and the jade. Koryo ceramics was based on a variety of patterning techniques like engraved pattern, picture pattern and inlaying. Most important is the inlaying style, a method of carving various delicate designs on the surface of the vessel and filling up the designs with white or black earth before glost-firing. Koryo ceramics also features thin, gentle and curved lines.

A turtle-shaped incense burner and a celadon cup and saucer inlaid with a chrysanthemum pattern caught our eyes. The incense burner used for a ▶

Earthenware made in the primitive age.



Relics of the Koryo dynasty.



► mourning ceremony has a turtle mouth which gives out the incense smoke, and the feet of the burner is vividly shaped after a squirrel holding an acorn in the arms. The cup inlaid with a chrysanthemum pattern seems like a full-blossomed lotus and the saucer has a shape of the cup's feet. The cup and saucer are both delicately engraved in a chrysanthemum pattern.

We could also see a white porcelain bowl which was made around the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The guide said that the vessel is a valuable relic representative of the white porcelain of Koryo as it is superior in colour, incised pattern and thinness of the wall. From her words I perceived that the white porcelain of Koryo was at a high level like the jade-green celadon around the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

We also saw a Japanese document on display which writes that the porcelain articles modelled on the Koryo celadon were appreciated as the best along with the celadon pieces inlaid with grass patterns.

The guide remarked, "The Koryo celadon was so admirable that a Japanese scholar said that a man is to be unfortunate if he dies without having an opportunity to see the Koryo celadon in his lifetime." She also explained how the ceramic industry had developed after the Koryo dynasty.

With the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century there appeared a lot of clear and clean coloured white porcelain articles. The white porcelain things produced in the feudal Joseon dynasty are characteristic in that they have openwork and relief work patterns on the background of various colours like pure white, grayish white, bluish white and milky white.

The white porcelain gradually developed into cobalt-blue porcelain, with the kind and form becom-

ing more varied and turning for everyday life's use in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. There were on display relics like a grape-patterned dark-red porcelain, a cobalt-blue bottle for containing oil, a cobalt-blue nest of boxes for keeping food, a dark-blue patterned pot and a tortoise-shaped ink stone, which tell how much the porcelain art had developed.

One of the interesting relics on display was an earthenware article produced in Hoeryong in North Hamgyong Province. The Hoeryong porcelain articles are usually fired at a temperature of 1 200°C after coated with a glaze, so they seldom break. Their colour is mild, and their shapes are varied to suit everyday purposes.

Now the guide said that Korea had long developed the art of gem cutting. She explained, "In the primitive and ancient times our ancestors made different kinds of gem-cut articles, like trinkets, by building on the knowledge and experience they had earned while making rude and ground stone implements. In the Koryo period the production of gem-cut articles grew sharply with the establishment of state gem-cutting factories and gem mines. In the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty the gem and stone processing factories were put under the direct control of the central government, so the variety of the gem-cut works grew high and their forms became diversified."

Seeing a box of tobacco and a stamp made of granite, a plummet of hanging scroll made of stone, a kettle and a pen box made of gem and a gem cup shaped like a lotus leaf, we headed for the next hall of exhibition.

*(To be continued)*  
*Jo Yong Il*

### Relics of the feudal Joseon dynasty.



# An Kyon and His Paintings

**A**N KYON IS ONE OF THE TYPICAL painters of Korea in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He was especially good at landscape painting. He also dealt with figures, animals and the Four Gracious Plants (apricot, orchid, chrysanthemum and bamboo). As true reflections of natural beauty, his works enjoyed popularity among contemporary painters and made a great contribution to the development of pictorial art of Korea.

His paintings feature truthful depiction of objects, strong and beautiful touch of the brush and rich emotion. Some of the celebrated works are *Blue Mountains and White Clouds*, *A Fairyland in a Dreamscape*, *Red Cliff*, *Dragon* and *A Fisherman*. *A Fairyland in a Dreamscape* is most famous, which An created after he heard from Ri Yong (Prince Anphyong), third son of King Sejong (1419–1450), about his dream.

One day Ri Yong had a dream in which he was strolling a fairyland full of the fragrance of all kinds

of flowers in full bloom, including those of wild *insam* (ginseng) and herbs of eternal youth. Ri Yong told his dream to An Kyon and asked him to paint a picture of the fairyland for him. An Kyon completed the painting in only three days. Ri Yong was beside himself for joy, seeing the magnificent painting. The picture is dedicated to a beautiful landscape of a deep mountain in a broad and diversified way. It shows a straw-thatched house on a hill in a peaceful valley surrounded by high and steep mountains in the upper part of the right side. In front of the house spreads a peach garden full of light pink-coloured flowers in bloom, with a small boat tilting up and down in the stream, and a lane stretching along the foot of the mountains and the edge of the water. In the left side of the painting the valley becomes wider, with rocks and peaks standing high here and there. The water cascades down a cliff, and a stream flows along the valley into a big river. Clouds of spray rise all along the valley, and the spirit of spring fills the air.

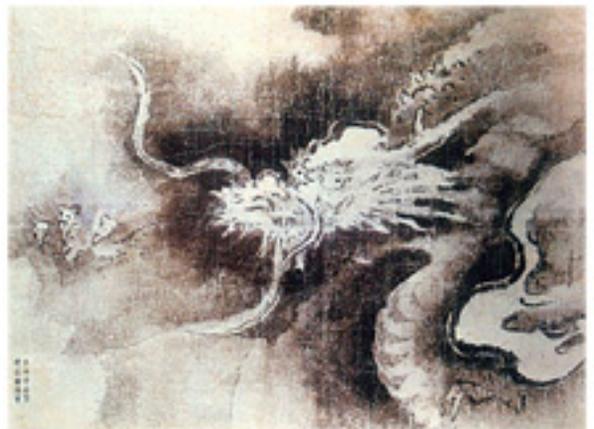
The painting gives an admirable depiction of the lyrical meaning of nature by adopting a luxuriant imagination and individual composition. It also vividly represents rich emotions of Koreans emanating from their daily life and their great fancy for nature. It is one of the masterpieces that represent the development of landscape painting of Korea in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

*Choe Chol Jin*

*Late summer.*



*Dragon.*



# The Spirit of True Warrior

**I**N THE AUTUMN OF THE MID-15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY the King ordered to hold the state military examination on Rungna Islet, Pyongyang. Hearing the news the warriors in Pyongyang were all delighted, because such examinations had usually happened in the royal palace. The instructor Pak of the Taesongsan martial art training centre was more pleased than other people. He was not only an outstanding martial artist but also a veteran teacher who had trained a large number of warriors for dozens of years. He wished his trainees would pass the state examination and distinguish themselves in the struggle to defend the country.

On the day of examination Pak went to Rungna Islet with his disciples. The islet was already crowded with warriors and spectators. But Pak soon found himself disappointed. Before the start of the examination, the King declared that only the warriors from Phyongan Province were eligible to participate in the examination and that those from other provinces would be beheaded if they took part in it. So Pak's best student (his surname was Ryu) from Hamgyong Province couldn't take part in the examination. When the exam began, he lamented, driving his sword into the earth with anger. Pak sighed in distress.

"Sir, I can't stand it any more," Ryu shouted to his instructor. Then he mounted his horse and joined the applicants. He took first place by demonstrating his fine equestrian skill and getting full marks in the test of swordsmanship and arrow shooting on horseback. Ranking the top in the list of the passed examinees Ryu was summoned by the King. Pak was seized with uneasiness. The King asked Ryu of his

family history and the province of his birth.

When he said he was born in Hamgyong Province, the King cried with anger.

"Don't you know those who are not from Phyongan Province will be beheaded if they join the examination?"

"I knew it, Your Majesty," Ryu answered.

"Then, you mean you have taken part in defiance of the notice?" the King roared with his face getting bluer.

Ryu said resolutely, "Though I was born in Hamgyong Province I have become a warrior learning at the Taesongsan martial art training centre in Pyongyang. Now that Your Majesty is here to see the martial art of Pyongyang, how can I leave this ground to save my life?"

"Then, are you prepared to be executed?" the King asked.

"My instructor has admonished," Ryu replied confidently, "man should have a spirit of sacrificing himself for the country rather than seeking to learn the martial art and tactics if he wants to be a true warrior."

"The self-sacrificing spirit?"

"Yes, Your Majesty. So I have nothing to regret if I were to be beheaded."

The King, standing up from his seat, took Ryu by the shoulders to stand him up, saying in admiration, "Today I've met a genuine warrior." Then, he recommended Ryu as the top winner of the day and gave him an award, and appointed him a military officer.

After the examination, too, Pak trained many warriors on Mt. Taesong.

Choe Chol Jin

## Taedongyojido

**T**AEDONGYOJIDO IS A KOREAN map made in 1861 by Kim Jong Ho (early 19<sup>th</sup> century–1864), a Korean realist scholar and geographer. The map divides the land of Korea into 22 parts and is also called *Kosanjojido* after his pen name.

To correct the defects of *Chonggu-do* (a Korean map) he made in 1834 and make a better one that would be more comprehensive, Kim travelled all across the country for 27 years and carried out practical investigations and measurements.

Using his collections, he made and

released *Taedongyojido* in 1861 whose scale is 1: 162 000. The map divides the territory of the country—from Mt. Paektu to Jeju Island—into 22 latitudinal sections, each one consisting in one *chop*. (One *chop* covers an area of 32 km from east to west and 48 km from north to south.) Joining all the parts together makes up a large map (33 m<sup>2</sup>) of Korea, giving detailed information on all fields—politics, the economy, defence, culture and history, etc.

Having wide-ranging and profound data on not only the geography but other fields of the country as well in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the map belongs to the valuable cultural heritage of the nation which is of importance in studying the general social context of the contemporary time.

Choe Chol Jin

# Mt. Kuwol



**M**T. KUWOL IS LOCATED in northwest South Hwanghae Province in Korea. It was named Kuwol (September) for its beautiful scenery of golden leaves in autumn. Covering 110

square kilometres in area and rising 954 metres above sea level, the mountain has 99 high and low strange peaks like Sahwang Peak (954 metres) which is the main peak. For that reason, it has a

unique beauty of mountain and valley.

Having been cut by the action of the weather and erosion, it is made up of curious rocks and cliffs, cone-shaped and pyramidal

**Peaks in Mt. Kuwol.**



► peaks and deep valleys. In the deep valleys, there are waterfalls—Ryongyon and Samhyongje (three brothers) waterfalls, in particular—small ponds and streams like Namdaechon, Kuwolchon and Sanchonchon. In Samsudong which is situated up the Hanichon that flows along the northern slope of Mt. Kuwol, is to be found a famous spring, called Sokdam, that does not dry even in a severe draught lasting for seven years. Small ponds like Madangso and Kamaso are also seen in the western slope.

As a typical forest area in the western region of the province, the mountain has tens of species of trees like pine, oak, chestnut and maple. Various kinds of flowers bloom at the foot of the mountain and the scenes of ripening fruits like chestnut, jujube and persimmon in autumn are so conspicuous.

Now Mt. Kuwol with rich vegetation resources is a nature reserve. In this area, more than



**A road up Mt. Kuwol.**

600 species of plants are growing; 86 species of them are high trees. Many medicinal herbs including wild *insam*, astragalus, forest asiabell and *Schizandra chinensis* grow in the mountain and the animals like roe deer, wild cats, pheasants, orioles, cuckoos and owls live there.

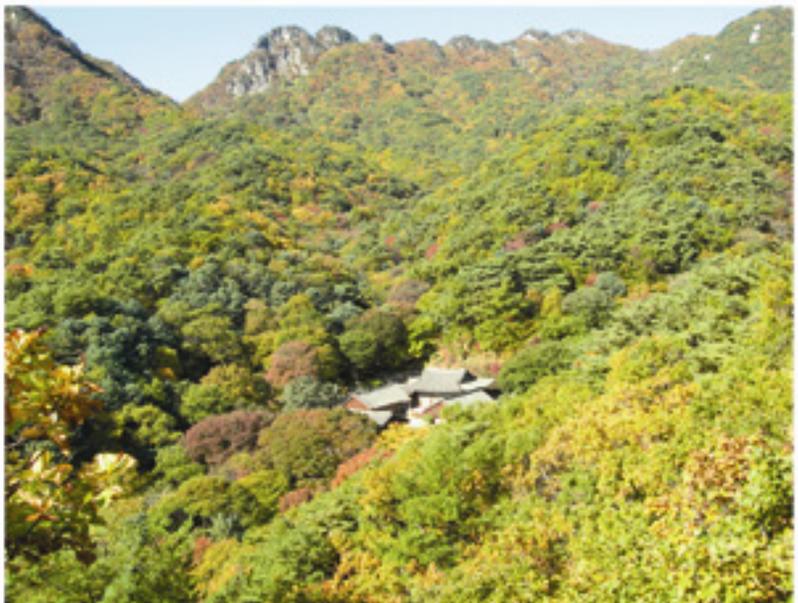
The place has some ancient buildings like the Woljong Temple

built in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, a kiln site which was a place of baking blue porcelain in the period of the Koryo dynasty as well as a site of the Kuwolsan Fort whose wall runs 5 230 metres around.

It is now a popular public resort for sightseeing and recreation.

*Choe Chol Jin*

**The Woljong Temple at the foot of Asa Peak.**



**Hyongje Rocks.**

**The Samhyongje Falls.**



# Fair and Reasonable Formula

**I**T IS 70 YEARS SINCE THE division of the Korean nation into north and south. It is a fervent desire and determination of the Korean people to put an end to the national division and achieve coordinated progress and prosperity of the nation.

Different ideas and systems exist in the north and the south owing to Korea's division, but it is not a due reason for both sides to distrust or stand against each other. The more hostile they are to each other while putting aside the great interest of the nation, that is, the reunification of the country, and clinging to their own ideas and principles narrowly-mindedly, the deeper the distrust and confrontation will be, making it eternally impossible to achieve national reconciliation and unity.

National reunification is in the interest of not any one side but the entire nation for its unified development and common prosperity. The division spanning from the 20<sup>th</sup> century hinders unified development of the nation and brings untold misfortunes and sufferings to the fellow countrymen. Tragically, the country's division has exhausted manpower and material resources uselessly, and the nation's unified development has been checked. So a rational method should be found out in order to realize the Korean people's wish to end national division and achieve reunification.

The reasonable method to solve the reunification issue smoothly is to accomplish it by means of federation.

Already in 1980 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a proposal for reunifying the country by founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo (DFRK). The essence of the

proposal is to reunify Korea by way of forming a unified federal state on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and systems. As the Korean people unanimously regard national reunification as the supreme task, the difference in ideology and social system can't make it impossible to make one Korea. The DPRK has repeatedly clarified its principled stand that it will not impose its ideology and system on the south and that it will subordinate everything to the cause of national unity and reunification. It explained the content of the proposal for establishing a unified state by the formula of federation.

Now different ideas and systems are prevailing in the north and the south of Korea. The reunification based on one of the systems proceeds from absorbing the other, so the idea can't be accepted to both sides. Such an attempt will surely aggravate the distrust and confrontation between the fellow countrymen and lead to irretrievable national calamity.

Pursuing "unification of systems" is an unfeasible effort considering the actual conditions of Korea. It damages national reconciliation and unity, and bars independent and peaceful reunification.

The north and the south are a homogeneous nation that has lived on the same territory. Therefore, they should work for reunification on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and systems paying a high tribute to the national community. The proposal for reunifying the country by the formula of federation is a fair and reasonable one that all classes and sections, parties and factions in the north and the

south can accept. It opens up a broad avenue for solving the reunification issue in accordance with the Korean nation's will and requirement without any interference of foreign forces.

Through the adoption of the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration the north and the south, recognizing that the low-level federation proposed by the north and the commonwealth system proposed by the south for the reunification of the country have similarity, agreed to work together for reunification in this direction. It reflected the strong will of the Korean people to achieve national reunification as early as possible while sympathizing with federation and actively supporting it.

In June 2000 a significant north-south summit meeting was held for the first time in 55 years of national division, when the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was adopted. With this as a starting point the new era of independent reunification and "By our nation itself" was opened. The separated families and relatives in the north and the south had reunion to their pleasure, and many-sided contacts and cooperation made all the Korean people filled with delight and fueled the zeal for reconciliation and unity in Korea. The eye-opening successes in the era of the June 15 reunification clearly prove that reunification by means of federation is the most reasonable formula.

The prevailing situation demands all Koreans with the national soul make every possible effort to achieve reunification by federation, irrespective of differences in ideology, ideal, political view and religious belief.

*Kim Il Bong*

# The UNSC Should Be Faithful to Its Mission

**I**T IS NEARLY 70 YEARS since the establishment of the United Nations. The UN and all other international organizations were founded with their noble aim and mission to maintain global peace and security, develop mutual cooperation and collaboration among nations and establish a fair international order. Article 24, Paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations prescribes that the United Nations Security Council is mainly concerned with the maintenance of international peace and security as one of the major establishments of the UN.

In order to fulfil its responsibility for international peace and security provided by the UN Charter the UNSC should make a fair deal in its activities. It, however, is undoubtedly lacking fairness due to the United States' act of double dealing. The US's high-handedness against sovereign states turned into the launch of war; for example, the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953) provoked by the US in the 1950s, the Vietnam war, invasions of Grenade and Panama, the Balkan war, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The fact that the UNSC failed to prevent the US from starting war shows that it can't function as an international body powerful enough to check the US's criminal acts.

In the current century Washington's arbitrariness has reached the extreme, but the UNSC has not only neglected it but also refused to accept proposals of sovereign states. Last year observed such examples. In January the DPRK made a proposal to cease all military hostilities in the Korean peninsula, the world's hot-

test spot, for international peace. But the US conducted provocative anti-DPRK US-south Korea joint military exercises in March, April and August. To cope with this, the government of the DPRK, a prestigious member of the UN, sent letters of request to the UNSC on July 21 and August 18, urging it to treat as a matter of urgency the US's plan to conduct a US-south Korea joint military rehearsal endangering peace and security in the Korean peninsula. But it refused to accept the proposal of the DPRK.

This proved once again that the UNSC stands by the US's side without its definite standpoint, acting in favour of the US's double-dealing policy. The UNSC's rule that the DPRK's launch of rockets is a target of denunciation and that the US's joint military war exercises can't be the target of condemnation is none other than a sign of its betrayal of the mission in which it bears big responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is a unanimous opinion of the international community that the joint military drills of the US threaten and break peace and security in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

Before and after the end of the Cold War joint military rehearsals were held frequently by the Eastern and Western blocs in Europe, thus relevant measures were taken to restrict their scale. So a joint military exercise involving more than 13 000 military personnel could not be held three consecutive times while a one involving more than 40 000 troops was allowed to go only once in two years. This measure came from the recognition of the danger of

frequent joint military exercises.

In contrast, different joint military exercises waged by the US troops stationed in south Korea and the south Korean puppet army under the nose of the DPRK number more than 40 times every year drawing more than 500 000 in strength. The belligerent forces aim the exercises at "occupation of Pyongyang" while applying the so-called "tailored deterrent strategy" geared to pre-emptive nuclear strike against the DPRK by means of strategic nuclear bombers, nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. This serves an eloquent proof that the danger of military rehearsals of the US in the Korean peninsula is remarkably higher than any other areas in the world.

Nevertheless, the UNSC doesn't perform its function faithfully; rather it dances to the tune of the US. Claiming the reform of the UN in an article, a German expert in international affairs wrote that Korea is a showcase of the actual work of the UN, and condemned that there is no justice in the UN today. He pointed out that humankind would not tolerate the UN which plays the role of causing conflicts alone. As long as the UNSC lacks its fairness, international peace and security will remain exposed to severe damage and the international community will not trust it.

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the UN. The UNSC should study its basic principle of activity and discharge its basic responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

*Kim Hyon Ju*

# Why Does the World Hate the US?

**W**ITH THE END OF WWII 70 YEARS ago, humankind became free from the dreadful fascist dictatorship and the nightmare of the war. At the time many countries respectfully regarded America as defender of peace and victor nation. As time went by, however, the world began to have a different opinion.

At present the US is the most disgusting nation and the object of the greatest hatred in the world, because it has ceaselessly schemed to overthrow the governments of sovereign nations to attain its aim of world supremacy.

In the new century the international community is greatly surprised at the uninterrupted moves of the US for intervention which are getting craftier.

One of Bahrain's publications quoted a confidential data of the US Department of State to reveal that since the year of 2010 the US Administration has given military and financial aids to individual figures and anti-government organizations to overthrow the governments of many countries in the Middle East and northern Africa. The data also includes the Administration's detailed plans to use NGOs to rapidly change political situations of such countries as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Egypt to their advantage.

On August 4 last year the AP made public a plan of the International Development Association, America, whose key point is to involve the students from the Latin-American countries studying at Cuban colleges in anti-government activities to destroy the socio-economic order in Cuba in compliance with the US Administration's hostile policy against Cuba.

Worse still, America manipulates assassinations

of heads of state to overthrow the governments of other countries and the Administration backs them. A book published in Russia reveals the fact that the US government has overthrown more than 50 of the legally-elected national governments and killed many political leaders since the end of WW II.

Canadian Internet site *Global Research* reported in May 2013 that the US is intervening in conflicts in over 70 countries on one excuse or another.

Paul Kennedy, a professor of history of Yale University, contributed an article to *The Washington Post*, which argues that history does not always repeat just the same way, but brings bitter lessons to those who neglect it completely.

This must be a warning to the US that it will inevitably suffer the crisis of national ruin if it behaves high-handedly against history.

The present reality is that the US is struck hard and isolated and rejected across the world amid an anti-US campaign spreading like prairie fire. According to a global survey made by *Gallop* issued on March 13, 2013, the average rate of opposing the US went up by 4% as compared with that in 2009. In particular, the rate of Pakistanis and Palestinians expressing negative opinions about the US ran up to 79% and 77% respectively. In another poll in the late 2013, most of the 70 000 respondents in 65 countries pointed the US as the most dangerous country.

America is out of favour with its allies as well. After announcing the Asia-Pacific priority strategy, the US demanded Europe support its policy and bear part of the financial burden in the field of defence. But the European countries gave a cold shoulder. Well aware that the conclusion of the rim-Pacific ►

► economic agreement the US demands is closely connected with America's Asia-Pacific priority strategy, Japan, too, is refusing to make any concessions to its master in the matter of opening up the market. The Japanese *Mainichi Shimbun* newspaper foretold that the conflict between the US and Japan regarding the conclusion of the agreement would cast a wet blanket over the establishment of America's order in the Asia-Pacific region.

The reality clearly shows that America is paying dearly for its engagement in war and intervention around the world and that its position of "superpower" is not so good as it looks. In France a book titled *After America* was published predicting the end of the "American Empire," and it was a best-seller. The American public opinion survey organ *Pew* released in December 2013 a report that 80% of the US citizens were opposed to their government's undeserved intervention in international problems.

Historically, the US hurled aggression forces into the Korean war under the cloak of "UN forces" by



**Pakistanis burn the US flag.**

usurping the name of the young UN and unilaterally launched the gangster-like armed invasion against Iraq without any heed to the UN. Everybody knows that the US abuses the UN's voting machinery to legalize its policy of sanction, intervention, aggression and plunder of other countries.

The arbitrary and high-handed manner of America willfully ignoring the international law elicits international protest and denunciation and this is an important reason why the US is hated.

*Kim Il Bong*

**Filipinos have an anti-US demonstration.**



# For the Establishment of an Independent State

**P**ALESTINE, WITH A divided territory, is in the most complicated situation in the Middle East. All of this is attributable to the Zionists and the foreign forces led by the United States.

The Jewish tribe invaded Palestine in the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC, drove out the Palestinians and found the Hebrew state in 1040 BC. The Israeli expansionists, at the instigation of the US imperialists, intruded into the region where an Arab state was planned to be established, and seized 6 700 km<sup>2</sup> of territory. Then they occupied the whole territory of Palestine through several wars and mercilessly murdered Palestinians while expelling more than a million Arabs from the area. Since then the Palestinians and all the Arabs have turned out in the struggle to regain their lost land from the Israeli aggressors who are getting active aids and support from the US imperialists.

In the scores of years of the hard and painstaking struggle the establishment of the Palestinian State with Quds as its capital was proclaimed at the 19<sup>th</sup> emergency meeting of the Palestine National Council in November 1988, and along with the adoption of the declaration of independence. In September 1993 the declaration of principle on the limited autonomy of the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied

region was signed between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel. In October 1998 the provisional peace agreement was concluded between Palestine and Israel, but there has been no proper implementation of it. On July 3, 2000 the central council of the PLO approved the decision on proclaiming the founding of the independent Palestine State on September 13 that year. Afterwards, the Middle East peace talks were held between Palestine and Israel amidst the concern of the international community, but failed to find out reconciliatory terms due to the conflicting interests of both sides. So Palestine postponed the proclamation of the independent state later than September.

However, the Palestinians' wish for the declaration of the independent state has not come true yet. Israel has hindered the cause of the Palestinians overtly and covertly as there would be a huge obstacle in its ambitious attempt to rule the Middle East if Palestine proclaims its foundation. Israel's policy of expanding Jewish settlements has become one of the main causes of the centuries-old futile process of the effort for Middle East peace. Due to Israel's policy the peace talks in September 2010 came to a rupture. In July 2013 Palestine and Israel resumed the talks and agreed to hold peace negotiation for the coming nine months.

But another spell of massacre erupted in Palestine in the period. On June 5 last year when the united national government was formed in Palestine and the Palestinians' struggle to recover their legitimate rights including the one to establish an independent state with Quds as its capital was in full swing, Israel aggravated the tension in the area while pursuing frantic suppression and military attacks against the Palestinians on the absurd pretext of the three missing Israeli students in Hebron in the West Bank. Thus, the atmosphere of peaceful negotiation created with difficulty vanished completely in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the vicious cycle of violence began again. The foreign mass media commented that Israel's military operations that began with the establishment of the united national government by the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah) and Hamas, were aimed at neutralizing Hamas so as to stamp out the unity and cohesion of Palestine.

Now the international community is extending unanimous support and encouragement to the Palestinians fighting for the establishment of their independent state. Israel is duty-bound to faithfully implement all the agreements it has made with Palestine.

*Kim Hyon Ju*

# Jongbangsan Magnolia

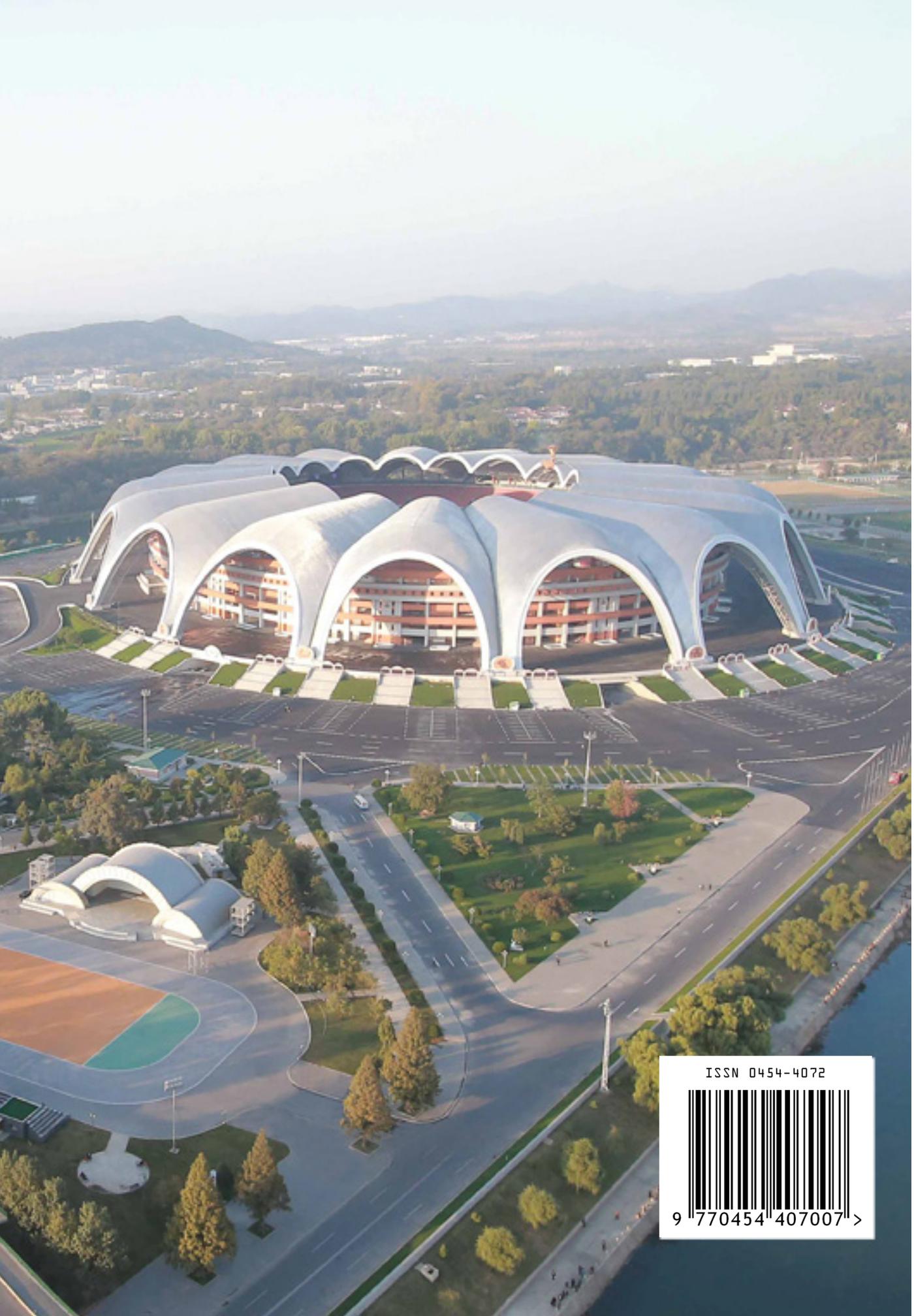
**T**HE JONGBANGSAN MAGNOLIA GROWS in Mt. Jongbang, Jongbang-ri, Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province. The tree with ten-odd branches spreading from the trunk is 2.1 metres high. Its crown is 2 metres in diameter, and the leaves, 6-20 centimetres long and 4-10 centimetres wide, are shaped in an oval form coming alternately on the opposite side. The surface of the leaf is green and glossy, and its back is grayish-green with petiole.

From May to June beautiful white flowers with six or nine petals each come in bloom on the 1-year-old twigs, which are 7-10 centimetres in diameter.

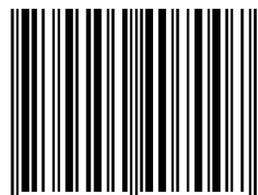
The tree has flowers in August-September again. The fruit ripens dark-red in an oval shape around September. The unique aroma of the flower is used to make high-grade perfume and the fruits are collected for oil material, for they have a high oil content, while the fresh leaves, stems and roots are picked for valuable medicinal materials. The deciduous shrub has a strong life. As a natural living monument it is well preserved thanks to the state's policy of nature conservation. The species is spreading to all areas of the country.

*Choe Chol Jin*





ISSN 0454-4072



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