

# Renew cultural activities

Coinciding with the announcement of the prize-winners in the National Art Exhibition for autumn earlier this week, various artistic and cultural festivities are now seemingly in full swing across the country.

Under such circumstances, the entire country appears to have turned to the stage of cultural and artistic festivals in all local districts, whose respective traditional artistic assets and features of various kinds are being presented.

It is of course considered most commendable for people to be keenly concerned with these artistic performances, renewing their own traditional pride concerning the artistic heritage handed down from their forefathers.

We make a due estimate of the invigorated desire among people to re-create their artistic and cultural assets in this season probably more than in previous days.

The nation has undeniably brought about these days a striking change in artistic and cultural pursuits among people, who are eager to restore their heritage in this domain in close pace with their upgraded socio-economic status by now.

In the decade of the 1960s, this country went all out for its economic buildup, bringing forth amazing material abundance thereafter.

Instead, however, people tended to neglect their cultural and spiritual traditions under the shade of material progress within a short period of time.

During those days, people remained poor spiritually, despite their enriched material lives patterned after advancing human societies.

It was against this backdrop that people of good sense in our community had to raise loud voices calling for the rehabilitation of their cultural and artistic property which has been considered shining and invaluable throughout the 5,000-year national history.

Thanks to vigorous efforts among people these days to represent their time-old cultural heritage, they can now entertain hope of rectifying this crippled status lacking the spiritual assets inherited from their ancestors.

Amid incessant voices for the rehabilitation of cultural traditions, however, we discern a failure of people to re-create artistic and cultural assets in an authentic way, making the great mistake of copying them through crude imitations.

In other words, cultural and artistic works should be represented by infusing spiritual substance and meaning into them, making them fit for the contemporary modes of life.

In this way alone, will people be able to re-stage their time-honored artistic and cultural works most desirably.

People in this country are no longer living in the onetime hermit kingdom, and their cultural and artistic property should be shared with all the human family outside of the country.

Then, our proud cultural heritage should constantly be refined to such an extent as to survive the influx of all alien cultural and artistic influences.

In this particular respect, all responsible administrators in this sector as well as artistic and cultural experts should renew their sense of responsibility particularly in this cultural season.