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ECONOMY

Industrial sectors achieve good results

Various economic sectors work hard to bring about an upsurge in production.

Marked achievements have been made in production of materials needed for the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone development project.

The Chollima Steel Complex increases the molten iron production per charge to supply more iron and steel. The Sangwon Cement Complex already produced a large quantity of cement and the Wonsan Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory sent water pipes and other materials more than planned.

The railway transport sector has so far carried tens of thousands of tons of cement, several thousand tons of steel, and a large quantity of timber and gravel.

Amid the vigorous increased production drive in the electric power industry, the Sunchon Thermal Power Station generated well over ten million kWh of more electricity than the same period of last year and the Mirim Barrage power station overfulfilled its first quarterly power production plan.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex pushes ahead with the projects to install

an oxygen furnace, increase the production of a variety of rolled steel and improve their quality and establish a production process of ferromanganese from the low-grade wad.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex continues to increase the output by concentrating on the normal operation of the modern water electrolysis and gasification processes.

The Chongjin Chemical Fibre Mill constructed most of production buildings in a short time by focusing on setting up a rayon pulp production

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Iron ore production picks up at the Musan Mining Complex.

STATEMENT

Int'l financial watchdog's statement slammed

To justify the anti-DPRK financial sanctions the US urged the DPRK at first to follow "international standards", claiming that the latter was laundering money and financing terrorism via international financial networks, but as the DPRK works well with the Financial Action Task Force on Anti-Money Laundering the US has now come up with another excuse of its financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, painting the UN's sanctions resolutions as "international standards", said a spokesman for the DPRK.

National Coordinating Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism on February 27.

The statement came after the FATA adopted an anti-DPRK "public statement" in a plenary session in Paris, France, between February 21 and 23.

"All the facts illustrate that the international finance watchdog's adoption of such public statements is consistent with the last-ditch attempts of the US frightened by the DPRK that has rapidly emerged as a world-level nuclear power," the spokesman told KCNA.

STATEMENT

Pence's reckless remarks against DPRK lambasted

A spokesman for the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee released a statement on February 24 to denounce US vice-president Pence, who is keen on the anti-DPRK smear campaign terribly upset by the thawing relationship between the north and south of Korea.

Pence told an event of a conservative organization in Maryland, the US, on February 23 that an era of strategic patience for north Korea has come to an end and the US would continue to show its determination until north Korea stops threatening the

US and its allies and totally abandons its nuclear and missile programme.

And he even described the first deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, who visited south Korea to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics on a congratulatory mission, as part of the "centre of the vicious regime" and a "pillar of the oppressive regime".

Such remarks as "dictatorship", "family clan" and "hunger" are provocative enough to dwarf anything told by any authorities of the successive US

administrations, namely George W. Bush who called the DPRK part of an "axis of evil", the spokesman said.

It is the mettle of the army and people of the DPRK to find out and punish to the last those who denigrate their supreme dignity and social system, no matter whoever and wherever they are, he said.

He said that the DPRK would never beg for dialogue nor sit face-to-face with those who violate the DPRK's supreme dignity and government, in any case whatsoever and even after the passage of long time.

SOLIDARITY

Foreign seminars praise Juche and Songun ideas

An Indian national seminar on the Juche idea took place in New Delhi on February 9 on the theme of "fundamental key to global peace—equality and emancipation" to mark the Day of the Shining Star.

Harish Gupta, deputy director general of the International Institute of the Juche Idea who doubles as director general of the Asian Regional Institute of the Juche Idea, made a keynote speech, followed by other speeches.

They spoke highly of the undying ideological and theoretical exploits of Chairman Kim Jong Il who had developed the Juche idea created by President Kim Il Sung into the guiding ideology in the era of independence.

They also extolled the Chairman's unusual leadership ability, saying he thoroughly applied the idea to the revolution and construction.

They said that he had firmly defended socialism with the treasured sword of Songun in the hardest times and developed the DPRK into a nuclear state.

A letter to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un was adopted at the meeting.

The central committee of the international association for the study of Songun and the Bangladesh Group for the Study of the Songun Policy co-sponsored the international conference for the study of Songun-2018 on February 15 in Dacca to mark the Day of the Shining Star.

Present there were the former

Compiled from KCNA

LEADING ARTICLE

Tradition of great Chollima upswing goes on

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said in his New Year Address that all the people across the country should launch an all-out general offensive to frustrate the desperate challenges of the hostile forces and raise the overall strength of the country to a new stage of development as their forerunners had brought about a great upsurge in socialist construction overcoming all difficulties through the great Chollima upswing.

Today, the Korean people are out for an offensive to win fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country, full of confidence in victory and optimism.

The Chollima era which was etched into the annals of the history of victory and glory of Juche Korea is shining as the era of miracles and feats when the great revolutionary upsurge was ushered in. The spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and mass heroism which overflowed throughout

the country were the main source which made the DPRK effect industrialization in a short time, though it had taken centuries for others.

As the Koreans have worked with the fighting spirit displayed in the era of the great Chollima upswing, they could make remarkable achievements in every stage of the revolution and provide a springboard to building a socialist power in the worst adversity.

They have defended the authority of the Workers' Party of Korea and demonstrated the spirit of single-minded unity by carrying on the tradition of the great upswing.

The post-war period of the great Chollima upswing was a crucial time when the Koreans had to start everything from scratch and the US attempted to trigger a new war. Thanks to an army of such loyalists as the workers of the then Kangson Steel Works who supported the Party with increased steel production, a socialist country,

which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in defence, could be built on this land, although the US insisted that the DPRK would not be able to rise again even in 100 years.

By carrying on the tradition of the great upswing the Korean people built up the overall strength of the country remarkably.

The period of the great upswing was an era of revolutionary turning point when a great upsurge was brought about in all fields of socialist construction. In hearty response to President Kim Il Sung's militant call of "Charge at the speed of Chollima!" the Korean people took a hundred steps when others took one, making continuous innovations and advance while shattering passivism, conservatism and mysticism about technique. In those days, innovations were made almost every day on all fronts of socialist construction

and world-startling miracles worked one after another. Amid the flames of the great upswing, the five-year plan was overfulfilled in two years and a half in view of the total value of industrial output and in four years in terms of production indices. And the total industrial output value rose by 36.6 percent on an annual average between 1957 and 1960. The DPRK successfully carried out the uphill task of industrialization in a matter of only 14 years, though it took centuries for other nations.

Such tradition is now being carried on by the great Mallima upsurge under the wise leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The present Mallima era is a new period of great prosperity in which the country races at the speed of Mallima to translate the instructions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il into reality and achieve final victory in building

a powerful socialist nation.

Led by the Supreme Leader, the Korean service personnel and people are creating a legendary Mallima speed of winning resounding victories continuously despite great adversity. Defence scientists managed to complete the national nuclear programme with a "do-or-die" spirit, and service members opened up an age of Mallima as they built Ryomyong Street in less than a year by keeping in their mind the slogan "We serve the country and people!" Monumental structures and creations symbolizing the present Mallima era are mushrooming in all parts of the country.

The Korean people will take the road of victory and glory indicated by the Supreme Leader to build a thriving socialist country by flaring up the flames of creating the Mallima speed.

Ri Kwang Myong



JON CHANG BOK

Smelters of the then Kangson Steel Works stood at the forefront of the Chollima movement in May 1968.



RI MYONG GUK

Members of the Ko Kyong Chan-led Hero Workteam at the Komdok Mining Complex become pacesetters of the present-day Mallima movement by hitting the annual production target ahead of schedule.

GREETINGS

WPK Central Committee congratulates Mongolian party

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on February 28 sent a congratulatory message to the Central Committee of the People's Party of Mongolia upon its 97th founding anniversary.

In the message, it extended warm congratulations and friendly greetings to the Mongolian counterpart and all its Party members and praised the notable achievements it has made in the efforts to achieve national unity and independent development and prosperity of Mongolia.

It expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative ties between the two Parties with a long history and fine tradition would be bolstered up further to meet the common interests and desire of the two peoples, and wished the Mongolian Party greater success in its activities.

INSPECTION

Premier inspects steel works



Premier Pak Pong Ju inspects the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.



KCNA

Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, made a survey trip to the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

He looked round different places of the complex to encourage the workers who are working to ensure normal production, holding aloft the banner of the Juche-orientation.

At a consultative meeting he stressed the need to boost the iron production by further improving the Juche iron- and steel-making technology and discussed how to ensure relevant units provide a sufficient supply of raw and other materials needed for normal production.

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Economy: Industrial sectors achieve good results

process. It is now stepping up the making and installation of fittings and equipment for the overall production processes including digestion, selection and bleaching and the building of a pipeline.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex developed a highly effective medium-speed crusher and introduced it into the coal crushing process at the Tanchon Magnesia Factory. It also produced compressors for the Tanchon power station project and the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex.

The Chungsong Tractor Factory has increased the production of new-type tractors and the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex is producing latest hoists which are far better than the old ones without using the imported alloy steel.

The Komdok Mining Complex

pushes ahead with the construction of a new shaft to further increase ore production in the deep. It carried out most of several-hundred-metre lead tunnelling and excavation of two hoist grounds and is now stepping up the extension of the shaft at the final stage.

Light industry factories in Pyongyang including the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, the Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory, the Pyongyang Condiments Factory and the Kyongryon Aeguk Soda Pop Factory have hit February production targets

and the Pyongyang Bag Factory finished the production of bags for primary schoolchildren.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill has overfulfilled the first quarterly plan by 5 percent and increased the kinds of bedclothes by steadily renewing the designs and patterns.

Offshore farms along the western coast produce hundreds of tons of kelp every day and the Nampho Taegyong Fishery Station has managed to build a twin-hull multirole fishing boat.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



Satchels are mass-produced at the Pyongyang Bag Factory.

PRODUCTION**Various farm machines produced**

The Haeju Tractor-drawn Farm Machine Factory has manufactured new types of farm machines. Among them are a variety of sowers, sprayers, soil managing machines and harvesters, which help mechanize farming operations and put farming on a more scientific and modern basis.

The wheat and barley sower can plant seeds in a large area of unploughed land in a short time. Drawn by the new model of tractor Chollima-804, it

ploughs land, makes ridges, sows seeds, applies fertilizer and tamps the soil all at a go. In autumn it can substitute for hundreds of farmers on a farm that does double cropping. The maize sowing machine quickly sows the seeds along five ridges at a time, while consuming less fuel and fixing the distance between plants according to soil conditions.

The factory's various sprayers have proved their working efficiency on

different farms. They can spray agrochemicals onto land as wide as six metres at a time and onto several hectares of land an hour. The atomizer is winning popularity on fruit farms. It atomizes agrochemicals at the height of 4.5 metres and as wide as 10 metres, so it can exterminate harmful insects in a wider area with the same amount of agrochemicals while overcoming the one-sidedness of spraying work.

The factory has also developed a tractor excavator which is used for digging soil and loading manure and compost. A bucket for digging or loading can be fixed.

The factory also produces mobile rice and maize threshers, potato harvester and ditcher, five kinds of soil managing machines like multirole hoeing machine, and more than ten kinds of trailers including seed sorting machine.

By Choe Jin PT



CHOE KWANG JIN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Haeju Tractor-drawn Farm Machine Factory makes efficient farm machines.

POWER**Dockyard generates power by coal gasification**

generation.

Especially, the automatic control system changes the amount of gas supply according to the load of the engine to ensure stable power generation and helps enhance its generating capacity.

It enables the dockyard to produce hundreds of kW of active power with less production costs.

The dockyard now pushes ahead with ship repairing and building by generating power as needed.

The system design was highly appreciated at the 15th national exhibition of inventions and new technologies last year.

The power system attracts interest of many units as it can be adopted for areas far away from power plants or near coal mines.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

FOODSTUFF**Seafood processing updated**

A variety of seafood is processed at the Rason Sahyangsan Fishery Products Processing Company.

The Rason Sahyangsan Fishery Products Processing Company is located in the northeastern part of the country.

Fully equipped with modern fishing facilities such as high-powered fishing boats and crabbers, the company catches lots of fish and seafood including red *Chinoecetes opilio*, squid, shellfish and lockington.

"We process sea products immediately to ensure the quality of products," said director Kim Jong Ho.

The company has several general processing shops which deal with drying, casting off the shell, washing, steaming and freezing with an annual processing capacity of several thousand tons.

Red *Chinoecetes opilio*, for example, can be steamed as a whole or processed by cutting

different parts of the body, to make over a dozen kinds of products. Products are frozen or vacuum-packed according to demand.

Squids are also processed into dry, sashimi and seasoned ones.

The company has a cold-storage capacity of thousands of tons.

It ensures over 98 percent actual yield by examining the products carefully with the help of metal detector, infrared detector, bactericidal lamp and inspection lamp.

It overfulfils its national economic plan every year.

The company undertakes a project to replenish the production processes and increase production.

It also processes local farm products and foodstuffs.

By Yang Ryon Hui PT

GREENING

Greening campaign gains momentum

Marked achievements have been made in recent years in the nationwide campaign to restore and protect forests across the country.

Nearly 20 percent more trees were planted than planned throughout the nation till the end of last year.

Jagang Province increased tree seedling production 1.6 times in city and county parent tree nurseries and carried out the tree planting plan over 110 percent. Yonthan County of North Hwanghae Province alone saw the planting of nearly 300 000 trees including chestnut, pine nut, Changsong larch and toothache trees, and Kangwon Province overfulfilled the tree planting plan by 17 percent. Pyongyang, South and North Phyongan and other provinces, cities and counties took primary measures and applied agroforestry to cover large areas of bare land with green.

More than 180 parent tree nurseries have newly been built or renovated across the country, providing a guarantee for pressing on with afforestation on a long-term basis. Tree saplings that suit the specific conditions of each area are mass-produced, and rational manuring methods

are widely applied.

Tangible achievements have been made in forestry science research to increase and protect forests. Various nutrition reinforcing agents and activators have been developed to ensure over 90 percent of the average rooting rate and a variety of techniques introduced to effectively protect and manage forests and maintain their ecosystem, including blight extermination methods by trichogramme evanescens and nematode. Last year some nurseries in the northern areas grew seedlings sown in spring up to 40-60 cm with the help of a newly developed nutrient and planted them in autumn, and their rooting rate proved to be higher than other seedlings.

Nationwide forest fire and blight control systems have

been established to put forest protection on a more scientific and modern basis. More than 110 automatic measuring and monitoring facilities are in place in over 60 areas, making it possible to conduct forest fire and blight control real-time. At the same time over 530 catchment areas are operational and new-type water sprinklers have been introduced. Mixed forests have been created on large areas in recent years to



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Working people plant trees on Moran Hill to mark Tree Planting Day.

PRODUCTION

Factory produces fermented foodstuffs with soybean

Fermented soybean, or natto, is a world-renowned health food for its unusual anti-oxidation effect.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
A variety of fermented soybean products roll off the production line.

A soybean foodstuff, it is a fermented food which is made by growing bacillus subtilis natto in steamed or boiled soybean.

With high levels of digestibility and absorptivity and very strong activity of thrombus solving enzyme and antioxidization activity, it is especially effective in the prevention and treatment of cerebral thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, diabetes, osteoporosis and other diseases. It also protects liver, prevents ageing and relieves fatigue.

Such health food is mass-

produced at the Ryugyong Fermented Soybean Factory in Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

Sprawling in an area of more than 16 000 square metres, it produces a large amount of fermented soybean every day in an industrial manner.

Soybeans pass through the processes of selecting, grading, washing, swelling and high-pressure steaming, before mixing with bacillus subtilis natto. They are again fermented and aged before being packaged. All the production lines are automated.

Hygienic safety is fully ensured at the factory whose production lines are germ- and dust-free and controlled by an integrated manufacturing system.

"Glutinous substances and taste that appear in fermented soybean are generated by bacillus subtilis natto, and those with much glutinous substance are graded as quality products. The factory cultivates a good strain of bacillus subtilis natto, and the products taste good," said a technician.

overcome monotonousness of forests, which is very effective in reducing blight damage and preventing forest fire.

Projects are now going on to turn all forests into the ones that meet economic purposes, solve seed problem and further consolidate the material and technical foundations.

"We are proud of our efforts to hand down a more beautiful country and better places to live to next generations. We are sure that all the mountains will turn into 'gold and treasure mountains' in the near future," said an official of the General Forestry Bureau of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

in brief

Sci-tech festivals

There was the 33rd scientific and technological festival at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Divided into nine panels including machine-building industry, information technology, metal mining, energy and basic sciences, the festival was held in the form of presentation and exhibition. On display were more than 200 pieces of research hits and high-tech products.

Meanwhile, the 33rd sci-tech festival was also held at Pyongyang University of Architecture.

Stamp showroom renovated

The Kaesong Korean stamp exhibition hall was splendidly rebuilt.

The hall goes well with the Koryo Museum at the foot of picturesque Mt Songak in Kaesong and has a stamp depository and stamp and postcard diffusing and exhibition rooms.

On display are thousands of stamps and postcards, classified into period and kind, including the stamp depicting the immortal flower of Kimjongilia.

Old temple renovated

The Kwanum Temple which was built in the period of the Koryo Kingdom has undergone renovation.

The historical relic is located near Pagyon Falls at the foot of Mt Chonma in Pagyon-ri, Kaesong.

First built in 970, it was rebuilt in 1646.

During the reconstruction project, rotted wooden parts and elements and corroded roof tiles of the Taeung Hall and another building were replaced and repainted.

The renovation was carried out according to the agreement on cooperation in the repair of historical relics in Kaesong which was concluded between the DPRK National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the German embassy in Pyongyang in April 2017.

DPRK-Russia cooperation

The Unjung Branch of the DPRK Academy of Sciences and the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences signed a protocol on 2018-2020 scientific cooperation in Pyongyang on February 28.

The protocol was signed by Vice-President To Jong Chol of the DPRK academy and academician Valentine Sergiyenko, vice-president of the Russian academy and chief of its Far Eastern Branch.

By Yang Ryon Hui PT

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

MEDICAL SERVICE

Hospital works to improve medical service

Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 1 strives to improve the quality of service to patients.

To this end, it actively introduces advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment.

The researchers of the clinical lab recently succeeded in rejoining the left forearm of a patient completely cut by accident by dint of microplasty which is known as the cutting edge in the microsurgery sector.

Before operation, the radial and ulnar bones were fractured while radial and ulnar arteries and veins, median nerves, tendons and muscles and skin connecting pieces were all cut.

Lab chief Ri Man Guk

and other medical workers conducted an operation to rejoin the arm while taking a series of steps to arrest bleeding, raise blood pressure and administer oxygen so as to resuscitate the patient.

Though they had no prior experience, they successfully carried out arteriovenous anastomosis, osteosynthesis, nerve suture and tendon and muscle suture to restore his arm.

Surgeons of the extremital orthopedic department also successfully operated on a patient with the incompletely cut right ankle and completely cut dorsal artery of the right foot, deep lateral bone nerves and extensor cord, enabling the case to stride around in a

month.

Dentists researched a new method of making denture and introduced it into clinical practice, thereby providing patients with good quality dental prostheses by making them at less cost.

They also use transplants they developed to suit the constitution and characteristics of the Korean people.

The hospital is increasing the curative effects by developing new remedies combining Western and Koryo medicines.

Paediatric department No. 1 has halved the period of treatment of pleuritic cases, which otherwise lasted for 40-50 days, by applying antibiotics and acupoint stimulation therapy.

Under the well-organized first aid and telemedicine service systems the hospital arranges consultative meetings for serious and emergency cases at the request of lower institutions.

Meanwhile, it develops and applies Koryo medicines including a general anti-thrombosis injection and anti-cerebral thrombosis injection made of sage plant.

By Han Ryo Gyong PT



Health workers at Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 1 discuss how to apply better treatment methods.

RESEARCH

New liquid fertilizer proves to be effective

Researchers at the Life Sciences Department of Kim Il Sung University have developed a high-concentration phosphorus and potassium compound nutritive liquid.

The compound nutritive liquid, also known as Puhung 1, is regarded as innovative as it has proved to be very helpful in agricultural production for its high photosynthesis accelerating effect.

As a result of years-long research, section chief Om Ki Su and other researchers developed a liquid fertilizer which is most effective in agricultural production at home.

Puhung 1 contains not only a high concentration of phosphorus and potassium, but also a proper amount of other essential macro- and micro-elements and photosynthesis promoting materials.

The liquid fertilizer helps

raise the photosynthesis rate and enhance physiological functions of rice, maize and other grain crops and vegetables.

In particular, it promotes the growth of crops and raises crop yield as it contains a stimulant to promote photosynthesis and increase resistance to adverse conditions like drought, high salinity and high or low temperatures.

It is also very effective in rainy season as photosynthesis capacity of crops is markedly improved during the wet season.

Trial introductions have confirmed 10 to 25 percent growth in rice and maize yield, over 30 percent rise in bean yield and over 50 percent more vegetable harvest.

Puhung 1 will stimulate the country's efforts to promote scientific farming.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

R&D

Institute develops apps for sporting activities

Science and technology are an important factor in ensuring successful sports games.

The scientific assessment of the physical conditions of players and appropriate medical intervention can partly decide the results.

Researchers of the Sports Medicine Institute have made great efforts to provide material and technical means and conditions for developing the country's sports, promoting the health of sportspeople and upgrading their training.

A typical hit is the muscular fatigue evaluation program based on vacuum inhalation and the fatigue measuring method. The program helps rapidly and correctly judge players' exhaustion on the basis of analysis of interrelationship between muscular fatigue and haemoglobin, said Pang Hyo Suk, chief of the biochemical

PERFORMANCE

Teenage boy wins accolade in Moscow

Choe Jang Hung, a student at Pyongyang Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music, stole the show in a concert held in Russia on February 18.

The concert drew special attention of personalities and artistes of Russia and other countries. Choe performed with the Russian national chamber orchestra conducted by world-famous maestro and violinist Vladimir Spivakov.

Choe made his mark after winning the first place in the 20th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth and the top prize in the 2nd Moscow Krainev International Piano Contest.

In the recent performance he showed off his talent cultivated under the advantageous socialist educational system. He flawlessly rendered world-famous tunes that require high levels of skill with his virtuosity and rich musical feeling to receive unstinting praise from the audience.

When the concert was over, the audience congratulated him with a thunder of applause and bouquets.

"I feel grateful to the DPRK for training such a music prodigy as Choe Jang Hung," said Spivakov, director and senior conductor of the orchestra.

"If not for the state support, regular music education system and excellent teachers, he wouldn't have grown to be such a brilliant pianist. His



Choe Jang Hung after winning the top prize in the 2nd Moscow Krainev International Piano Contest last year.

performance will contribute to the development of cultural ties between the two countries."

Russian experts including concert organizers repeatedly invited Choe to take part in other events, saying that everyone was fascinated by his charming rendition, that his playing skill is wonderful enough to perfectly attune himself to the world-renowned band, and that they were so surprised at the high level of music education in the DPRK.

Moscow citizens also expressed their excitement, saying that they hope the piano prodigy who rocked the music world once again would maintain his reputation and that they saw the bright future of the Korean art.

By Pang Un Ju PT

and their nutritive conditions and bodily development on the spot, said laboratory chief Kim Song Hui. The program is especially helpful to coaching as it makes a benchmark analysis by relying on database, she added.

These two programs came first at the 21st national sports sci-tech achievements exhibition last year.

The institute has also developed various health drinks for sportspeople.

The Saengmaek fatigue-relieving tea, which was developed on the unique principle of Koryo medicine, is very efficient in easing fatigue from intensive training.

The tea is especially good for players of demanding games including marathoners, boxers, wrestlers and weightlifters.

By Jong Tang Song PT

LEISURE

Health complex attracts more people

Ryugyong Health Complex stands imposingly on the banks of the Taedong River in Pyongyang boasting its unique architectural style of imitating the current of the river.

A comprehensive public service centre, it is haunted by citizens even in winter.

It is already five years since its inauguration, but still it attracts more than 7 000 people, men and women, old and young, a day on average.

They make their way to the complex after work as well as on holidays and Sundays.

"On my way back home after work I often drop in at the

complex to have a far infrared sauna and a jug of beer. And then I feel fully relieved and refreshed. It has become a daily routine, so I feel something missing on its rest day," says Jong Il Jin, worker of the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory, with a smile on his face.

The barber's shop and beauty parlour also attract many customers.

If there is a long queue, they feel sorry for the barbers and hairdressers, but say jokingly they have to have their hair cut or done here.

And whenever they express thanks for their kind service, the

latter feel proud of their job.

The table-tennis hall is so hot with fierce games and enthusiastic cheers that even spectators are soaking wet with sweat. The "open-class games" drawing all irrespective of age and sex as well as occupation remind viewers of a championship.

At the same time there is a "hunting game" of children at the amusement room. Though they use electronic guns, whenever the hunted animals are on display, they shout for joy feeling as if they are really marksmen.

In stark contrast to those lively ones, the fitness hall is relatively quiet only with the sounds of breathing of those who are doing physical and treatment exercises and rhythmic sounds of movement of equipment.

After having a good time in those amenities, visitors routinely gather at the brightly-lit entrance hall with a luxurious chandelier hanging above.

Maybe everyone wants to see each other who get refreshed and livelier in a few hours.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



The old and young take exercise at the fitness hall of the Ryugyong Health Complex.

R&D

Health foods made with black rice species

The rice institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science has bred new species of black rice and developed functional foods with them.

Coloured rice species are widely cultivated around the world and they number hundreds.

Unlike white rice, coloured species—black, red, purple and yellow—play a strong pharmacologically and physiologically active function in human body due to anthocyanin, a natural pigment that makes rice bran have different colours. Therefore, such species are recognized as functional ones, and they are used to make health foods.

After years of study, researchers succeeded in breeding high-yielding and quality black rice and black glutinous rice and registered them as national species.

These black rice species contain such minerals as iron, calcium and potassium, vitamins, protein and amino acid two to ten times as much as

white rice and, especially, they are highly effective in nutrition and pharmacology for their content of anthocyanin.

With these species as raw materials, the institute developed germinated black uncleaved rice, nutritious powder of black glutinous rice, black rice tea and makkoli, black glutinous rice-cake and other functional foods.

Germinated black uncleaved rice is most favoured by people suffering from hypertension, diabetes and obesity.

The products use black rice with outer layer intact as it contains much nutritive elements.

They help promote blood circulation, retard aging, prevent white hair, improve eyesight and kidney and liver functions, check the damage from radiation, enhance antibiotic action, remove poisoning from heavy metals, chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals, and cure and prevent cancer including gastric and lung cancers. They

have good effect on healing wounds and hardening bones. They also prove effective in nourishing pregnant women and nursing mothers, weak and old people, and anemic patients as well as building up and accelerating the growth of children.

In the previous white rice processing method, ten percent

MEDICINE

Effective medicines developed

The Jinyong Trading Company has unveiled lesimarin capsules which have a good effect on protecting liver and curing liver troubles. The pill is made by combining silymarin which is good for stabilizing detoxifying function and liver cell membrane with lecithin, which is effective for the treatment of fatty liver, and *Artemisia messerschmidiana* with good bile discharging function.

A medicinal experiment shows that the pill is more efficacious in terms of absorption rate and treatment than when silymarin, lecithin and *Artemisia messerschmidiana* are dosed separately. According to clinical results, after taking the pill for a little over a month patients suffering from fatty liver, chronic hepatitis and medicinal and alcoholic hepatitis found their subjective symptoms got 81.8 percent better and their serum cholesterol contents improved 82 percent. A woman who suffered for years from a complication caused by obese and medicinal fatty liver said that she got better in digestion and began to lose her body weight a month later.

The Hyangryon Technological Exchange Centre has succeeded in making creatine with locally-available raw materials.

Creatine is a natural amino acid in the muscle of human body or muscular tissue of beef and salmon. After being absorbed into human body, it is stored in muscles and heart before dissolving rapidly when it is needed to put forth instantaneous strength. It also regenerates ATP. That is why the habitual intake of creatine helps sportspeople exert their explosive strength and maintain perseverance. But creatine is quite different from drugs. It is regarded as an essential nutrient in the 21st century even the International Olympic Committee does not see as drug.

The centre resolved the refining issue, core technology for creatine making, and conducted sufficient clinical tests in collaboration with prestigious health institutions. When researchers administered the medicine to an 18-year-old athlete and raised the intensity of training, they found he gained more than two kilograms of muscle in a week and his muscles became more solid and developed. It was also verified that creatine is better than existing physical strength reinforcing agents in improving the constitutional conditions and physical fitness and it proved effective in matches.

The Yanghung Trading Company has developed a marine sugar solution with notable efficacy in the treatment of diabetes. It is made by separating and refining sugar solution of trepang and sea urchin with good anti-cancer, antibiotic and anti-thrombus effects. A woman who could not walk out for over ten years because of diabetes and complications could recover and stroll herself after she had the sugar solution, with her blood sugar returning almost to normal.

The solution promotes eyesight, helps digestion and removes pimples often seen among youth and schoolchildren. In particular, this health food had remarkable effect on the treatment of liver ascites, remedying abiotrophy and reducing the amount of albumin used.

A nationally patented product, it was appreciated at the 13th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair.



Natural functional foods developed by the Rice Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

COMMENT

Right assessment

On February 12, when he met with the members of a high-level delegation of the DPRK who visited south Korea to attend the opening ceremony of the 23rd Winter Olympics, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said it is important to take advantage of the recent Olympics and continue to pile up fine results by further building up the atmosphere favourable to reconciliation and dialogue. And he specified the future direction of the improvement of the inter-Korean relationship and ordered a relevant sector to take working measures in this regard.

World media gave wide coverage to the news, saying "when the US and other states hostile to north Korea clamoured for maximum pressure and sanctions, the DPRK leader stressed the need to build up the

atmosphere for reconciliation and dialogue".

This shows the world community is welcoming his approach towards peace and reunification.

The Supreme Leader in his New Year Address offered a broadminded and compatriotic initiative for improving inter-Korean relations.

The initiative reflects his patriotic will to improve relations by concerted efforts and make a breakthrough for independent reunification.

Its validity and vitality are being fully demonstrated with the lapse of time. The dramatic rapprochement between the north and south of Korea, an outcome of the proactive effort of the DPRK, is widely being hailed by the international community.

To the contrary, however, the

US is working to put a brake on the move.

US vice-president Pence assumed indifferent and imperious approach towards the joint entry of Korean athletes during the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics by remaining seated alone, to be the butt of criticism and contempt of the international community. Through this, the US revealed that it does not want improved north-south relations.

A peace-loving state that contributes greatly to safeguarding peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and beyond by dint of its nuclear deterrent, the DPRK will continue to strive to improve inter-Korean relations and achieve reunification despite the US' persistent interference.

Kim Un Jin

JAPAN

Responsibility for sexual slavery can never be evaded

Japan's sexual slavery dates back to August 1918 when it dispatched its troops to Siberia.

More than 73 000 Japanese troops, who were sent to Siberia with an eye to military intervention in Soviet Russia, raped local women everywhere they went. As a result, over 12 000 soldiers equivalent to a division, contracted venereal diseases and the death toll of the diseases far exceeded combat fatalities. Therefore, the Japanese military enforced sexual slavery to "prevent the spread of venereal diseases and maintain the army's war fever and combat efficiency".

By setting itself the goal of assigning one sex slave to every 29 soldiers, the government enlisted the ministries of foreign and home affairs, Korean government-general and all other power organs in the enforcement of the sexual slavery, and got the military to oversee the system.

Yoshida Seiji who was involved in the system said at a press conference in February 1992: "To put it bluntly, comfort women were not recruited but forcibly taken away. Not a single person voluntarily acceded to the recruitment."

The sex slavery was part of Japan's policy of obliterating the Korean nation.

Japan wielded various draconian laws such as the 1938 "national mobilization law" and the 1944 "women's volunteer corps service act" to mobilize administrative and police organs under the

Korean government-general, including provincial, county and sub-county offices and police substations, and even the military police and army, thereby reducing as many as 200 000 Korean women to sex slaves.

Japan did not hesitate to bury its unheard-of unethical crime into oblivion.

Just before and after its defeat in the Second World War, the Japanese altered the identities of sex slaves as "medics" in register and burnt off all official records and relevant documents on the directives of the military and vice-minister of home affairs. Under the sponsorship of the state, they even killed the women in cold blood, insisting that the "line of the enemy nation should be broken".

After WWII the International Military Tribunal for the Far East branded the sex slavery as a war crime committed by the Japanese military, and in 1948 the military court in The Hague, the Netherlands, gave guilty verdicts to 12 Japanese officers who were involved in the crime, sentencing some of them to death.

Facts clearly prove that the sex slavery was a heinous unethical state-sponsored crime the Japanese militaristic rulers perpetrated to gratify the carnal lust of soldiers and enhance their morale, and the outcome of Japan's colonial rule over Korea, its policy of exterminating the Korean nation.

Japan obstinately denies its legal and moral responsibility

for the crime.

Evidence of the crime it had covered up for nearly half a century since its defeat began to be revealed by lots of historical materials and testimonies of victims in the 1980s. Kono, the then chief Cabinet secretary, published a statement in August 1993 which said to the effect that Japan apologizes as "comfort women" were drafted also in a forcible manner and officials were also involved in the drafting, although the recruitment was conducted mainly by civilian dealers at the request of the military.

At present, however, Japan denies that "apology" and totally negates the nefarious atrocity, claiming that "every country that fought a war had comfort women" and "it was a voluntary service by prostitutes for money".

Japan obstinately tries to evade state responsibility for the past crimes, motivated by the wicked intention to inculcate not only rising generations but all the citizens with revanchism and militarism and repeat the history of aggression and crime.

A Japanese newspaper on January 14 reported a national survey result that 83 percent of the Japanese citizens supported Abe's remark that he would not make the slightest concession over the sex slavery deal which was struck with the Park Geun Hye regime of south Korea behind the scene.

The report is doubtful, but if it is true, it means that the Japanese are badly immoral as

COMMENT

Foolish rhetoric

US intelligence authorities like National Intelligence Director Dan Coats and CIA chief Pompeo told a congressional hearing and other official events that north Korea's ultimate goal is to realize reunification through communication by giving priority to nuclear weapons.

National security adviser McMaster also said north Korea's nuclear weapons are geared to intimidation in a bid to unify the Korean peninsula under the red flag.

Harris, commander of the US Pacific Command who has been reportedly nominated as the US ambassador to Australia, claimed at the US House's Armed Services Committee that north Korea aims at reunifying the Korean peninsula under the communist system and that any dialogue with north Korea

should focus on removing nuclear weapons from the peninsula.

The point is what makes the US which has painted the DPRK's nuclear weapons as "global threat" come out this time with an argument of "reunification through communication".

Now there is a growing understanding among the international community that the DPRK's possession of nukes was prompted by the US' nuclear threat and hostile policy. Notably, the north and south of Korea have orchestrated a dramatic rapprochement this year.

Such a situation makes the US feel uneasy.

By asserting the DPRK's nukes are designed to reunify the peninsula through communication, the US intends to justify its military buildup in and around the peninsula under the pretext of protecting its ally and to incite south Koreans to develop antagonism towards the DPRK to the detriment of the current inter-Korean détente.

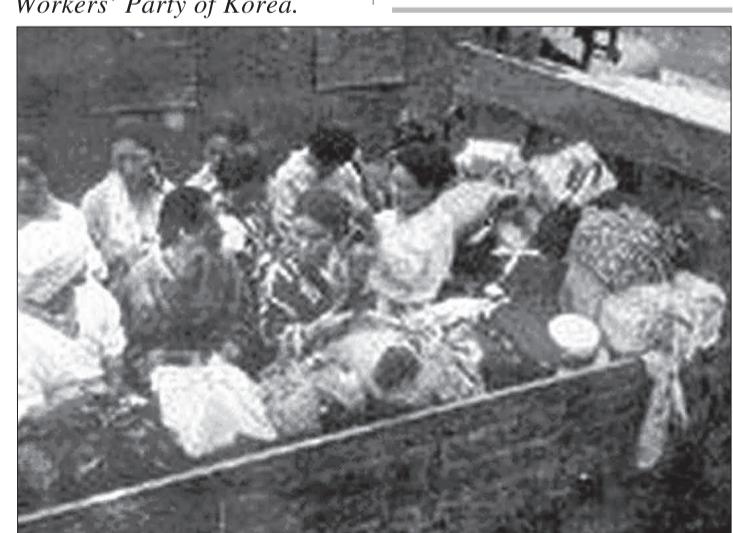
Originally, "reunification through communication" has been hyped by south Korea's conservatives. US echoing of this argument eloquently shows it is really in a tight spot.

As recognized by the international community, the nuclear forces of the DPRK are aimed at thwarting the US' nuclear threat but not targeting the fellow countrymen.

The US is arguing north Korea's nukes serve a purpose of "reunification through communication", but many in south Korea are calling them "strategic asset common to the nation that guarantees peace and security of the Korean peninsula".

Instead of such foolish rhetoric, the US is well advised to choose to roll back its anti-DPRK policy before it plunges its future into deeper uncertainty.

By Han Jong Chol PT



A great number of Korean women were taken away to the battlefields as "comfort women" for the Japanese troops.

SPORTS

Paektusan Prize Games come to a close

The Paektusan Prize Games, which opened on February 1 as part of celebrations of the Day of the Shining Star, came to a close on February 27.

Five-a-side

The junior-level five-a-side (futsal) tournament took place at the Sariwon Youth Stadium, which drew 13 men's teams under 18 such as Amnokgang,

Sonbong and Hwaepul and 12 women's teams under 20 including Kalmaegi, Wolmido, Amnokgang and April 25.

After playing group league matches, each team held elimination matches in the next rounds to decide the rankings.

Ryomyong and Ponghwasan played games well by giving full play to characteristic features of indoor soccer such as short through-balls, nimble dribbling



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Women's volleyball match between April 25 and Kigwancha teams.

and correct and powerful shots based on two- to three-person combination and tactics. They won the men's and women's games, with Amnokgang and Kalmaegi finishing runners-up and Sonbong and April 25 coming third respectively.

Basketball

The first-division basketball competition took place on a round-robin basis between seven men's and six women's teams respectively.

The men's and women's final matches were held between April 25 and Amnokgang, and between April 25 and Sobaeksu on February 13.

The men and women players of April 25 won gold medals again by defeating all the opponents.

April 25 also came first in both the men's and women's first-division volleyball competition and Ryongnamsan and Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce in the men's and women's first-division handball tournament respectively.

Taesongsan won the male and female ice hockey events which were held in the sports village of the Mt Paektu area, and Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and Taesongsan topped the team rankings of the male and female speed skating respectively.

By Jong Tang Song PT

activities for raising public awareness of the importance of protection of wildlife.

In the DPRK laws on the protection of useful animals and nature reserve and other acts are in force, providing legal guarantees to the protection of animal resources.

And there are lots of wildlife reserves across the country including a white-bellied black woodpecker sanctuary,

Mundok migratory bird sanctuary and Taehung animal reserve, and protection of wildlife is carried on as a mass campaign.

The period from March to July is set as a period of protecting useful animals and April and July as months for

HISTORY

Sunspot observation in Korea's ancient state

Astronomy made incredible progress during the period of the Koguryo kingdom which had existed between 277 BC and AD 668.

The first feudal state in Korea had a government body that specialized in astronomical observation and there was an observatory in its capital of Pyongyang.

Remarkable achievements were made in astronomical research under state concern.

Among them is the detection of sunspot.

A three-day-long observation of sunspot in September 640 is recorded in Samguksagi (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) compiled in 1145. The record that "the sun dimmed and then became bright again after three days" indicates the observation of sunspot in the maximum period of solar activity.

It is of great significance in the world history of astronomical development.

The first sunspot observation in Korean history, it makes up for the time gap between April 579 and May 826 in the ever-known sunspot observations.

Such observation was recorded for the first time in 640 in Koguryo, but it suggests that the country might have studied sunspot a long time before.

The Koguryo people had long believed that they were the descendants of heaven and worshipped it and the sun.

Such belief is reflected in Koguryo tomb murals and sun-shaped gilt-bronze openwork.

A picture of Samjogo, or three-footed crow, in the sun holds a large proportion of the tomb murals.

In the middle of the sun-shaped openwork, there is a circle with gem patterns as well as the crow spreading out its wings. On top and both sides of it are phoenix and dragon designs surrounded by the patterns of blazing flames.

Samjogo portrayed in the relic is also closely associated with the sun. It is not a simple representation of a mystical bird, but symbolizes the sun and heaven and is associated with sunspot.

It is not accident that the black crow was portrayed as the sun. This can be claimed to be the reflection of the discovery of sunspot and shows that the Koguryo people had long observed the phenomenon.

The Koguryo people also systematically observed other celestial bodies including the moon, comets, meteors and planets.

On the basis of detailed astronomical observations, they went beyond the discovery and recording of astronomical phenomena to making the astronomical chart carved on stone and developing astronomy by scientific and technological means.

Kim Ji Hyang, researcher at the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea



White cranes idle away in the fields.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife protection a great challenge

Today lots of wildlife species are on the verge of extinction due to global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation, illegal hunting and disorganized and unlawful marketing and trade transactions.

The Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature announced in 2015 that 903 species of wild animals became extinct worldwide and endangered wild species amount to more than 23 250.

Over a million wild animals have been traded illegally worldwide over the past decade, and such trading has become an unlawful means of moneymaking, earnings from which reportedly amount to

nearly US\$10 billion annually.

Due to the rise in demand for wildlife, illegal hunting, marketing and trade persist to increase the number of extinct or near extinct animals, posing a serious challenge to global environment.

The extinction of wild species is not confined to the decline in biological resources. It leads to the destruction of ecology and imbalance in overall ecosystem and consequently threatens the existence of mankind.

The United Nations adopted the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on March 3 1973 and designated the day as World Wildlife Day in December 2013 to arrange a variety of