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MEETINGS

Nation explores ways to carry out WPK CC plenum tasks

Enlarged sessions of the plenary meetings of provincial (cities under the direct control of the government) committees of the Workers' Party of Korea took place on Jan 13-14 to discuss ways to thoroughly carry out the tasks set forth at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, first vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, guided the enlarged session of the Plenary Meeting of the WPK North Hwanghae Provincial Committee.

Similar meetings of provincial (cities under the direct control of the government) Party committees were directed by Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and member of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, Ri Man Gon, Ri Il Hwan, Choe Hwi, Ri Pyong Chol, Kim Tok Hun, Pak Thae Dok and Pak Thae Song, vice-chairmen of the WPK Central Committee, and other officials of the WPK Central Committee.

The meetings were attended by members and alternate members of the provincial (cities under the direct control of the

government) Party committees and provincial, city and county Party and administrative officials.

Reports were delivered at the meetings.

The speakers, in the reports, carefully analysed and reviewed the failure to enhance the militant function and role of Party organizations in the campaign to implement the Party's ideas and defend its policies.

They pointed to the fact that though provincial economies were in stagnation, Party committees remained unchanged in their method of work and worked without correct strategies and calculation for economic development.

They set tasks to be tackled in this year of the 75th anniversary of the WPK.

They emphasized the need to satisfy the demand for economic growth and the people's life in provinces by readjusting economic foundations and fully exploiting production potentials.

It is important to find out and put to rights every factor that puts brake on production and construction and decreases working efficiency, make and set out binding plans which are based on scientific figures and sure to be implemented and strictly review the execution of the plans, they said.

They said proper methods

should be studied and adopted to improve commercial service so that it will both serve national interests and provide convenience to people and economic and business management methods that suit the practical conditions be applied to activate production at factories and enterprises and make the socialist enterprise responsibility and management system prove its effect.

Major industrial sectors should take the lead in the offensive to smash straight through all the barriers in the way of advance and bring about a practical upturn in production, they said.

They pointed out that much more famous products and commodities favoured by the people should be manufactured by taking decisive measures to put production on normal footing, the construction of cement factories be completed as early as possible to supply enough cement needed for the major construction projects by themselves and various quality building materials be produced to meet their needs by positively exploiting underground resources in the provinces.

All provinces should concentrate every effort on the agricultural front, they noted.

They discussed measures to drastically improve science, education and public health,

vigorously conduct the increased production and economization drive and the campaign to improve quality of products, protect ecological environment and completely prevent natural calamities.

A high-intensity campaign should be conducted to establish an atmosphere of law observance over the whole society and sweep away anti-socialist and non-socialist practices, they said.

Party organizations should work hard to enhance their militant function and role, they noted.

The speakers said an ideological campaign should be launched in an offensive manner to carry out the important tasks specified at the December Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee.

Though the tasks facing them



A meeting is held to vow to carry out the tasks set forth at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

ECONOMY

Early January targets met across economic sectors



Rotary kilns are working at full capacity at the Sangwon Cement Complex in North Hwanghae Province.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex fulfilled its economic plan at 120 percent, while the February 8 Vinalon Complex overfulfilled Juche vinalon and carbide production assignments by 68 and 6 percent respectively.

The Chongchonggang and East Pyongyang thermal power stations exceeded their power generation targets by 24 and 5.8 percent respectively, and the Paektusan Hero Youth, Suphung, Hochonggang, Sodusu, Huichon and other hydropower stations carried out their plans at 116 percent.

The Sunchon Area Youth

Coal-mining Complex overfulfilled the first ten-day plan by five percent.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex registered good results in producing processed and assembled products, while the Taean Heavy Machine Complex worked hard to supply machinery to the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory and power stations in time.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 hit the electric cable production target for January as of Jan 10.

The Hyesan Youth Mine carried out its plan 1.5 times every day, and Unpha and Sijung mines at 130 and 103 percent respectively.

The railway transport sector carried out its plan for freight transport at 101.5 percent.

The light industry sector is also trying hard to increase

production.

After setting a 150-percent record in production on the first day of the New Year, the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill produced 1.8 times more silk threads than planned.

The Kangso, Phalwon, Pakchon and Anju silk mills and Aeguk, Sinuiju and other knitwear factories fulfilled their plans.

The Pyongyang Changgwang, Mangyongdae, Moran and other garment factories in Pyongyang implemented their scheduled production targets at over 130 percent.

Amid a dynamic collective emulation drive in the agricultural sector, Mangyongdae and Hyongjesan districts in Pyongyang applied more than 1 000 tons of manure every day in the farmlands.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

EDITORIAL

DPRK determined to smash straight through sanctions

When Christmas was being celebrated in the United States, the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held in the DPRK.

The word "US" was mentioned dozens of times in the report of the plenum.

Needless to say, the DPRK blamed the US for its despicable behaviour.

The DPRK had made a bold and prudent decision to do a volte-face in relations with the US with the Singapore DPRK-US summit in June 2018 as a momentum and, as promised, took valiant measures consecutively.

It discontinued nuclear tests and ICBM test fire and scrapped the nuclear testing ground, bringing the US the great "benefit" of interrupting "north Korea's nuclear and missile timetables" which the current US President takes every opportunity to boast about as his administrative achievement.

However, what did the DPRK get from the US in return? The latter militarily provoked the

former as it staged dozens of joint military drills which it had promised to discontinue and shipped latest war equipment into south Korea and adopted over a dozen independent sanctions measures.

The Koreans realized once again that if there were not the nuclear issue, the US would find fault with the other thing the DPRK does and ceaselessly pose military and political threats.

The path they chose is to mount an offensive for making a frontal breakthrough, instead of waiting for the situation and conditions to turn better. In other words, they would never dream that the US and other hostile forces would leave them to live in peace, but smash straight through the subjective and objective obstacles lying in the way of advance of socialist construction by their own efforts.

The other aim of the DPRK's offensive for frontal breakthrough is to make the US definitely pay for the pains sustained by the Koreans and

for the development so far restrained.

Then, is the DPRK capable of smashing straight through the unprecedentedly severe sanctions?

The answer may be found by tracing history, but the DPRK's successes made last year amply illustrate the point. In 2019, the country developed state-of-the-art weapon systems possessed only by some advanced nations, completed large-scale construction projects simultaneously and showed a trend of remarkable economic growth.

It has the solid foundations of the independent national economy laid for over the past 70-odd years and the people united ideologically and spiritually around the WPK.

The DPRK is determined to dynamically speed up a powerful socialist country building by strengthening in every way its own force, the internal motive force, and it will surely attain spectacular successes in the course of implementing the resolution.

Open-air theatre remodelled

The Pyongyang Youth Park Open-Air Theatre at the foot of Moran Hill has been remodelled. The 10 000-seat theatre is provided with up-to-date educational conditions including rooms for hobby group activities and sound and lighting facilities.

An inauguration ceremony took place on Thursday.

Blasting expected to help increase cement output

A 300 000-cubic-metre blasting was carried out on Jan 13 at the Sunchon Limestone Mine in Sunchon, South Phyongan Province.

With the successful blasting, it became possible to mine and transport the main ingredient of cement in large quantities.

Spring water factory inaugurated in South Phyongan

A ceremony was held on Jan 13 to inaugurate the Nampho Spring Water Factory at the foot of Mt Osok in Ryonggang County, South Phyongan Province.

Consisting of production and office buildings and welfare service amenities, the factory is furnished with a production line involving equipment for making plastic bottles, filtering and injecting spring water and packaging the products.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Nationwide

Supreme Leader sends birthday spreads

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Son Song Mo, patriotic fighter for reunification, on his 90th birthday on Wednesday.

After spending 19 years in prison in south Korea, he returned to the DPRK in September 2000 in the wake of the adoption of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

The Supreme Leader also sent birthday spreads to women centenarians, Yang Tok Son and Han Sun Ok, on their 100th birthdays.

Yang Tok Son lives in Kisan-ri, Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, and Han Sun Ok in Songyun-ri, Jasong County, Jagang Province.

They did farm work all their lives and are now helping housework in good health.

Home-made double-decker runs in Pyongyang



She is fulfilling her daily task at 350 percent with ten looms in her charge and wishes to carry out five years' work load during this year without fail.

RESPONSE

Greater victory will be achieved

Political parties and organizations of different countries have issued statements one after another in support of the decisions of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The People's Progressive Party of Nigeria in a statement described the plenary meeting as a historic meeting which put forward an immortal programme for smashing straight through unprecedentedly severe difficulties, defending the DPRK's sovereignty and supreme interests and opening a broad road to victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche under the uplifted banner of self-prosperity.

The Ugandan National Executive Committee of the Pan-African Movement extended congratulations to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un on the successful holding of the plenary meeting.

It said the DPRK leader clarified in his report that it is his country's firm revolutionary faith that it would defend its dignity and defeat imperialism by achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance.

The Italian branch of the Korean Friendship Association said that the present international

situation demonstrates that each country should build up its defence capabilities in order to reliably safeguard its sovereignty and the safety of its people.

The Society for the Promotion of Relations between Austria and the DPRK also extended full support for the decisions of the WPK plenum.

It said that the meeting dealt a heavy blow to the US and its following forces, adding that the country would draw on a victory to achieve a greater one as it is led by Kim Jong Un.

The Pakistan-DPRK Friendship Association, the Pakistan Association for the Study of Self-Reliance, the Pakistan Committee for Support to the Reunification of Korea and the Central Committee of the Pakistan Worker-Peasant Party said in a joint statement that at present the fighting spirit to implement the decisions of the WPK plenary meeting is pervading the whole country.

The world's progressive peoples are praising the DPRK as a great country and a symbol of justice and peace, the statement said, adding that the Korean people will surely achieve a resounding victory.

KCNA

CELEBRATION

DPRK, China hold lunar New Year's Day celebration

A friendship meeting took place at the Taedonggang Diplomatic Club in Pyongyang on Tuesday to celebrate 2020 Lunar New Year's Day.

It was co-sponsored by the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the DPRK-China Friendship Association, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China and the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang.

The event was attended by Pak Kyong Il, vice-chairman

of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and chairman of the DPRK-China Friendship Association, officials of the association, officials concerned and Chinese ambassador Li Jinjun and his embassy staff.

The participants looked round photos showing the development of China and intangible cultural heritage elements created by the Chinese people.

KCNA



A friendship meeting takes place at the Taedonggang Diplomatic Club in Pyongyang on Tuesday to celebrate the 2020 Lunar New Year's Day.

FARM

Greenhouse farm epitomizes socialist rural community

The Jungphyong area in North Hamgyong Province has undergone a sweeping change.

The Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and farm village were built on the barren land last year as a fine example of construction of modern greenhouse farm and socialist rural community.

Extensive blocks of greenhouses

"With the cold setting in earlier and lasting longer, our North Hamgyong seemed quite unfit for vegetable farming for unfavourable climatic conditions," said Kim Thae Sik, manager of the greenhouse farm. "Just here in the province, the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm was built on a large scale to meet the dietary needs of the provincial population."

According to him, the farm has a total of 320 blocks of hydroponic and edaphic greenhouses, 300 of which are 1 000-square-metre semi-arched double-sheet greenhouses.

The semi-arched greenhouses covered with double vinyl sheets can produce hundreds of tons of vegetables per hectare even in winter. They are designed to sufficiently maintain indoor temperature without auxiliary heating equipment even in the coldest time of the year.

Nutrients are supplied to the roots of vegetables in substrates through a regular grid of tubes, and all the processes of management and cultivation are



A vegetable greenhouse farm and village built in Jungphyong, North Hamgyong Province, as models of socialist rural community.

automated in the greenhouses.

One-hectare greenhouses were also constructed in accordance with the geographical features of the northern area of the country and all their cultivation processes are fully automated like the 1 000-square-metre ones.

According to chief engineer Choe Hyon Gi, the farm has a vegetable technology lab and sci-tech learning space which are provided with all conditions for studying advanced technological data on greenhouse vegetables and applying them in line with specific conditions.

It also has an organic fertilizer production ground, seeding

workshop, vegetable packaging and wholesale shop and large-capacity vegetable storehouses. These facilities are equipped with locally produced modern machines including those for planting vegetable seedlings and making organic fertilizer.

A production cycle has been established in the farm with the construction of a pig farm which supplies manure needed at greenhouses, according to sub-workteam leader Mun Ryong Guk.

The farm is now planning to increase production by adopting advanced vegetable growing techniques, selecting and introducing various highly

productive and nutritive species, improving seeds and breeding good vegetables.

Rural village as nice as urban ones

"It is gratifying to work at the vegetable greenhouse farm and, what is more, our flats are on a par with those in big cities," said Ri Yun Gum, worker who recently moved into Jungphyong farm village.

Low-rise apartment blocks for hundreds of families, a school, kindergarten, nursery and hospital, and public service amenities stand in rows by the main road.

The residential area was built in a distinctive way quite different from other rural villages.

Every structure has a unique shape.

For example, over 50 blocks of low-rise apartment houses have over 20 shapes in four styles and the entrances and balconies are arranged in various ways.

And even the buildings in the same shape were finished with different window frames, tiles and coating materials.

The structures are distributed intensively yet in an engaging way.

In the past, rural houses, all in the same shape, were laid out in neat rows.

However, in Jungphyong village, the buildings are arranged densely and in various ways and the kindergarten and nursery are located at the centre of the village to provide all villagers with easy access.

Children's playgrounds with sporting apparatuses and resting places are scattered around the residential quarters centring on the main park area, completely changing the general idea about the appearance of rural villages.

Apartment houses and public buildings are surrounded by lawns with fruit trees and flowering bushes. And there are some mossy rocks adding unusual charm to the scenery.

Jungphyong farm village is indeed the archetype of efflorescing socialist rural community.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Modern tree nursery built in northern area

A large tree nursery has been built in the Jungphyong area of Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province.

Built in an area of dozens of hectares in a little over a year, the tree nursery has several blocks of plastic panel greenhouses, outdoor cultivation ground and cutting slips collection district, round cutting bed and testing ground for acclimatization, as well as a light substrate production and seed selection and sowing grounds and sapling storehouses equipped with home-made facilities.

The provincial tree nursery annually turns out more than 20 million saplings of good tree species in a scientific and industrial way, unaffected by seasonal factors.

Put on show at the sapling exhibition hall whose round

roof is entirely made of glass are over 90 species of plants that grow in the province and there are rooms for promoting scientific and technological exchange in the sector of nursing young trees and afforestation.

A green-oriented office building is equipped with a system that can measure temperatures and humidity of all greenhouses in real time and adjust water supply and temperature to meet the conditions of growth of tree saplings. There are also control rooms for monitoring and controlling a large area of the nursery with computer and conducting research for ensuring scientific production of saplings.

Saplings of good tree species that conform to the climatic and soil conditions of the area are

to be selected and cultivated in greenhouses.

All the processes in the plastic panel greenhouse are automated to provide the most ideal conditions and environment for the cultivation of saplings, especially temperature, humidity, sunshine, carbonic acid gas content, ventilation and irrigation. It has a sophisticated aerial flatcar fine-grained irrigation facility.

"Here, we can shorten the production period of saplings and increase per-hectare yield while putting sapling production on normal footing

under unfavourable weather conditions and preventing damage by blight," said researcher Choe Yong Sok.

A new DC high-voltage seed treating process was introduced into the seed selection and sowing ground.

Modern irrigation facilities and sunshade devices are installed at the round cutting bed, the outdoor cultivation ground for acclimatizing the saplings grown in greenhouses and the districts of growing saplings in containers, and all the production processes are automated or put on assembly



The outdoor cultivation ground (left) and sapling exhibition hall of the North Hamgyong provincial tree nursery.

By Kim Il Jin PT

line.

According to Choe, more than 100 000 trees of good species have now taken root in the whole area of the nursery.

"All the production lines have been made by our own efforts and technology. We will grow many saplings in keeping with the solid material and technical foundations built to ensure safe production of saplings, so as to make a tangible contribution to afforesting and landscaping the country," said Kim Yun Gil, manager of the tree nursery.

By Ri Kwang Song PICTORIAL KOREA

RENEWABLES

Farm addresses power needs by relying on renewables

Chicken Farm 927 steadily increases production by establishing a power generation system based on renewable energy sources and recycling.

"Electricity is an important problem for ensuring normal production in every unit. It is particularly vital in our farm as it deals with living organisms," said manager Cha Jin Sun.

According to him, the farm breeds hundreds of thousands of chickens and it consumes 1 000 cubic metres of water a day for their raising. It has breeding, fattening and egg-laying blocks, a hatching room and feed processing, meat processing and protein feed production grounds.

Electricity was the most important thing in ensuring water and normalizing production.

The farm set up a solar power station first to solve the problem of electric power.

Staffer Ri Kum Sok said that the farm installed solar panels in five places in its compound generating hundreds of kilowatts of electricity.

What is exceptional is that the farm established a complex power generation system to use little battery and ensure profitability.

It utilizes its building site effectively. Hundreds of solar panels are installed in such places at the roof and a sewage disposal plant is placed under them to treat waste water from methane gas production.

"A great deal of chicken excrement is yielded every day at our farm. In the past, it was completely used to produce

compost. However, it is now regarded as a treasure good for the production of electricity," said worker Kim Kwang Nam.

A large amount of methane gas is produced each day from the 1 000-odd-cubic metre-capacity methane gas fermentation tank and daily electricity production by an engine generator with methane gas amounts to hundreds of kilowatts.

Gas is continuously produced from the fermentation tank as a power-free water pipe is installed there to supplement enough heat source even in winter. The remains and waste water created after producing electricity are carried to farms via the sewage treatment plant so as to be used as quality manure.

It has a ground for power generation by rice chaff gasification.

Ri Kum Sok said that the farm has several affiliated farms for the supply of feed,

which turn out a large quantity of rice chaff annually, adding it now contributes to electricity generation.

According to him, the electricity production method based on rice chaff gasification is very effective as it is a continuous and wet type, and it is favoured by farms as the ash which is obtained after the production of electricity contains much silicon and potassic components.

Since the farm has such a triple power generation system based on renewables and recycling, it turns out thousands of tons of meat and a large number of eggs every year on a regular basis.

"The electricity we generate amounts to one third of the total electric power needed for normal production," said the manager. "We'll further build up our own electricity production capacity."

By Kim Il Jin PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Chicken Farm 927 in Pyongyang operates a solar power system to meet its electricity needs.

stability of external finishing work and saved production costs by 35 percent as compared to the imported one.

A fuel economizer was newly invented and applied to vehicles, economizing on 10 percent petrol and 15 percent diesel oil, said designer Kim Jong Hyok.

The factory produced various kinds of overhead cranes, motor-in-head vibrator, concrete mixer, Hume concrete pipe moulder and small transport means.

In addition, it increased production 110 percent by making technical innovations in the processing of accessories and parts to increase their accuracy, and received several certificates of national inventions and good ideas at the Pyongyang municipal sci-tech show and other exhibitions.

"We have newly developed a twin-shaft paddle mixer, whose lifespan is five times longer than the imported one, thereby raising productivity 1.2 times and ensuring the quality of mixture and the convenience of repair work" said senior engineer Rim Yong Gil.

The factory also manufactured new motor-driven construction scaffolds which helped raise the



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
A machine part for concrete mixer is processed at the Pyongyang Building Equipment Factory.

The Pyongyang Building Equipment Factory has produced efficient equipment needed for major construction projects.

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BORDER CONTROL

IT makes inspection and quarantine work easier



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Customs officers in Sinuiju Port ensure the promptness and precision of inspection work by applying Sinsok 4.0.

"The inspection and quarantine of import and export goods that pass ports and borders are very important in protecting the country and people and ensuring the stability of trade dealings," said Kim Sang Gil, director of the Sinuiju port export and import inspection and quarantine station.

The station has introduced IT into the inspection and quarantine of import and export articles at a high level.

It was some 10 years ago when its staff members thrust themselves into the informatization of inspection and quarantine work.

At that time they developed inspection and quarantine business support system Sinsok 1.0.

Later on, they continued to update the system and brought out Sinsok 4.0 at the national exhibition of IT achievements-2019 last year.

Sinsok 4.0 makes the maximum use of effective functions of Laravel Framework which has now become a global trend.

The functions help customize operating environment, facilitate

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

R&D

Purifiers developed

The plasma engineering department of the physical engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology has recently developed high-performance environment purifiers and introduced them into production sites.

A plasma air purifier is a movable one that can purify the indoor air in hospitals and the production processes of foodstuff and pharmaceutical industry sectors and remove dust, bacteria and viruses, whose size is over 0.5μm, by more than 99.9 percent.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The production cost of a newly-developed hand sterilizer raises the rate of sterilization by combining an ultraviolet lamp and ozone gas.

An ozone generator for water disinfection sterilizes not only drinking water but also industrial or living water by using ozone gas with strong disinfective power.

The device can reportedly kill bacteria and detoxify various kinds of harmful substances including heavy metal.

PROFILE

Kayagum maker infuses ‘blood’ into national instrument

The development of science and technology makes it possible to mass-produce musical instruments, but some people make them by a manual method even today.

Ryu Su Hyok (pictured), researcher of the National Institute of Musical Instruments, is one of them.

He regards musical instruments as a mystical being with “blood”.

According to him, though they are made in the same way with the same material, musical instruments produce minute sound differences according to their producers.

Ryu is a maker of kayagum, a national musical instrument.

He largely depends on senses from the selection of material for the instrument to finishing.

Even if it is the same wood, its thickness and processing time should vary according to seasons and it cannot be measured by any machines, he said.

When he varnishes the musical instrument, he does not brush it, but rubs with his hand.

His techniques of making instruments, whose entire manufacturing process requires careful, elaborate and elegant



skills, are not mere simple skills.

When he started his career at the institute after graduating from the handicraft faculty of Pyongyang University of Fine Arts, he wondered why veteran researchers put their heart and soul into every process in the making of musical instruments.

As he was neat-handed from his childhood and graduated from his university with honour, he thought that there was no need to put much labour in the making of kayagum as it did not seem to be so complicated.

So he readily made a smart kayagum in a few days, but it produced poor sound.

Greatly shocked by it, he steadily learned how to make the musical instrument with an open mind from senior researchers. In this process, he realized that the manufacture of national musical instruments is not merely a work of making woodwork, but a noble undertaking for preserving national spirit and emotion.

He met prestigious instrumentalists with a kayagum he made through hard work to ask for their opinions and diligently learned how to play the musical instrument to have an ear which was indispensable to instrument producers.

In the course of studying the characteristics of tremolo, the basics of kayagum playing, he newly understood the correlation between movable bridge and string and got at the fundamental principle of making the kayagum.

He got the knack of infusing “blood” into the musical instrument.

The kayagum he made won the top prize at the 10th Pyongyang Exhibition of Musical Instruments in September last year.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

FLOWER

Undying flowers delight shoppers with spring charm

Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 is visited by many shoppers every day.

The dried flower stall on the ground floor is one of the busiest places in the store.

“Since the store started to sell dried flowers, many people have visited our stall and these flowers are enjoying growing popularity and demand,” said saleswoman Kim Ok Ju.

The stall’s showcases are full of dried flowers which look like fresh flowers or those made of paper or cloth.

Customers cannot help admiring the craftworks made in an original way with rose, zinnia and other flowers, barley, foxtail millet and even ordinary grass and such ornamental plants as rare cacti.

“There are many kinds of dried flower works in different sizes and shapes and every single one of them is so lifelike that they seem to have sweet fragrance,” said Ri Sol Hyang from Ryonhwa-dong in Central District, Pyongyang, adding the flower baskets, vases

and flowerpots are virtually elaborate artworks.

The most popular articles are the dried rose pot and lily vase, according to the saleswoman.

Kong Yong Sim, technician at the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute, said that as the flowers and stems of the roses are treated in a special method, they preserve almost all the features of the plant and never wilt.

The lily vase is created in an unusual way with the mock lilies of different colours, which are made by removing chlorophyll from tree leaves with a reagent and injecting pigments into them.

The dried flowers hardly crumble even though they are fiddled with and perfectly retain their colours and shapes, so they are good for elegantly decorating houses and offices and can be given as souvenirs.

“Since I got married, I have decorated my home with dried flowers,” said Choe Chol Ok living in Songbuk-dong, Moranbong District, Pyongyang. “It is now freezing cold outside but I can feel the spring at home.”



Dried flower baskets are on sale at the flower stall of Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.



Vacationing at the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort that has started service is all the rage in the DPRK. The most sought-after is the two night and three day schedule.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dolphinarium lures visitors with new stage decor

The stage of the Rungna Dolphinarium in Pyongyang has been furnished with new decorative elements.

“Cliffs” and “rocks” have risen up on the beach-like stage that adjoins the large pool reminding viewers of the billowy sea.

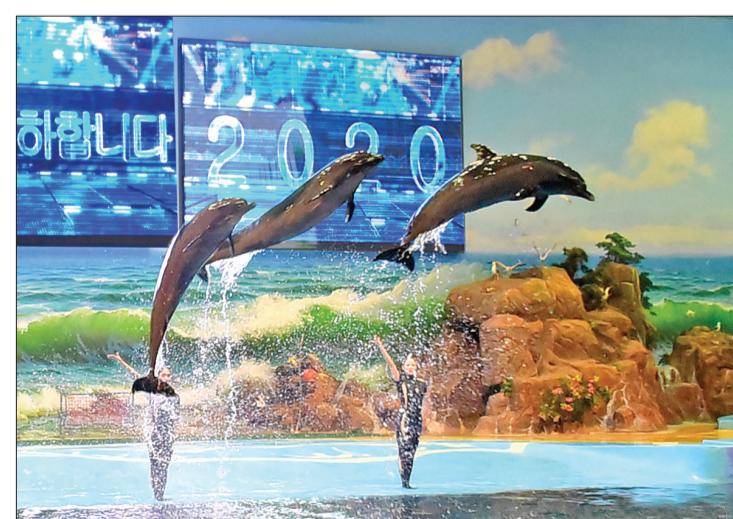
“The rocks and cliffs are so lifelike I feel as if I’m seeing dolphins performing stunts in the sea instead of the dolphinarium,” said visitor Kim Song Hui.

According to Jong Ung, director of the dolphinarium, as they remodelled the stage they raised it a bit higher for a better rapport between visitors and dolphins.

On this stage, dolphins gave a performance on New Year’s Day.

They unfolded spectacular stunts in succession, such as beating time with the tail, whirling rings around with the snout, group jumps and the underwater feats of both trainers and dolphins. The underwater feats are displayed on the large electronic screen installed above the stage.

The dolphins readily kiss the women who greet them kindly



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Dolphins perform a synchronous jump to amuse spectators at the Rungna Dolphinarium.

The dried flower craftworks were one of the most sought-after goods among the New

Year’s Day shoppers.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



Young people take the lead in socialist construction in DPRK

The most vital force in society

January 17 marks the 74th anniversary of the Democratic Youth League of North Korea which is a predecessor of Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, the mass organization of the Korean youth.

Since young men and women were grouped together in the democratic youth league for the building of a new Korea after liberation from Japanese military rule, their organization has been renamed several times along with the development of the times and it has now developed into the dignified organization named after President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, the eternal leaders of the Korean people.

The Korean youth movement is inconceivable apart from the leadership of the President and the Chairman.

During Japanese military rule, Kim Il Sung launched the anti-Japanese armed struggle together with hot-blooded young people with a new generation of communists as the core and achieved the historic cause of national liberation.

After liberation he regarded the rallying of young people from all walks of life into one group as a primary task in building new society and therefore he united all those who loved the country and aspired after democracy into the democratic youth league and led them to be pillars of a new Korea.

In liberated Korea, the people became masters of the country and young men and women found their greatest pride and happiness in devoting their youth to the country's prosperity. The Korean young people demonstrated unparalleled heroism in the grim Fatherland

Liberation War to repel the armed invasion by aggressors.

Among them was 18-year-old Ri Su Bok who blocked the enemy's gun muzzle with his chest. He wrote in his poem: "Is there any life, hope or happiness nobler, greater or more beautiful than giving up my youth for my country."

Korean young people who were united and trained with one ideology and will always took the lead in overcoming difficulties with youthful vigour and made a tangible contribution to the DPRK's progress during the postwar reconstruction and subsequent socialist construction and especially in the 1990s when the country was having the hardest time and compelled to make the Arduous March.

At that time, the imperialists extremely intensified their moves to isolate and stifle the country and natural disasters hit it in succession. The Korean youth surmounted manifold difficulties and trials as they built lots of monumental structures like the Anbyon Youth Power Station and Youth Hero Motorway.

Today, they are flexing their muscles under the leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

They regard national defence as a noble civic duty and volunteer to do labour-consuming work to create a new beautiful life by their own efforts.

In the country, where there are young people, there are feats and vitality.

The DPRK has an endlessly rosy future as there are noble young men and women who devote their youth to their leader, country and people.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



Young builders celebrate the completion of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

We will make breakthrough in van

Marking the 74th anniversary of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, we look back upon the leadership exploits the peerlessly great men performed for the development of the Korean youth movement.

There are many countries in the world, but nowhere else is there such a country as ours which puts young people forward.

In retrospect, the 74-year history of the youth league was filled with proud days when it had advanced enjoying the affection and trust of the leaders.

President Kim Il Sung, who started revolutionary activities in his early years by going among the young people and rallying them as comrades sharing weal and woe, created the idea of giving priority to young people and always showed close concern over the youth work, so as to train the Korean youth into a powerful vanguard unit of the revolution.

Chairman Kim Jong Il put his heart and soul into the work with young people all his life.

Thanks to the meticulous care



and wise leadership of the great leaders, the Korean young people have left an indelible mark on the history of our country while exalting their honour as vanguard and shock brigade in the building of a thriving country.

During the fierce Fatherland Liberation War decisive of the country's destiny, numerous young heroes were produced, especially Ri Su Bok, Kang Ho Yong and Jo Kun Sil. Young men and women built large numbers of monumental structures including the world-famous West Sea Barrage in various parts of the country.

Today, the youth movement is ushering in a golden age under the leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The Supreme Leader attaches importance to the youth work as much as he does to the Party work and spares nothing for it.

In the first month of the new century of the Juche era, he sent an autographic letter to the young people and visited the construction site of a power station in rugged mountains for several times, spoke highly of the exploits of young builders with the new buzzword of "youth power" and named the power station Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

Greatly encouraged by his great affection, young people distinguish themselves in major socialist construction sites including those of the third-stage project for sprucing up Samjiyon City and the Wonsan Kalma coast resort.

Cherishing the absolute and immutable faith in the Party and leader, we will make a breakthrough in the van of the present frontal offensive for carrying out the decisions of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Ri Jong Su, department director of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League

Young scientists zealous for pioneering nation's frontal breakthrough

Young researchers of the State Academy of Sciences are filled with the determination to become a beacon light that illuminates the path ahead of economic construction upholding the spirit of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Those at the informatics institute launched into a new project after finishing last year's study for developing a decentralized control system well suited to local conditions and introducing the system into dozens of units including the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and the Jungphyong vegetable greenhouse farm and tree nursery.

The computational physics lab of the physics institute has buckled down to a new study by drawing on the successes it achieved through basic research into magnesium-hydrogen compounds and Graphene materials.

The device for precisely measuring the level of liquid material



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Young scientists of the DPRK State Academy of Sciences work on an electronic technology project.

in tanks developed by researcher Han Jin Song was introduced into the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and other major industrial establishments. He is now absorbed in the development of a solar-powered pumping system and greenhouse environment observation device.

Young scientists at the natural energy research institute are working with much enthusiasm. They designed 2MW-capacity windmill and fixed the position suitable for its installation last year. They also developed a

soft methane pocket which is winning favour at offices and dwelling houses in the country.

Han Se Il and other young researchers at the biofuel lab of the institute are intensifying the research into the domestic production of fuels.

"We successfully carried out a geothermal power generation test last year," said researcher Ryom Kuk Chol. "We will bring out an advanced geothermal generator in the near future."

By Min Chol PT

CONCERN

Space waste poses risks to traffic safety

With the space race gaining speed around the world, the amount of space rubbish is increasing rapidly.

Space waste, parts of earth satellites or rockets that accomplished their missions, flies at ultrahigh speed in outer space.

Space wrecks mostly fly at altitudes of 800km, 1 500km and 36 000km away from the earth. It is said that those at an altitude of 400-500km last for about 2-5 years as they are easily burnt away by the continuous friction with atmospheric upper layer, but the ones flying at higher altitudes than them exist for hundreds of years.

They may collide with space capsules or earth satellites flying in their orbits, proving

detrimental to the "traffic safety" in outer space.

According to experts, the collision of a satellite, spacecraft or International Space Station with a 1cm-size space waste is as powerful as the clash with a vehicle running at the speed of 80km an hour.

Since space wrecks collide with each other, they are "mass-propagated" into smaller pieces.

Today, lots of activities on the earth depend on outer space. Such service activities as mobile communications and global positioning are conducted through satellites.

At present, it has become a worldwide trend to widen the scope of wireless WAN network to the global one by forming a network consisting of small

satellites in outer space.

An expert asserted that though the new trend was favourable to the development of communications technology, it would produce much more space rubbish to pollute the environment of outer space.

The disposal of space waste which emerged as an international challenge already some 20 years ago constitutes a pressing task in the present age when the dependence on outer space has increased further.

Accordingly, different countries organize professional institutions to dispose of space waste on an experimental basis.

Last year a European country launched into a trial to deal with space waste. A satellite which was launched from the International Space Station

reportedly carried out a test of removing space wrecks by using a net and trident.

Earlier, China launched freight carrier Wulong-1 into outer space in 2016. It is said that a robot arm of the carrier is used to remove scrapped satellites or wrecks in outer space.

Many countries pay heed to getting rid of space waste while working to find a proper method to this end.

But many problems remain unsettled in this field as the world has not yet any international legal framework on how to fix the limit of responsibility in case of a damage by space waste.

Space waste in the air is constantly giving danger signals to humankind.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

latest tanks, armoured vehicles and other equipment.

S. Korean organizations say 'no' to overseas troop dispatch

According to KBS, over 100 south Korean organizations held a news conference at the

Kwanghwamun Plaza in Seoul on Jan 10 to express opposition to overseas troop dispatch. There is no justification for the military to take part in the military action on the US side, they said.

By Song Jong Ho PT

ENVIRONMENT

Climate change and water shortage

Though the two-thirds of the surface of the earth consist of water, the actual water resources that can be used by humans are not enough.

According to information available, the number of residents living in the areas with scarce water is expected to increase to 3.6 billion in 2025.

Last year, the UN issued a report that over two billion people suffered water shortage throughout the world. There is an estimate that nearly 40 percent of the world's population will live in water-scarce regions by 2050.

Last year a foreign research institute said in a report that about a quarter of the world's population were suffering an acute water shortage.

In the course of assessing the water resources in 189 countries and regions around the world, it discovered that the annual water consumption in 17 countries and regions is more than 80 percent of the total amount of available water resources and defined it as a serious water scarcity.

Experts find the main cause of water shortage in population growth and climate change.

They pay particular attention

to climate change.

According to the data published on December 3 last year by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the periods between 2015 and 2019 and between 2010 and 2019 were the hottest five years and decade in the light of the mean temperature since the beginning of meteorological observation.

The secretary general of the WMO asserted that if every country does not take emergency measures from now on, temperature would rise by more than 3 degrees centigrade at the end of the present century.

A report, which was issued in October last year by the UN inter-governmental committee on climate change, said that attaining the below 1.5°C goal will halve the number of people suffering from water shortage across the world as compared to achieving the below 2°C goal.

Greater success will be achieved only when every country strives to ease water scarcity in correlation with the efforts to prevent climate change.

By Min Chol PT

Briefly

Cuba

Cuban president rejects US' moves to expand sanctions

Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez rejected the US' new sanctions scheme in an article posted on Twitter account on Jan 11.

His statement came after the US government announced it would stop all airline services to Cuba, except that to Jose Marti international airport in Havana. He branded the US' extension of sanctions as an infringement on human rights of Cuban and US peoples.

Zambia

Zambia rejects outside forces' rule

The Zambian President said on Jan 13 that foreign forces should not be allowed to rule Africa.

Africa should be governed by African countries, he asserted, adding that African nations can make progress only when they are well aware of their abilities and exploit their potentials for development.

Lebanon

Hezbollah vows retaliation against US

The general secretary of Hezbollah, a Lebanese organization of patriotic forces, made a TV speech on Jan 12 in connection with the killing of high-ranking military commanders of Iran and Iraq by the US' air raid. He said that they would launch military operations in the Middle East against the US forces in retaliation for the deaths.

There is no other option for the US, but to withdraw from the region, he warned, adding if not, American soldiers would return home in coffins.

Arabian Sea

Russian, US warships encounter

A Russian warship encountered a US destroyer in the Arabian Sea on Jan 9.

The Russian defence ministry censured the US navy vessel for creating the danger of collision by sailing across the route of its battleship, rejecting the US' allegation that the Russian vessel attempted a dangerous access.

Greece

Greeks turn to street against war

Rallies were held in Athens and Thessalia, Greece, on Jan 11 to oppose the US military operations against Iran.

Thousands of protesters decried the US for murdering Iran's high-ranking military commander and asserted that Greece should not join any US military operations.

MIDEAST

Tensions running high

The Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps launched missiles at two US military bases in Iraq at dawn on Jan 8.

The missile attack came as the first counterblow of Iran since the US air raid which killed eight people including the commander of the al-Quds corps of the Iranian army and a high-ranking officer of the Iraqi paramilitary forces in the vicinity of an airfield in Baghdad on Jan 3.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a statement said that the murder of the Iranian commander will give renewed impetus to the sacred war of resistance against

the US. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani also warned that the US will pay dearly for its crime.

On Jan 5, the Iranian government announced that it entered Stage 5, the final step, of halting the performance of its duty to the nuclear deal or JCPOA and would not adhere to the vital restriction of the deal.

The Iranian foreign minister said the country does not pursue escalated tension or war, but would defend itself from any form of aggression.

In the wake of Iran's missile strike, the US applied new sanctions against Iran.

By Om Ryong PT

EVENT

Nation marks first sports day

The first sports day of the year was observed with a variety of sporting activities across the country.

Civil servants of commissions, ministries and national agencies did group running at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square. It was followed by the performance of mass rhythmic exercises and health-promoting Taekwon-Do.

Factories, enterprises and educational institutions in Pyongyang held various sports games.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill and the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 were alive with games of such sports as football, basketball and tug-of-war. Various ball and amusement games were held at Kim Chaek University of Technology, May 13 Ryongnam Senior Middle School in Taesong District, Chongnyu Junior Middle School in Taedonggang District and other educational institutions.

Skating competitions were held by senior and junior middle and primary schools in Ryongsong District.

Volleyball, basketball and tennis games and badminton

games of the pensioners at sports parks heightened the zeal for mass sports activities in Pyongyang.

Provinces also seethed with sporting competitions on the first sports day of the year.

Group running, mass rhythmic exercises, health-promoting Taekwon-Do, volleyball, basketball, table tennis and other sports games were held at industrial establishments in Sinuiju, Kanggye, Hamhung, Chongjin, Phyongsong, Haeju and other cities including

the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, Pukchang Thermal Power Complex and Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex.

Various sports events also took place at farms across the country, including the Chongsan Cooperative Farm in Kangso District and Tanggok Cooperative Farm in Kangnam County on Jan 11, the day before the sports day and the rest day for farmers.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Working people in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, have a tug-of-war game on the first sports day that fell on Jan 12.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Cosmetics factory brims with sports zeal

"Sports activities have become a factory-wide work and part of daily life of all employees," said Kim Hyon, manager of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory.

The Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory is well-known throughout the country for producing quality cosmetics.

Employees unanimously say that sports activities are one of the factors that increase production.

Heightened sports activities are conducted during lunch time and after work at the table-tennis courts in every workshop

and the indoor gym for various sports games.

Eye-catchers are the beginners who perseveringly learn how to play sports one by one with consciousness that they should not dishonour their units.

"When I was first assigned to our workshop, the workshop manager asked me what sport I could play and compete in. I was very embarrassed at that time. I had not paid particular attention to sports with a thought that my job had nothing to do with sports," said Kim Yun Mi, worker at the basic cosmetics

workshop.

However, she now takes part in volleyball games on behalf of her workshop after learning the rudiments of volleyball and table tennis in only two months amid the heated zeal for sports among the employees.

"I've never thought that sports would change me a lot. They make me cheerful and work with greater enthusiasm," said Kim.

Quarterly sports games between the workshops of the factory serve as a very important occasion in firing the employees with zeal for sports.

Workshops compete on a round-robin basis in basketball, volleyball, table tennis, swimming, tug-of-war and amusement games to decide rankings in total and each event.

As any workshop members are chosen through a lottery for matches, no one can assure victory.

"It is hard to do collective training as we, staff office members, work separately. So we were previously beaten by different workshop teams to experience a hot agony of shame. However, we won three times last year," said Rim Jin Ryong, planning staffer.

The factory puts together the records of sports games with production results at the end of the year to sum up and award prizes accordingly.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



Workers of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory do group running as part of mass sports activities.

HISTORY

Korean hot spring culture dates back thousands of years

After the construction of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort more and more people are eager to know about Korea's long history of using hot spring.

The Pyongyang Times reporter Ri Sung Ik has recently interviewed Kong Myong Song, director of the Folklore Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, about it.

Would you tell me when hot spring began to be used in our country?

The use of hot spring dates back to thousands of years.

Samguksagi (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) says that during the reign of King Sochon of Koguryo Kingdom the younger brothers of the king recreated themselves in a hot spring on the plea of an illness, King Onjo of Paekje Kingdom saw to it that a castle was built to settle people in an area called Thangjung in the meaning that it has hot spring, and kings of Silla Kingdom went to Tongnae Hot Spring for their health.

Hot spring bath got brisker in the period of Koryo and many people enjoyed it, which is closely reflected on the poetical works in those days.

With the public interest in hot spring growing more in the period of the feudal Joson dynasty, the survey of distribution of hot springs was

conducted on a nationwide scale. The curing efficacy of different hot springs was newly known and hot spring-based treatment methods were widely researched.

What is the characteristic features of using hot springs in our country?

The Korean people have set it as the main treatment method to have a hot bath in the water of hot spring since olden times.

There were a lot of books introducing the treatment methods that rely on hot spring.

So many tales about hot spring have been relayed, I think.

Yes, there are lots of legends related to hot spring.

A typical example is the legend of Talchon (Jongdal) Hot Spring in Talchon-ri of Samchon County, South Hwanghae Province.

According to the legend, the area near the hot spring was muddy. One summer day, a lark with broken legs fell on the muddy land. After a while, it came to be able to soar into the air with cured legs.

When villagers visited the place, hot water was gushing out from underground.

Since then, the hot spring has been called Jongdal (lark).

As seen above, the Korean people have actively applied hot spring to their life.

FOOD

Potato noodles gain public favour

Potatoes, a staple food of Europeans, are now popular with the Korean people, as they go well with noodles, a traditional Korean food.

"We have sold potato noodles

since last year, and they are in great demand among consumers," said Kim Un Gyong, a saleswoman of the Pyongyang Yokjon Department Store.

The potato noodles are made by mixing potatoes and powdered grain in the ratio of one to one.

Noodles are a traditional food of the Korean nation that has widely been known at home and abroad along with the Pyongyang cold noodles.

"With potato output rising year after year, potato dishes are also getting diverse in kind. The establishment of a noodle production method using potatoes has made it possible to improve the quality and nutrition of noodles and made

potato one of the staple foods of the Koreans in their dietary life," said Kim Myong Chol, Prof, PhD and lecturer of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry.

"The core of the new production method is to mix well-ground raw potatoes with any grain flour without adding water to dough. The foodstuffs made by applying this technique are highly nutritious and chewy and have unique taste," said Kim.

"Potato noodles are more chewy, savoury, digestible and absorbable than common noodles. Our family members have potato noodles every day for supper," said Han Yong Ok living in Tonghung-dong, Central District, Pyongyang.

The potato noodles production method obtained a national patent last year and it has been introduced into many units.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

