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Kim Jong Un directs live-fire artillery competition, oversees demonstration launches

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, on Mar 20 directed an artillery fire competition between large combined units of the Korean People's Army on the western front.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un was greeted at the competition ground by Army General Kim Su Gil, director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA, Army General Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the KPA, commanding officers of the large combined units on the western front and other KPA commanding officers.

The competition was aimed at inspecting and assessing the preparedness of the artillery forces on the western front without prior notice to take necessary measures, awakening all the units, fundamentally improving all the forms, contents and methods of artillery drills and definitely turning ordinary drills into practicable warlike ones to provide against

actual war.

Taking part in the competition were the artillery units under the 3rd, 4th and 8th corps of the KPA.

In the competition, the forward manoeuvre to the firing line of every unit was assessed first and the firing order was set by drawing lots to fire guns of different calibres at the target islet from the set distances. The total standings were decided by aggregating the firing results and the time taken to complete the missions.

At the observation post, the Supreme Leader received a report from the chief of the General Staff

on the order and method of the competition before guiding it.

On his order, the corps commanders directly commanded the artillery fire at the observation post.

In the contest the artillery units on the western front showed amazing results with the marksmanship they had polished in their ordinary drills.

The Supreme Leader expressed satisfaction, saying that the artillerymen on the western front, especially those of the 3rd Corps, were sharpshooters and they seemed to be hitting the target with sniper

rifles.

He received from the chief of the General Staff a report on its evaluation of the competition results.

The 3rd Corps overpowered others, while the 8th and 4th corps took second and third places respectively.

The Supreme Leader was so satisfied with the combat readiness of the 3rd Corps he signed his congratulatory autograph on the certificate of crack artillerymen to be awarded to an artillery battalion under the 3rd Corps, which read,

"I admire the amazing combat capability of the battalion. I am so satisfied and give special thanks to it. Kim Jong Un. March 20, 2020"

Army General Pak Jong Chon awarded the certificates, medals and badges of crack artillerymen to the artillery battalions and companies which were successful in the competition.

The Supreme Leader gave important instructions on the direction of military and political work, including the issue of

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Demonstration : Kim Jong Un oversees tactical guided rocket launches

FROM PAGE 1

intensifying training for all the KPA units as required by the prevailing situation.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un watched the demonstration fire of tactical guided weapon on Mar 21.

The demonstration was also seen by Ri Pyong Chol, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Jo Yong Won, Kim Yo Jong, Hong

Yong Song, Kim Jong Sik, Hyon Song Wol and other leading officials of the WPK Central Committee, Army General Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, and KPA corps commanders.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by leading officials in the field of national defence science research, including Jang Chang Ha and Jon Il Ho.

The fire was aimed at reconfirming and showing the KPA commanding officers the tactical characters and power of a new weapon system to be delivered to KPA units.

After Kim Jong Un gave an order to fire, the Juche shells were fired with roaring sound and dazzling flare to precisely hit a target islet.

The fire clearly demonstrated the characters of differently-set flight trajectories and falling angles, accuracy of guided shells and the power of payload.

Recollecting with deep emotion the painstaking efforts made by the Supreme Leader for the development of the powerful Korean-style tactical guided weapon, all the observers including the KPA commanding officers were filled with the pride in the

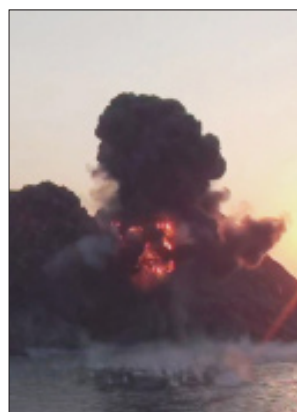
tremendous Juche-oriented defence science and self-supporting defence industry of the DPRK state.

The successive birth of new weapon systems of a Korean style constitutes a great event in the development and transformation of the armed forces of our state, the Supreme Leader said, describing the success as the brilliant fruition brought about by the Party's correct line of developing the independent national defence industry and its policy of attaching importance to defence science and a clear demonstration of the might of the DPRK's defence science and industry.

The new-type weapon systems we have recently developed and the tactical and strategic weapon systems under development will make a decisive contribution to the realization of the Party's strategic plan to bring about a radical turn in the national defence strategy, he said. We must further build up the striking capability to exterminate any enemy out of our territory if they dare attempt to take military action against our state, and this is just the goal of the defence upbuilding set by our Party, the most perfect national defence strategy and a truly credible war deterrent, he noted.

The Supreme Leader gave important instructions on the tasks to be carried out by every defence science research field and the new direction to be taken by the munitions industry in order to implement the Party's line of developing the independent defence industry.

KCNA



LEAD

Work indicates path of independent development to be followed by people

Chairman Kim Jong Il authored the immortal work *On the Juche Idea* on Mar 31 1982, in which he systematized the Juche idea created by President Kim Il Sung.

The Juche idea made it clear that man is a social being with independence, creativity and consciousness and that he is the master of everything and decides everything.

Kim Jong Il demonstrated in depth scientifically and theoretically that the President had achieved a great ideological feat unprecedented

in human history by creating the Juche idea to develop the revolutionary struggle of the masses of people for independence onto a new, higher level and opening up a new era of history, the Juche era. And he integrated into a system the philosophical principle, socio-historical principle and guiding principles of the Juche idea and deepened and enriched it with new, original ideological and theoretical wealth.

In the work he clarified the law governing the

development of history and social revolution and guiding principles to be maintained in the revolution and construction in a comprehensive way, providing the Korean and world's revolutionary peoples with guidelines for waging a vigorous struggle to champion and win their independence.

The Juche idea fully proved its scientific accuracy, truthfulness, validity and vitality throughout the historical course of the Korean revolution.

It made it possible for

the DPRK to win the two revolutionary wars, successfully carry out several stages of social revolution and become independent in politics, self-sustaining in the economy and self-reliant in national defence.

Now the DPRK has launched an offensive to smash straight through all difficulties by dint of self-reliance to win fresh victories in the building of a powerful socialist nation, holding higher the banner of Juche and independence.

In the DPRK, which pays

the top and absolute priority to the interests of the people and performs miracles by relying on their united strength, modern streets and cultural and leisure centres have sprung up in succession and Korean-style technical innovations have widely been encouraged even under the vicious obstructive moves of the hostile forces.

The Juche idea is now spreading across the world, maintaining its powerful influence.

Juche idea study groups are active in many countries and seminars, lectures and short courses on the Juche idea are organized on a large scale every year. And many people visit the DPRK to feel and experience the vitality of the idea.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

FERTILIZER

Production lines upgraded to cut cost and increase output

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex increases fertilizer production by pushing ahead with the technical upgrading of overall production processes.

It remodelled the gas generating process, washing towers, heating process and other production lines to meet new technical indices and boosted the output of semiwater gas, a basic material for fertilizer production.

In particular, it introduced a technical innovation plan into the supply of castings needed for overhaul, thereby shortening the casting time from ten days to two hours while reducing the consumption of materials by a twentieth.

In the course of this, it built up the capacity for increasing fertilizer production by recycling the waste gas from the ammonia synthesizing process and applied the heated gas from generator to the steam production process so as to save hundreds of tons of fuel on a daily average.

It also added a new conveyor belt to the rod coal drying process to increase productivity 1.2 times while saving manpower and electricity.

According to Pak Song Hak, a staffer of the technical section, the steam production process established by the own effort of the complex is a recyclable, energy-saving one.

In the past, it largely depended on imported fuel or nearby

thermal power station to get steam for fertilizer production.

It is said that the new steam production process consisting of three large-capacity circulating fluidized bed boilers, a fuel depot and dust-collecting system ensures over 98 percent combustion efficiency by using industrial waste and waste gas from production process as fuel and turns out well over a hundred tons of steam per hour.

"By establishing this process our complex has been producing high-pressure steam for fertilizer production with our own efforts, and turned hundreds of thousands of tons of industrial waste into highly-efficient fuel," said Hong Chol Nam, deputy chief engineer in charge of production.

Besides, it sends much more raw materials to the gas

generating process by making the most and effective use of waste gas from the generator in the drying of rod coal, and other processes also register good results in production, especially gas purification and ammonia and urea fertilizer production processes.

Several technical innovation plans presented by the complex were highly appreciated at the scientific and technological presentation for the chemical industry sector last year.

The Complex recently set up a power production system with a capacity of well over ten thousand kilowatts.

"The system was given a test run late last year and now it is generating several thousand kilowatts of instantaneous power. It will produce more if it is put into normal operation,"

said Hong Chol Nam, deputy chief engineer for production.

The new power generation system was made by remodelling the process of handling steam generated at the large boiler which works for supplying steam for the production of fertilizer.

It produces steam needed for power generation by burning the remaining dust coal after extracting the main raw-material gas from the fertilizer production process and adding various kinds of waste gas from ammonia raw-material gas generator to it.

To establish the new power production system, the complex developed a process of reducing the high-pressure steam to low pressure and purchased five boilers, over a dozen turbines, six electric motors and two tens-of-thousand-kilowatt capacity

generators.

It also developed and introduced a new program to monitor in real time and realize the automatic control over the power production system and made power generating equipment including an efficient measurement protection device, large transformer and circuit breaker.

Electricity generated here is used for lighting at various public welfare facilities and residential quarters as well as the hospital, kindergarten and nursery of the complex.

Engineer Pak Ryong Ho said if they operate the generating equipment at full capacity, their power output will be enough to satisfy the needs of a fairly big county and they can supply electricity to major local industry factories in Anju, South Phyongan Province.

Now, the complex is focusing on the solution of technical problems that arise in making the new power production system noise-free and eco-friendly.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



Fertilizer is carried by a conveyor belt at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.



The production process is monitored at the central control room.

PHOTOS BY PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Nationwide

500th triplets born at maternity hospital

Ri Yon Hwa from Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, gave birth to all-female triplets at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital on Mar 20.

The 29-year-old spent over 120 days receiving free medical care at the hospital.

At present, the triplets weigh 2.09kg, 1.92kg and 1.33kg respectively.

The hospital delivered the first triplets in 1980, the 100th in 1990, the 200th in 1995, 300th in 2001 and the 415th just before the Day of the Sun (April 15) in 2012.

And the 500th triplets were recently born this year which marks the 40th founding anniversary of the hospital.

Public support rendered to education sector

Positive support is being offered to the educational sector throughout society in March, the school-supporting

month in the country.

North Phyongan Province, in particular, has provided schools in the province with hundreds of LCD TVs, well over 1 000 computers and thousands of pieces of modern educational experimental apparatuses and facilities in over 10 kinds for the past two months.

Hospital construction well under way



The construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital is progressing at a fast pace.

Builders remove tens of thousands of cubic metres of earth every day. On Mar 23 the first convoy of trucks carrying hundreds of tons of iron and steel products and a large quantity of cement arrived at the construction site. The Taean Friendship Glass Factory completed the

production of plate glasses for the construction.

Pyongyang, Nampho and other cities and counties, ministries and national agencies have rendered material and moral assistance to the construction.

Power station project in full swing

North Hamgyong Province is now pressing on with the construction of Orangchon Power Station Unit 3.

The building of well over a thousand metres long working pit for tunnelling the main waterway has been finished and waterway tunnelling is pushed on a full scale.

At the construction site of Kwangdok dam the builders have already installed first crane and lay over a hundred cubic metres of concrete every day. The installation of the second crane and the building of a sorting plant and other projects are now going on at the final stage.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

METAL

Steel giant applies new technical solutions

The Chollima Steel Complex increases the quality and quantity of iron and steel by introducing new technologies.

It has introduced an electromagnetic induction and agitation technology into the continuous ingot moulder.

It solved various scientific and technological problems arising in designing and manufacturing the inductor, the core of the agitation technology, thereby establishing the electromagnetic induction and agitation process.

The application of this technology has made it possible to increase the actual output of iron and steel products, remarkably improve steel quality and produce alloys with various steel grades.

The complex also introduced the slag-alkali cement, which was developed by the silicate engineering institute of the State Academy of Sciences, into the

lining of the heating furnace for the 6 000-ton press forging.

The slag-alkali cement is a heat-resistant concrete compound which can replace alumina cement.

Researchers developed the slag-alkali cement that is highly resistant to heat in the course of research into the effective use of slag.

The forging furnace at the Chollima Steel Complex is the first industrial furnace of metal factory in the country that has introduced the technology of producing heat-resistant concrete with slag-alkali cement.

Experts say that its introduction constitutes a step forward in ensuring the domestic production of fireproof materials needed in metallurgical factories.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

INSULATOR

High quality insulating varnishes produced

The Anju Insulator Factory is concentrating on ensuring the domestic production of raw and other materials and equipment.

"In the course of using locally-abundant fish resources as a substitute for basic material for production, the concept that had been believed as impossible to carry on production without imported materials vanished and an idea that self-reliance based on science and technology is the only way out became to be predominant," said Pak Kwang Hyok, staffer in charge of technology.

The factory newly established a high-class insulating varnish production process

by manufacturing various equipment including a plate-frame pressure filter and remote-controlled product shipping device.

The introduction of the plate-frame pressure filter made it possible to shorten seven days needed for maturing insulators and save a great deal of coal consumed for ensuring temperature. The remote-controlled shipping device helps fully prevent the risk of fire in the shipping area.

At present, the factory produces high-grade insulating varnishes including 155-class freon resisting insulating varnish.

"The development of the 155-class freon resisting insulating varnish provided a guarantee for ensuring the satisfactory production and repair of electric motors to be installed in geothermal pumps and super-quick freezers, and the serviceable life of motors increased 1.4 times," said Choe Kyong Chol, staffer in charge of production.

The factory now turns out various kinds of insulators and electro-insulating cloth such as insulating varnishes for traction motors of electric locomotive and metro car, high-and-low tension motors and transformers and varnish for wire, and the insulators satisfy quality indices in terms of the content of involatile powder, viscosity and electric intensity.

"Now our factory is carrying on an undertaking for turning production processes into recyclable and electricity- and labour-saving ones. When they are completed, our factory will take a big stride in ensuring normal production, improving the quality of products and developing new products," said An Jong Hak, manager of the factory.



SONG TAE HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Workers monitor tanks at the Anju Insulator Factory in South Phyongan Province.

DRINK

Employees encouraged to get innovation-minded

"We are putting big efforts into the technical innovation movement in which all employees take part," said chief engineer Kang Jong Hun of the Kyongryon Aeguk Soda Pop Factory.

According to him, the factory added tens of thousands of pieces of data on global development trends and advanced technologies related to soft drink production to the database of its sci-tech learning space so that all employees could learn from them.

Many employees have enrolled in the online courses of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry, Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering and others, and nearly half of them have already graduated or are in the course.

What is special in its mass-based movement for technical innovation is that it encourages all workers and technicians to take part in factory-wide technical innovation competitions, said Choe Won Il, a member of the factory managing staff. This year, more

than 80 employees presented over 110 plans for technical innovation on the occasion of the Day of the Shining Star (Feb 16).

As a result, it set up a process for filtering *oktang* sugar for soda pop production and built a new steam boiler saving electricity by over 80 percent.

It turns out over ten kinds of functional soda pops.

Recently, it has newly

established a canned lemonade production line in which all processes are automated, thus laying material foundations for producing more delicious carbonated drinks.

In the course of the technical innovation movement, the factory won the title of thrice honoured model technical innovation unit and its scientific and technical successes such as "soda pop production method using vegetable extracts" and "liquid carbon dioxide strainer using functional activated charcoal" were highly evaluated at the 34th National Festival of Science and Technology.

By Jong Chol PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Bottled soda pops roll off the production line at the Kyongryon Aeguk Soda Pop Factory in Pyongyang.

PROFILE

Worker inventor



the attention of experts as soon as it was launched because it ensures relief effect and gloss of the logo at the same time, while consuming little electricity in the printing process.

In succession, he brought out a

luminous logo, whose afterglow remains for more than six hours at night after being exposed to sunlight for only five minutes in the daytime.

Last year he developed a localized printing ink.

"The printing ink dries at proper speed compared to the imported one, is highly adhesive to bag cloth, good in softness, colour and gloss for printing delineation and eco-friendly," said printing workteam leader Kim Kyong Hun.

The introduction of this printing ink helped significantly improve the production efficiency of the factory.

The resin-based embossed logo printing technology and localized printing ink won national patents and were highly appreciated at the 34th National Festival of Science and Technology last year.

"The Sonamu brand was named by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. Though small, its logo mirrors the lofty intention of him who hopes that our children grow strong and healthy like the pine, the national tree of the country. I am determined to devote all my life to upholding his intention," said Yun.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

"I formed a close connection with Sonamu (pine tree) brand a few years ago when I was employed in this factory" said Yun Chang Nam (pictured), a worker at the Pyongyang Bag Factory.

At that time the factory used steel plate to make its logo, so it failed to produce the desired effect, he recalled.

An idea began to form in his mind to introduce an embossing printing method, which produces three-dimensional on the printed matter.

He had already worked at a printing factory for years and finished a college course by joining the study-while-you-work system at that time.

"He voluntarily took on the research into embossing printing technology to improve the quality and beauty of the logo. He wanted to make the Sonamu brand really smell the fragrance of pine tree," said Ju Jin Su, his workshop manager.

Yun Chang Nam decided to use resin as the embossing material, conducting repeated experiments and analysis.

Finally, he succeeded in making the pine tree resin logo.

The new embossing printing technology with resin as the main raw material attracted

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster risk reduction strategy in the pipeline

The DPRK adopted the 2019-2030 National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in conformity with such international agreements as Sendai framework document and is now working for its implementation, said Kim Yong Chol, department director of the State Emergency Disaster Committee.

According to him, it is the general aim of the strategy to prevent in advance the existing or potential disaster risks under the unified guidance of the state, guarantee sustainable socio-economic development by enhancing the ability to cope with and recover from the disaster and reduce to the maximum the damage to the people's lives and properties and to the economic, social, cultural and environmental wealth.

It is also planned to complete the national disaster management and emergency response systems, raise the public awareness of disaster risk and response, develop science and technology for disaster management, foster the ability to supply funds and materials and establish a disaster fund.

At the first stage of implementing the strategy, provincial, city and county people's committees will work out their regional disaster risk reduction plans in accordance with the NDRRS and confirm the basic data for ensuring scientific accuracy in disaster management and the survey of dangerous objects will be finished on a nationwide scale till 2022.

By Kil Chung Il PT

VIRTUE

Couple takes in children of dead fellow miners

People liken Kang Kum Chol, chief of the Kang Ho Yong Youth Shock Brigade of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine, and his wife Kim Jae Ryon to a “pearl”.

The couple bring up six children including four parentless children.

“It has been said since olden times that 50 000 days’ work is required to bring up a child. Kang and his wife, however, have been devoting much more efforts to the adopted children than their own offspring,” said Kim Hyong Nam, an official of the coal mine.

It has been four years since the couple started to bring up orphaned children.

One day after coming home from work, Kang proposed to his wife to take into their family Un Gil, son of his fellow worker who died at his shock brigade.

“I could not readily make up my mind to do so as it required so much labour to look after my own children,” recalled his wife.

When she once visited her husband, she regretted herself after seeing miners endeavour to do more good things for Un Gil while taking care of him at every break.

Therefore, Kang’s family took in Un Gil for the first and then Jong Hyok, Tae Nam and Mi Hyang one after another, and their family members increased to eight.

But as the saying goes, determination and practice are different things. It was not easy to bring up orphaned children like their own.

“When we adopted them, I was at a loss first how to treat them,” Kim Jae Ryon recollected. “And they also felt it hard to call us ‘father and mother’, felt awkward and did not open their hearts to us. They used to run away from home, so once we had to bring them back, who took their shelter from the rain under the eaves of a house.”

Jae Ryon put her heart into the orphaned children so that

they could directly have her maternal love.

The couple bought new clothes for and offered special foods to the adopted children before their own offspring.

Though he was busy doing coal-mining work, Kang was present without fail at the meeting of parents with his children, showed concern for their study and life and prepared birthday tables and souvenirs on their birthdays.

At one time, he broke the river ice and caught fish to stimulate the appetite of Mi Hyang who suffered a cold.

When there were sport meetings in schools, the couple would not go to the school of their own children, but to the school of their adopted children.

As their affection flowed into the hearts of adopted children as it was, they unreservedly call the couple “Papa and Mama”, showing fondness to their parents.

By Pang Un Ju PT

DRESS

Manageress has a knack of mixing colours



KIM RYE YONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Hong Song Hui, manageress of the Korean Costume Shop on Sungni Street, Pyongyang, selects cloth colour for a new suit.

The *chima* and *jogori* made at this shop give a warm and elegant feeling at first sight and seem to become more beautiful and charming every time I see them, said a customer at the Korean Costume Shop on Sungni Street, Pyongyang.

Korean people like dressing in Korean costumes on meaningful and pleasant occasions from first birthday to wedding and sixtieth and seventieth birth anniversaries. Therefore their aesthetic demand on the traditional costumes is growing day by day, which in turn stimulated a fierce competition for making better Korean clothes among costume shops.

According to the introduction of Ryu Chol Jin, deputy secretary general of the Korean Costume Association, the Pothongmun Korean Costume Shop with a long history and the newly-emerging Korean Costume Shop on Sungni Street can be counted as the best in Pyongyang.

Hong Song Hui in her early 30s is the manageress of the Korean Costume Shop on Sungni Street.

She specialized in costume art at Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and had special skills in harmonizing colours.

“From olden times, our nation which aspired for nobility and purity have chosen light colors for their clothes,” said Hong. It is important to match such national sentiments with modern aesthetic sense and

different likings of customers, she added.

The shop makes Korean costumes mainly with silk fabrics in soft, neutral tints.

The tailors pay particular attention to harmonizing colours of upper and lower garments as well as patterns and ornaments according to seasons and customers’ age and lineament and in consideration of whether they are holiday wear or casual wear.

In the case of a wedding dress, they select the showiest colours for upper, lower and over clothes to fully display the gorgeousness and add large and small patterns in contrasting or similar colours.

And in the case of an everyday dress, they choose white, light pink, cream and light green for girls to add freshness and enhance beauty, light orange, light purple and neutral tints for the middle aged who require elegance and jade green and light navy blue for the elderlies to suit their ages and give them youthfulness.

“The colours of patterns and ornaments are minor details but they have a considerable influence on the colour tone and aesthetic effect of the whole dress,” said the manageress.

With keen observation, aesthetic sense and skills, she always satisfy her customers by matching the colours of patterns and ornaments with those of fabrics in perfect harmony like a magician.

“The decorative striped cloth fixed on the breast and sleeves of *jogori* makes my 20-year-old daughter look more attractive and prettier,” said Jo Hye Song living in Tonghung-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, who ordered made-to-measure Korean *chima* and *jogori* for her daughter at the shop.

Now with the balmy spring setting in, more customers who want to wear beautiful Korean costumes are making orders at the Korean costume shop.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

ALTRUISM

People help each other in combat against epidemic

Many stories are told about the laudable deeds of helping each other among the Korean people during the nationwide campaign against the global epidemic, COVID-19.

Provinces and cities including Kaesong City have taken appropriate steps to solve the difficulties of residents in their living such as food shortage and military organs sent a large quantity of supplies to quarantine places near their stationing places.

Ministries and national agencies provided reagents for test, protection equipment, medicines and medical supplies for anti-epidemic efforts and educational institutions are taking responsible care of the students who are quarantined at the university and college dormitories.

A department chief of the Sunam District Hygienic and Anti-epidemic Centre in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, died of incurable disease in the line of duty. He had reportedly been in hospital, but left the hospital as soon as he heard that the emergency anti-epidemic measures have been taken and carried out water quality tests and sterilization.

Health workers at the Phyongchon District Hygienic and Anti-epidemic Centre and the Taedong County People’s Hospital helped the quarantined families lead a life without feeling any inconveniences while carry out temperature measurement and medical observation of them several times a day without fail.

A bus conductor offered

protective masks free of charge to the passengers who did not wear them and voluntarily transported the supplies for the quarantined people. And the Kaechon City Hotel in South Phyongan Province took care of the quarantined people, preparing birthday spreads for several of them including foreigners.

Pak Myong Su, director of the national sanitary inspection agency of the Ministry of Public Health, said that many people across the country have performed noble deeds from the beginning of the emergency anti-epidemic campaign. These impressive stories are greatly encouraging our people in their fight against the epidemic, he added.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

VOLUNTEER

Graduates-to-be volunteer to teach at faraway schools

Students of graduating classes at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education in Pyongyang and Hyesan Teachers Training College in Ryanggang Province have petitioned to teach at schools in Samjiyon City, a mountainous

area in the northern part of the country, while those at Wonsan University of Education and Sariwon Teachers Training College pleaded to work at a school in the frontline area.

Those at the university of education and teachers

training college in Nampho and South Hamgyong Province asked to send them to a school in an isolate island post and branch schools in island villages, and a student of the graduating class in Phyongsong University of Education decided to work at a remote mountain branch school in Nyongwon County.

Besides, many students of universities of education and teachers training colleges in different parts of the country have volunteered

to teach at branch and other schools in Samjiyon City, frontline areas and island and mountain villages, especially Kim Jong Suk Teachers Training College, Sinuiju Cha Kwang Su University of Education No. 1, Sinuiju Teachers Training College, Haeju Jo Ok Hui Teachers Training College, Kanggye universities of education Nos. 1 and 2 and Wonsan Ri Su Dok Teachers Training College.

WELFARE

Health complex provides good services to citizens: 40 years on

The Changgwang Health Complex was built on the banks of the Pothong River in Pyongyang in March 1980 as a large-scale comprehensive hygienic and cultural public service facility.

It largely consists of sections for bath, wading and swimming.

The bathrooms at the health complex are widely known throughout the DPRK enough to coin the buzzword “Changgwang Health Complex-style bathhouse”.

The circular four-storey bathhouse has individual bathrooms, face treatment room, barber's shop and beauty salon on the ground floor, public bathrooms on the first and second floors, and individual and family bathrooms and massage rooms on the third floor.

The public bathrooms, which take the biggest proportion in the health complex, are furnished with supersonic wave bathtub, sauna and shower. Bathers can have a rest drinking beer after baths.

Air-conditioners always

provide fresh air and suitable temperature to the interior.

According to Jo Hui Sun, chief of attendants, the bathhouse can accommodate over 10 000 people a day.

The wading pool is linked with the bathhouse, as well as the swimming pool.

It consists of indoor and outdoor pools.

The depth of water is from 60cm to 1.2m according to the inclination of the floor and the pools are equipped with such auxiliary facilities as float, slide and sauna.

The 2 000-odd-seater swimming pool is provided with all conditions for national and international events and has underwater lighting facilities for synchronized swimming.

“The quality of water for bathhouse and wading and swimming pools is as high as drinking water,” said Choe Chol Jung, an official of the complex.

“At the outset of the construction it was designed to recycle water. But after being told about it, Chairman Kim Jong Il took a measure

to directly draw water from the Taedong River so that the health complex could supply water on the principle of drawing out all the water and refilling it 100 percent, saying even one percent of old water cannot be allowed,” he added.

As he gave field guidance on several occasions at its construction site, the Chairman reportedly provided meticulous guidance for the successful construction of the health complex, a gift presented to the Pyongyang citizens by the Workers' Party of Korea.

According to him, the Chairman named it the Changgwang Health Complex in the meaning that it is a blue and shining house symbolizing a happy and cultural life of people.

The complex was awarded the Order of the National Flag 1st Class and selected as one of the top ten informatization model units in 2019 for its achievements made in service and management and modernization.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



Customers have their hair cut at the barber's shop.

What they say

During my stay in Pyongyang, I, together with my colleagues, had a bath and received beauty treatment at the Changgwang Health Complex.

Everybody was surprised to see their beautiful and refined looks.

They were so pleased that they unanimously said they became the “fairies of Pyongyang” after dressing their hair to meet their facial shapes and features.

Whenever I visit Pyongyang in the future, I will receive beauty treatment without fail at the health complex.

Jang Un Ha, teacher of Paeksa Primary School in Sinuiju

What made me more surprising is though an over 70-year old man who was having a haircut beside me suddenly developed a cramp, he was soon restored to life thanks to the immediate and kind medical aid given by a health worker. After having his hair cut, he went home by an ambulance of the complex.

Indeed, the Changgwang Health Complex is a service facility epitomizing the love of our Party and the employees are true servants of people.

O Song, a resident of Ryusong-dong, Central District, Pyongyang

When I had a haircut, I came to know about the quality of my hair, combing direction and grooming method.

The service accompanied by good service and excellent educationist qualifications can be the scientific and popular one, I think.

The service offered by the exemplary unit in the country in terms of haircut and beauty culture is really on a high standard.

Nam Sung Chol, staffer at Kim Chaek University of Technology

I had my hair cut at the tenth seat in the cosy and clean barber's shop.

I was attracted by the handiness of a barber, who had my hair cut nimbly according to my demand with refined skills, but I was much moved by the fervent spirit of devotion of servants in their bright smile and warm voice.

They showed all sincerity during a 40-minute service involving haircut, beauty treatment, massage and hair-drying.

Jo Yong Hun, head of the cutting workteam, said she is striving to take the lead in learning advanced technologies as she set it as a goal for this year to raise the technical qualifications of workteam members a grade higher. A master hand at cutting, she aims to find out a rational way for raising the success rate of cutting.

Ri Un Ju, worker at the press workshop, entered the online college of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry

last year with very high marks as the mother of a young child studied hard at the sci-tech learning space.

Amid the competitive atmosphere charged with the enthusiasm for learning science and technology, the factory produced glue from plastic wastes and realized the recycling of synthetic leather scraps and increased the kinds of shoes during a few months of this year.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



PHOTOS BY CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The hall of the Changgwang Health Complex in Pyongyang.

SHOES

Sci-tech learning space keeps workers abreast of development

“Workers competitively come up with new shoe designs with improved shapes and qualities and new processing technologies every month, and some of them are enough to inspire admiration of technicians,” said chief engineer Kim Ik Chol of the Sunchon Leather Shoes Factory in North Phyongan Province, attributing it to the active operation of the sci-tech learning space.

All the factory workers are enthusiastic readers at the sci-tech learning space.

Each workshop and workteam have their own

schedules for using the sci-tech learning space and the factory's technicians, sci-tech disseminators and workshop and workteam leaders give lectures at such sessions.

The learning space has over 453 000 pieces of data related to shoe production in its database which is updated once a week and categorized by the disseminators, said Ri Pong Hak, head of the sci-tech learning space.

This month's schedule for learning science and technology submitted by workshops include “The

influence of the drying temperature and time of glues on adhesive strength” and “The influence of gluing frequency on adhesive strength” by the shoemaking workshop, “The essential characters of soles” and “The method of testing vulcanizing state of soles” by sole workshop and “The cause and solution of wasteful use of threads” and “The essential characters of threads” by uppers workshop and other problems of practical significance.

Married women are said to be more diligent in studying.

COMMENT

Japan should show remorse for past wrongdoings

Japan is the only country among the war criminal nations of WWII, which has failed to properly settle its sinful past.

In the first half of the 20th century it invaded Korea and other Asian countries and started the Pacific war, spreading the flame of the Second World War to the Asia-Pacific region.

It committed an unprecedented crime against humanity in human history: it drove over 8.4 million young and middle-aged Koreans to the battlefields for overseas aggression and backbreaking slave labour and reduced as many as 200 000 Korean women to sexual slaves for its army, mercilessly killing at least a million of them. However, it has not yet made a sincere apology and full reparation for its bloodstained past history. Rather, it distorts history, describing the acts

of aggression against Korea and other Asian countries as a "liberation war" for colonial states and an "advance" which brought "civilization" and "prosperity" to them.

When UNESCO discussed the inscription of the materials on sexual slavery for the Japanese imperial army on the Memory of the World Register, Japan behaved outrageously, threatening to suspend the payment of its contribution to the UN agency and withdraw from it.

Japan's militarization and deviation to the right have already gone far beyond the dangerous level. And Japanese politicians openly

argue that it should embark on overseas reinvasion by revising the "pacifist constitution".

The island nation is so shameless as to distort history, so morally base as to deny the bloodstained, crime-ridden past history and so recklessly mad, obsessed with

militarism, as to try to bring the fierce flames of war again to the Korean peninsula and the Asian continent. That is why Asian nations including Korea neither trust it nor forget the thrice-cursed crimes.

Japan should make a sincere apology and show deep remorse for the past crimes first before resorting to every means to take up a responsible position in the UN by dangling its purse as a bait for drawing support from other countries.

Kim Kwang Chol



MIDEAST

Arabs decry Israeli expansionist moves

The 153rd foreign ministers' meeting of the senior council of the League of Arab States was held in Cairo on Mar 4.

The meeting discussed the matters of resolving disputes and crises in the Arab world so as to enhance the international prestige of the league and taking a collective counteraction against COVID-19. The participants unanimously raised critical voices against Israel's invasion of holy lands including al-Quds.

Peace is indeed the strategic option of the Arab world, the

foreign ministers said, calling on all capitals of Arab nations to establish sister-city relations with al-Quds.

Such repulsion of the Arab world can be viewed as a warning against the Israel's wild ambition for territorial expansion, which has recently become undisguised.

In the run-up to the national election in late February, just before the meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said that the government would resume the project for building some 3 500 blocks of houses in the area between the Jewish

settlement in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

The area in question that links East Jerusalem annexed by Israel with the rest of the West Bank is politically sensitive though it covers only 12 square kilometres.

Therefore, Netanyahu's announcement aroused immediate opposition of Palestine.

The spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said that Netanyahu's decision constitutes a challenge to the Feb 24 statement of the UN Security Council, which called

for refraining from eliminating the practical possibility of the two states solution, adding he is complicating the matter.

In spite of such protests, the Israeli high-handedness and arbitrariness are getting ever more blatant.

The Jewish settlers assaulted some Palestinian villages in the northern part of the West Bank and such acts of aggression against Palestinians are getting more frequent.

Pundits comment that Israel has doubled the intensity of its offensive against Palestinians in the wake of the US' release of the "Mideast peace programme".

Palestine is making a strong protest against such moves, while appealing the international community to stop Israeli recklessness.

By Om Ryong PT

ENVIRONMENT

Protection of ecosystem guarantees human future

According to rough estimates of researchers, the amount of losses due to ecological destruction caused under the pretext of development worldwide reaches an astronomical sum every year.

A recent research report suggested that the living conditions of vast grasslands, forests, lakes, rivers and coral reefs in the tropical zone which is home to three quarters of the world's living species and

90 percent of the birds have deteriorated enough to arouse international concerns.

Such human activities as excessive fishing and timbering and natural disasters like drought are endangering many living things. The extinction of living species which form characteristic chains in the natural world not only destroys the stability of ecosystems but also has serious effects on human existence and development.

The same is true for world

natural heritage elements.

The World Natural Protection Fund in a survey report claimed that nearly a half of the natural heritage elements worldwide are at risk due to various forms of industrial activities. The survey is said to have covered about 230 world natural heritage elements.

What should not go without noticing is the fact that the regions comprising these heritage elements supply food, water and medicinal materials

to over 11 million people as well as being habitats to a great many animals and plants.

Though coral reefs take up only 0.1 percent in the total area of the sea, they provide fish resources to 200 million people and protect the sea, said a professor specializing in environmental problems. Meanwhile, the forests and grasslands in the tropical zone has a 40 percent share in the carbon storage of the land biosphere and play an important role in making rainfalls for some granaries.

Experts say that the potential profits to be earned from nature by protecting ecosystems will be over 100 times the investment.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Briefly

Iran

Iranian leaders clarify stand to cope with US sanctions

Seyed Ali Khamenei, leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, said in a TV and radio speech made to mark the new year of Iran on Mar 20 that the US' sanctions enabled the Iranian people to attain self-sufficiency in all aspects, calling on all the people to maintain unity.

That day, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said though the US schemed to bring Iran to its knees by dint of the harshest-ever sanctions in history, the Iranian people stubbornly resisted them and that the US' sanctions and pressure were doomed to failure.

WHO

Constant medical supply vital to combating COVID-19

The director general of the WHO on Mar 19 called for establishing distribution routes for constant supply of medical goods.

Whether they have infected patients or not, all the nations should make preparations to repress the novel coronavirus, he stressed.

China

China takes retaliatory measures against American media

China took retaliatory measures against the US administration on Mar 18 as it has restricted the normal activities of the Chinese media outlets and journalists in the US while steadily ratcheting up discrimination and political crackdown on them.

Accordingly, it is said that similar discriminative restrictions the US has taken against the Chinese journalists would be imposed on American columnists in China.

Russia

Genome of COVID-19 brought to light

The Russian ministry of public health announced on Mar 19 that they succeeded in elucidating for the first time the complete genome of COVID-19.

The public information department of the ministry said that experts of the influenza institute explained the complete genome of "SARS-CoV-2" with a substance extracted from a case infected by novel coronavirus.

The relevant research findings were reportedly transmitted to the WHO and international data bank of the world's research groups, who have been engaged in the investigation into global evolution of the epidemic.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

MODELLING

Coach leads duo to four Asian crowns

“Success of the past does not always lead to future success since there are many rivals who dream of championship in Asia and the world,” said Merited Athlete Kang Kum Hwa.

She coached her women’s modelling duo team to win gold at the 11th Asian acrobatic gymnastics championships held in Uzbekistan last year, thus achieving four successive victories of the DPRK in the event.

Having taken up the sport at the age of six, she attended a special course at Korea University of Physical Education and started her career as a coach at the sports club of the Ministry of Commerce in 2003.

She did not bloat out with the first golden success in the women’s modelling duo at the 8th Asian acrobatic gymnastics championships in April 2013 but went on to lead the team to successive wins at the 9th, 10th and 11th events.

“It is important for a coach to give training in a



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Kang Kum Hwa (left) from the Ministry of Commerce Sports Club coaches a player.

scientific way and possess high qualifications but more important is to pick up capable players, I think,” said Kim Jong Gwan, manager of the Ministry of Commerce sports club, adding it was one of Kang’s strong points to strictly choose her trainees.

She selects future acrobatic gymnasts after careful consideration of their constitutions, personalities and physical fitness as well as the

characteristics of the sport.

Selection of players is her primary concern as modelling duo requires a quick shift in generation as compared to other sports.

She has very high standards in player selection and training. That is why those who went through her one-year training course overwhelm opponents at competitions by perfectly performing technical movements.

Those who won championships under her coaching all received the title of Merited Athlete.

“When we fail to perform technical movements properly in the training ground, the coach is more uneasy than ourselves. Even after training, she has so many concerns and worries. At such times, she is like our own sister or mother. So we try to satisfy all her demands and alleviate her worries,” said gymnast Ro Hye Song.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

FOOD

Hamgyong cuisine offers spicy goodies to foodies

The Hamgyong provincial region was an administrative section in the period of feudal Joseon dynasty when it divided the country into eight sections. It included today’s North and South Hamgyong and Ryanggang provinces and some parts of Jagang and Kangwon provinces.

Also called the Kwanbuk as it was located in the northeastern part of the country, it is mainly made up of steep and high mountainous areas as well as the areas along the coast of the East Sea of Korea and some plains spread along the coast.

According to such natural and geological features, the provincial people cultivated foxtail millet, oat, bean, millet and potato and fish has been indispensable in their diet.

Most of the Hamgyong provincial dishes are quiet big in size and has hot taste with the seasonings of salt, garlic and hot pepper.

It has over 100 kinds of famous specialties.

Among them, songi mushroom dish is well-known even to foreign countries.

The mushroom with a distinctive flavour and conspicuous pharmacological effect is used as a main ingredient in many dishes such as roast, broil and boiled rice.

Also, noodles with seasoned raw-sliced fish is a favourite of many for its savoury taste.

The ingredients for the raw-sliced fish were walleye Pollack, ray, flatfish and others and, especially, the flesh of walleye Pollack is regarded as best as it does not have fishy smell and is good for digestion.

Other well-known dishes include pickled squid and anchovy peculiar to Korea, loach soup, Hamhung rib soup, steamed spring chicken, squid sausage and broiled walleye Pollack with spiced soy sauce.

The recipes for Hamgyong specialties which are simple yet hot and fresh have been handed down through generations and spread beyond the regional area and now people can taste them in Pyongyang. However, gourmets who seek original taste and flavour are still visiting Hamgyong.

By Om Ryong PT



Typical specialties of Hamgyong (from left to right): Pickled anchovies, songi mushroom saute and sliced squid sausage.

BOARD-GAME

Janggi boasts long history

Janggi, or Korean chess, is one of the folk games liked by the Korean people.

It has been said since olden times that “janggi is for military officers” while “paduk is for civil servants”.

The historical record on janggi in Korea traces its history back to the mid-fifth century when the Three Kingdoms existed in the country.

Samguksagi (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) says that Kaero, king of Paekje at that time, liked to play janggi and paduk games.

This shows that janggi came into being before that time in Korea and that it has the longest history, given that the birth of the European and Japanese games of chess is considered to be around the late 12th century or the early 13th century.

Today, janggi is an indispensable item at martial arts games and the solutions to

janggi moves are introduced through the mass media every week on a regular basis.

The Korean chess is constantly improved, supplemented and completed in terms of its content, system, way of playing and style.

On holidays and ordinary days, janggi lovers are engrossed in the folk game in parks and elsewhere.

When janggi games start, many people throng around the venue to see the matches and they competitively help the players with what move to make.

Nowadays, online games are also available.

The number of amateur janggi players is sharply increasing and even women challenge high-ranking players on the internet, said Kim Ho Sik, member of the janggi association.

By Song Jong Ho PT

LIVING MONUMENT

Maengsan black pine forest

The Maengsan black pine forest is found at the foot of Mt Tongji in Maengsan County, South Phyongan Province of the DPRK.

The forest sprawls in an area of about 220 hectares. The evergreen needle-leaf tall tree pertains to pine tree and is distributed only in the northern areas. Black pine trees here have grown for hundreds of years, forming a thick forest.

The black pines stand 16 metres high on average and the tallest ones are 25 metres high. They are 55 to 110 centimetres in diameter at 1 metre height and 8 to 11 metres in that of their crown.

They have no branches under

the crown and are covered with dark brown bark.

Their sharp and pointed leaves begin to grow from May and fall in October next year and are 9-17 centimetres long and about 1.5 millimetres wide.

Maengsan black pine grows quickly for 40-50 years and lives for 400-500 years.

In recent years, the Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and other tree nurseries across the country have grown a large number of acclimatized seedlings as part of their efforts to cover the whole country with greens.

KCNA

Zelkova and ginkgo at Songgyungwan

A zelkova and a ginkgo stand high in the compound of Songgyungwan in Kaesong City of the DPRK.

Kaesong was the capital of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392), the first unified state in Korea.

President Kim Il Sung visited it in May 1992 and said though they are about 1 000 years old, they are fresh and green free

from damage by worms. And he gave instructions on how to protect them well as valuable living monuments of the country.

The zelkova is 25 metres in height, 5.32 metres in girth and 18 metres in diameter of the crown and the ginkgo is 31 metres in height, 5.31 metres round and 27 metres in the diameter of the crown.

Visitors show keen interest in the trees, living testimony to the long history of the building and the city.

These trees are also of great significance in the study of botany as priceless natural wealth of the country.

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