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WPK Central Committee convenes Politburo enlarged meeting

The 21st enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place at the office building of the WPK Central Committee on November 29.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the WPK, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, attended the meeting.

Present there were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

Present there as observers were leading officials of major departments of the Party Central Committee, members of the Party Congress preparatory committee and other relevant personnel.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un presided over the meeting upon authorization of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

The meeting discussed and studied as key agenda items the issue of hearing a report on the

preparations for the Eighth Congress of the WPK and taking relevant measures, the issue of reorganizing a relevant department mechanism of the Party Central Committee with an eye to strengthening the Party's ideological work sector, establishing its leadership system in relevant institutions more thoroughly and intensifying policy and Party guidance over them and other important issues for improving Party guidance over economic work and carrying out immediate economic tasks, before deciding on those matters.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee heard a report of the preparatory committee of the Eighth Congress of the WPK on the preparations for the congress, including the review of the work of guidance bodies of Party organizations at all levels and their elections, Party meetings for electing delegates to the Party Congress, preparations of documents for the congress and those for political and cultural events to be held before and after the congress. The Politburo pointed out a series of deviations and major duties

of the preparatory committee and indicated the orientation for the issues brought up by the preparatory committee.

The Politburo deliberated on relevant issues for improving and strengthening the Party's ideological work sector as required by the developing Korean revolution and approved the matter of organizational structure.

It sharply criticized economic guidance organs for failing to provide scientific guidance to the sectors in their charge to suit the subjective and objective

environment and conditions and for failing to overcome subjectivism and formalism. It stressed the need to ensure scientific accuracy in the planning and guidance for carrying out the Party's economic policies and display great dedication and responsibility.

The Political Bureau discussed measures for the important issues of carrying out immediate economic tasks for this year and adopted key decisions with unanimous approval.

KCNA



LEAD

Science and technology taken as lifeblood

The inaugural ceremony of the Sci-Tech Complex was held on Ssuk Islet in the Taedong River in Pyongyang on New Year's Day four years ago.

The DPRK saw in the New Year 2016 with the opening of the great temple of learning for all the people and the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea that took place in May that year set it forth as one of important targets to be hit preferentially in the building of a powerful socialist country to put overall science and technology of the country at the most advanced level in the world and ensure the rapid development of all other sectors, including the economy, national defence and culture, by dint of the leading role of science and technology.

The DPRK has concentrated on building a socialist power, which has great national strength and prospers forever and whose people live happily without envying anyone in the world, over the past decades in the face of the persistent sanctions and blockade moves of the imperialists.

Here it has taken science and technology as the lifeblood.

This is ever more vital at the present age of knowledge-based

economy.

It is a courageous ambition of the DPRK to take an honourable place among the ranks of the most advanced nations in the world in the near future in terms of overall sci-tech strength by not simply following the road taken by others but charging forward by leaps and bounds from one decade to the next.

The Party Congress served to encourage everyone to attach importance to science and technology more than ever before and every workplace has come to establish a climate of planning and carrying out every work on a scientific basis.

Under the leadership of the WPK the sci-tech sector is conducting a vigorous campaign to surpass the cutting edge in order to develop technologies with a world-class competitive edge, while drawing up and implementing scientific and technological plans for promoting the independence and Juche character of the economy and improving the people's living standards.

Upholding the slogan of ensuring that all the people are well-versed in science and technology, sci-tech dissemination bases have been built splendidly all across the

country, a nationwide sci-tech diffusion system set up in a well-ordered way with the Sci-Tech Complex as the hub and enterprises integrating research and development with production established amid the dynamic mass technical innovation drive.

And as science and technology have been prioritized, the country's economy is developing into a knowledge-intensive one in which information industry and knowledge-based industry play the leading role and the country is definitely following the track of new prosperity.

In recent years alone, the production system based on oxygen blast furnace was set up at the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes and the project for establishing the C1 chemical industry is being pressed on. And the machine-building industry manufactured new models of tractors, lorries, tube trains, tramcars and trolley buses.

It is the firm resolution and will of the WPK to build a powerful socialist country that thrives and advances by dint of science in the near future.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

HOUSING

Afflicted people in northern areas move into new houses

New houses for thousands of families have been built in the disaster-stricken areas of North and South Hamgyong provinces and Sonbong District of Rason City.

Many regions sustained severe damage simultaneously due to the typhoon and heavy rain that hit the DPRK between last August and September, and North and South Hamgyong provinces and Rason City witnessed collapse of public buildings and dwellings of thousands of households and many flood victims were left homeless.

Service personnel who were

dispatched to the rehabilitation sites and builders of provinces, cities and counties constructed new homes in a short period by waging a do-or-die struggle.

Ceremonies took place in new villages to move into new houses.

They were attended by Kim Chol Sam, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Pak Man Ho, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, Kim Pong Yong, chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's

Committee, Sin Yong Chol, chairman of the Rason City Party Committee, Sin Chang Il, chairman of the Rason City People's Committee, relevant officials, builders and residents.

Congratulatory speeches were made in the meetings and licences to use dwellings were conveyed to locals.

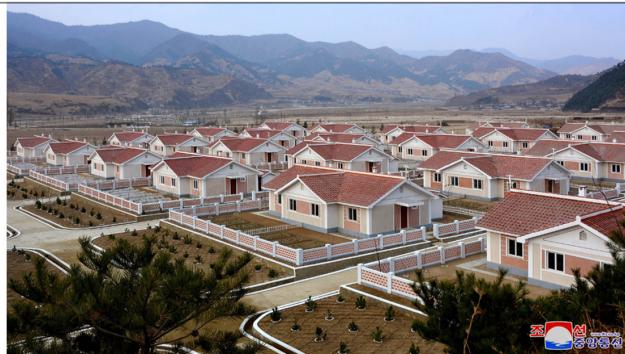
After the ceremonies, lorries carrying household goods arrived at modern houses.

The locals danced to the tune of merry music for joy in different parts of villages.

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Afflicted locals celebrate after they move into new homes.



INSPECTION

Premier visits power plant, salt works and tidal flats

Premier Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, looked round different production processes at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex to point to the need to increase electricity production by pushing the technical reconstruction in a planned way. As regards the protection of the ecological environment of the capital, he referred to the necessity to step up the technical upgrading of the dust-absorbing system of the complex so as to ensure a cleaner production

environment.

At the Kwisong and Unha salt works, he acquainted himself with the progress of the projects for repairing dykes.

The field consultative meetings discussed the measures for making the most of the existing generating capacity and ensuring a timely supply of equipment and materials for the projects by the relevant units.

Meanwhile, the Premier learned about progress made in the reclamation projects of Woldo and Honggondo tidelands.

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Premier Kim Tok Hun (foreground) is on an inspection tour of the Kwisong Salt Works in South Phyongan Province.

Nationwide

Sheep farm inaugurated in Changsong County



A sheep-breeding ground has been built in Changsong County, North Phyongan Province.

It has several blocks of two-storey sheep pens, a silo and an agricultural science and technology information room.

Power station goes online



The Kowon Tachung Power Station has been built in South Hamgyong Province.

The construction of the power station would contribute to reenergizing production at the Kowon Tachung Machine Factory and improving the livelihood of its employees.

Brewery inaugurated



The Rason Brewery has been built in North Hamgyong Province.

The brewery in Sonbong District, Rason City, consists of an integrated control room, diastatic fermentation ground, beer production ground, quality and technical preparation section and hostel.

Autumn tree planting conducted

Kangwon Province planted many trees of good species like Kumya black pine in thousands of hectares and ensured more than 90 percent of their rooting rate.

Hundreds of thousands of trees were planted in the areas around the Pyongyang-Wonsan Tourist Motorway.

North Phyongan and Jagang provinces made sure that the distribution of tree species was correctly conducted and technological demand was fully observed.

STEEL

Complex steps up iron and steel production

The Chollima Steel Complex has recently directed great efforts to the upgrading of its equipment to boost steel production.

It made a new type of prompt gas analyser capable of raising thermal efficiency by analysing



Production is on the rise at the Chollima Steel Complex.

KIM Il Jin

the density of gas generated from heating furnaces in real time. It took over 15 minutes for the conventional analyser to make an analysis and its results varied according to the skills of analysts. But the new one is featured by short analysing time, high precision and long lifespan of sensors. According to Choe Won Chan, staffer in the technical development section, the billet workpiece heating time has remarkably been shortened as compared to before, and a medium rolling heating furnace boosted its daily rolled output by 10 percent and saved well

over 10 tons of anthracite after its introduction.

The complex also remodelled the diameter of tapping hole nozzle of a UHP electric arc furnace to halve the tapping time of molten iron and steel and lower power consumption.

"We have also set up a refractory production process with an annual capacity of thousands of tons," said chief engineer Song Myong Ho.

What draws special attention in this process is that, unlike previously, workers improve the quality of refractory bricks in a kiln in the high-temperature air combustion heating method by making the effective use of heat from a gas generator based on anthracite gasification. The process turns out high-grade refractory including high-alumina bricks which can be used in rotary kilns and heating furnaces.

In addition, it introduced a microalloy steel technology based on alloying elements to improve steel quality while sharply cutting down production costs.

By Kim Il Jin PT

development before the time set, and the Pyongyang Bearing Factory and Pyongyang Grindstone Factory also attained their goals for the ongoing 80-day campaign earlier than schedule.

The mining industry sector carried out the plan for producing apatite concentrate 1.2 times, as well as the targets for the 80-day campaign on major indices.

The Munphyong Smeltery more than doubled the nonferrous metal output by putting production on a high and normal track, and the Ssangryong Mine prepared enough raw materials for phosphate fertilizer production.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill reached the target for the 80-day campaign at 185 percent, while the Kangso, Kumya and Anju silk mills overfulfilled their daily plans.

The Aeguk and Wonsan knitwear factories struck the targets for the 80-day campaign and other factories produced much more knitwear and hosiery than their daily plans.

The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory completed its 80-day campaign plan and Ryuwon Footwear Factory and Mangyongdae Leather Shoes Factory finished their yearly plans.

By Jong Chol PT



PAK KWANG HUN
The Pyongyang Hosiery Factory overfulfills its monthly production plan.

PROFILE

Following in hero father's footsteps



“My father was the first manager of the complex. On his deathbed he stroked his medal of hero and said to me, ‘I believe you,’” said Yun Song Chol(pictured), chief engineer of the Sangwon Cement Complex.

True to his will, Yun came to the complex after graduating from Kim Chaek University of Technology 24 years ago.

He was first assigned to the limestone mine under the complex. At the time there was a shortage of everything in the country and the complex had a small supply of materials.

Yun buckled down to his job, finding out a way to make carbon brush for electric motor, a bottleneck in production, and ensure the normal operation of high-pressure electric motor and repairing a damaged machine. When the complex built a new mining pit with an annual production capacity of millions of tons, he contributed to making the equipment for ore transport large-sized and completed the research into power supply and control systems of the pit.

He was promoted from a worker to deputy workshop manager, workshop manager and chief engineer of the limestone mine and then chief engineer of the complex.

He acquired a knack of using every piece of technical information in production by studying it in close combination with the field conditions and visited workplaces regularly to meet the technicians and workers and solve the problems on the spot.

Once, the complex faced a pressing task to upgrade cement kiln No. 1.

It was a project to dismantle and assemble over 10 000-ton equipment pieces, while continuing cement production. If it had failed, the consequences would have been beyond imagination. But he completed it in a little over 40 days while providing technical guarantee of the project.

Yun Song Chol, chief engineer of the Sangwon Cement Complex

Yun studied and found a way to supply the complex with iron ore for cement production to open up a prospect for developing a new mine. And he developed an idea of using the earth from the strip mine for cement production, making it possible for the complex to gain handsome profits.

He also boldly broke the existing formula when the complex produced cement to be used for the foundation work of cable support at the Masikryong Ski Resort.

The employees of the complex call him an “indispensable official for the complex” with respect as he always gropes for increased cement production, gives efficient guidance on any problems and works sincerely for the good of the employees.

“My father’s earnest request to work harder to do his share always encourages me. I will always carry on his intention,” said Yun.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

ECONOMY

Different sectors hit November targets

The metallurgical industry sector overfulfilled the production plan of pig iron, steel and iron ore for November by over 10 percent.

The Unnyul Mine introduced a new blasting method and increased the transport speed of mine cars through a brisk mass technical innovation drive, thus hitting its target for the 80-day campaign ahead of schedule.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and Chollima Steel Complex overfulfilled their plans by 20 percent every day by ensuring that processes worked in close cooperation with each other and conducted mass drives including next shift helping.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex completed its polyvinyl chloride production plan 1.4 times ahead of schedule, while the Sunchon Chemical Complex stepped up the production of caustic soda to carry out its daily assignment at 110 percent.

The Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Mill, Haeju Youth Paper Mill, Wonsan Chemical Factory and Chongjin Chemical Fibre Mill

contributed to attaining paper production goals.

The Chongchong Thermal Power Station finished its annual plan till November 29, and the Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal power complexes and East Pyongyang and Sunchon thermal power stations generated a great deal of electricity.

The Kanggye and Thaecheon power stations and other hydropower stations in different parts of the country did a good job to fulfil their production quotas by following the Suphung and Taedonggang power stations that had overfulfilled their monthly plans 1.4 times.

Youth coal-mining complexes in Pukchang and Sunchon areas, the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex and others in the coal-mining industry sector drastically boosted coal output by conducting the socialist emulation drive between coal mines, pits and shifts.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 reached the goals of five-year strategy for national economic



County paves the way for local development

Role models play a key part

Our county has now turned into a place with many boasts though it was once called Tolmoru, or a stone anvil, as it had nothing to boast of, except stone.

Black chokeberry is counted first in our county.

Black chokeberry forests can be seen here and there in the county. Among them, the black chokeberry forest created by the Yonthan County source mobilization company is very worth seeing.

The income earned from the fruit of black chokeberry gives much help to the management activities of the company and the economic life of the county.

By putting the company forward as a model we make all factories and enterprises build their own tree nurseries and plant forests of economic value with good species of trees including black chokeberry, mulberry and Schizandra chinensis with high economic effectiveness so as to benefit from their cultivation.

It is an important matter to ease the shortage of electricity



Hong Kyong Suk, chairwoman of the Yonthan County People's Committee, North Hwanghae Province

in order to reenergize industrial establishments in the county.

There are many minor rivers and lakes in our county, including Lake Yonthan and Hwangju Stream.

We built several medium and small hydropower stations to satisfy electricity need.

Another pride of the county is that locally-run factories recycle

waste materials and by-products from production processes.

In the past, some factories and enterprises took an active part in recycling, but some others paid no heed to this work.

So, we channelled efforts into widely generalizing the experience of the furniture producers' cooperative.

The unit is a role model across the country as it makes steady efforts for recycling.

As it actively introduced good experience and developed it into better one, the essential chemical goods factory recycled plastic waste to increase production while reducing production costs.

The paper mill and foodstuff factory are now pushing in real earnest an undertaking to reproduce waste materials and by-products, which had been dumped uselessly, into new resources by introducing the recycling technology.

Our county won the title of model local industry county in 2015.

Black chokeberry cultivation bears fruit

"At present, black chokeberry is cultivated in different parts of the country, but people say that those growing in our county are superior in medicinal efficacy," said Kim Yong Chol, manager of the Yonthan County source mobilization company.

According to him, the plant begins to bear fruits when it is three years old, and fruits can be collected for more than 20 years.

The fruit is very good for human health. It is used for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases including arteriosclerosis and hypertension as it contains much anthocyan, catechol and flavonol which remarkably reduce cholesterol contents in blood and have antioxidant and capillary reinforcing functions.

Its edible value is very high since its fruit contains not only a proper amount of sugar and organic acid but also many vitamins and microelements.

The company started to plant the shrub some ten years ago.

When the company was first determined to plant the shrub in mountains, some people shook their heads saying when they would benefit from it.

"The thriving way for our county, which had no particular underground and marine resources, was to exploit mountains well," said the manager.

The company planted dozens



Aronia fruit extract produced by a local company in Yonthan County, North Hwanghae Province.

of hectares of black chokeberry forests on the sloping land overgrown with shrubs.

The employees had much trouble at first since they did not know how to manure and cultivate it.

In the course of this, they newly established a planting method based on saplings in humus cake which markedly hastens the production cycle of the saplings, saves much manpower and raises the rate of rooting.

And they applied quality composite microbial fermented compost in order to further increase the nutritional value of the fruits and their productivity.

The company produces different processed products with black chokeberry fruits.

Especially, the extract of the fruit is much sought-after as it helps supplement vitamins, strengthens blood vessels and is good for the cardiovascular system.

The company plans to produce tea, jam, jelly and syrup from the fruit.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

'Nothing to waste'

"There is nothing to throw away even from sawdust to splinters of wood," said Choe Tok Bo, chairman of the management board of the Yonthan County Furniture Producers' Cooperative.

The cooperative makes effective use of wood splinters and sawdust, the byproducts from wood processing.

It focusses its business strategy on getting maximum benefits with the minimum cost.

For more effective use of material wood, the cooperative introduced a new planing and veneering machines into the plywood production process, and turns out planed veneers and tongue-and-groove blocks with delicate patterns and natural beauty. The planing refuse is used to make chipboards that are applied on the front and rear of furniture pieces to make them more light and resistant to deformation.

It recycles plastic waste to make adhesives which are essentially needed in the production of plywood.

It also substitutes byproducts from wood processing for electricity.

It remodelled a previously used electric heating press into an oil-heated press using sawdust and planing refuse as fuel and applied it to the plywood production process and thus doubled the productivity.

"Small wood

splinters from wood processing is just another kind of resource," said Choe. "We are making furniture boards with splinters in the same size and such furniture pieces are much sought-after as they are light and have many uses."

All products of the cooperative are made from locally-abundant timber, he continued, adding they have no worry about materials as it is expanding the timber forests on the principle of planting one hundred saplings for every felled tree.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Factory satisfies local needs for condiments

The residents of Yonthan County like condiments produced at the local foodstuff factory very much.

It is because the factory has improved their quality by upgrading its modern soy and bean paste production line.

The factory's soy sauce and bean paste had been inferior in quality until several years ago, according to locals.

However, the factory paid primary attention to raising quality and ensuring hygienic safety and provided a guarantee

for automating the production processes from material transfer to material measuring, steam cooking and leavening. It also improved the quality and hygienic safety of soy and bean paste by introducing a new kind of fermentation tank.

The factory officials often visit retail shops to collect feedback on their products.

"Our soy sauce and bean paste are much sought after by locals for their remarkably improved taste," said Kim Yong Sop, staffer in charge of production,



Employees work on a furniture piece at the Furniture Producers' Cooperative in Yonthan County.

adding they also increased the kinds of bean paste such as those made with green pepper, garlic and fruit of toothache tree.

Also, the factory built and installed a vacuum thickener to produce delicious confectionery with corn syrup. It remodelled the pattern roller of the biscuit machine to produce biscuits with different shapes and patterns.

"The factory has a solid raw material base, which produces corn, bean, acorn, sesame and perilla which are ingredients for soy sauces, bean paste, oil and other condiments," said manager Kim Thae Sik, adding herbs and wild fruits like black chokeberry fruit are used in the production of teas and liquor.

By Kim Il Jin PT

EDUCATION

A year of progress, teaching adopts innovative ideas

Substance put on general, modern and practical footing

"To make educational content practical, comprehensive and up-to-date constitutes an essential part in the work for developing the intellectual potentials of students to the maximum and enhancing their abilities to acquire and apply new and practical knowledge," said Jo Chol, vice-chairman of the Education Commission.

Many universities have attained remarkable successes in this effort.

Kim Il Sung University reviewed all the educational contents from regular courses to the postgraduate course and included its scientific research achievements according to the international trend of educational development and made them strictly practical in keeping with the reality.

Also, it ensured the pedagogic interconnection between the contents of education in adjacent and cross-disciplinary subjects and basic and major subjects, while raising the introduction rate of latest science and technologies.

Kim Chaek University of Technology upgraded its educational contents so as to raise the level of study subjects with theoretical explanation in plain language, incorporate the achievements made in the scientific research and development of hi-tech products and give students practical knowledge needed to put the national economy on a Juche-oriented, modern, scientific and IT footing.

Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry

included the matters that are conducive to recycling raw materials in the light industry sector in all the curricula and updated the teaching contents in such a way as to improve education in basic and theoretical contents that can be applied in scientific research and production activities.

To this end, it ensured that students acquire knowledge in their major fields while learning basic subjects, integrated the contents with the similar academic foundations and created new subjects.

Technical colleges set up new courses including the artificial intelligence course, while upgrading the teaching content in line with the effort to improve education systems like the continuous education system from the undergraduate course to postgraduate school, said an official of the Education Commission.

The universities and colleges in the teacher-training sector have merged subjects so as to increase the share of practical and skill training and experiments on the basis of strengthening basic and theoretical education and created new subjects when necessary.

And they applied the optional subject system to both major and general subjects so that students can broaden their horizons according to their aptitudes, talents and abilities and enhance their practical abilities.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



Lecturers discuss how to improve online education at Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences.

Model schools built nationwide

As the climate of prioritizing education is fostered in the DPRK, model schools have been built in large numbers this year.

North and South Phyongan provinces have been the frontrunners in the effort.

The former built over 80 schools and the latter gave a facelift to more than 50 till October.

In Jagang Province, old school buildings were knocked down to build schools equipped with good educational conditions and environment.

Songgan County built or rebuilt several senior and junior middle schools, primary schools and even the branch schools attended by a small number of students.

Songwon County built

Hoeyang Senior Middle School into a model and spruced up schools in many ri.

The county is planning to renovate all other schools by next year.

Similar efforts were made in Unjong District, Pyongyang.

The district people's committee gave a total facelift to the educational conditions and environment of Unjong Technical Senior Middle School by launching the project early this year.

Referring to the climate of prioritizing education being established across the country, an educational functionary said that the construction of schools should not be regarded merely as a building project as education is the work for the rising generations and the future

of the country.

Phyongwon County in South Phyongan Province spruced up Sangryong Senior Middle School in a short period and pushed ahead with the construction of new buildings of several senior middle and primary schools. Hoechang County also refashioned a senior middle school into a model one.

In North Hwanghae Province, a model school was built by constructing not only a school building but accessory buildings

Teaching methods based on latest technology



Teachers pool ideas for improving teaching conditions and environment at Wasan Technical Senior Middle School in Sosong District, Pyongyang.

This year the DPRK has made remarkable progress in education under the slogan "Let us develop education that can shape our future!"

Competitive efforts have been made to create new teaching methods since the beginning of the year, especially in the teachers' training sector.

Universities of education throughout the country made well over a hundred e-textbooks to develop the creative quest and application faculties of students, while raising the scientific level of education by contriving new multimedia presentations, experimental apparatuses and teaching aids, and developed simulated experiment and practical training programs conducive to enhancing both theoretical and practical application abilities.

Teachers and researchers in the general education sector generalized videos for model lessons of ordinary subjects across the country, completed model lessons which are helpful for students to understand artificial intelligence and programming methods in the course of making different types of robots, and worked out over 590 hours of e-teaching plans made of hypermedia presentations for the subjects of pupils in the first to fifth grades of primary schools.

This year hundreds of new teaching methods have been created in the general education sector, including the one based on the speech recognition technology.

Teachers intensified research by placing focus on developing the self-study, quest and application faculties of students through guide lessons and self-study to meet the lingering health crisis of the world, and made and applied the presentations for guide lessons in order to execute teaching programmes with the help of computers and TVs in families.

The higher education sector also created a new teaching method, which helps vividly simulate the content of lessons by using programs and advanced technology and map out even a device by applying them, and made it possible to build up abilities to settle realistic problems through the study of the latest sci-tech achievement data and essays.

In addition, it came up with lots of new methods of education including a teaching method which helps increase practical abilities and skills through virtual environment and the work of introducing the CDIO mode in line with detailed reality.



Refurbished Sohung Primary School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

DISABLED

Dance makes her dream come true

"Dance is my life and it gives me everything," expressed Ju Su Yang, art group member under the Korean Art Association of the Disabled, using sign language.

The entire audience is filled with admiration when this beautiful woman dances on stage, as they marvel at her vivacious, nimble and charming movements including quick spin and exact halt, pulsating rhythm and expressive countenance.

"Seeing her dance, I get excited and hum the tune unawares as I am so absorbed in her work," said Ri Song Ok, resident in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang.

The 23-year-old joined the art group of the KAAD ten years ago and has starred in more than 10 dance performances.

"Su Yang is now a famous dancer, as well as the pride of my family, but it was unimaginable in her childhood," recalled her mother.

Born with cheerful disposition, she was so fond of dance she tried the dance movements she saw on TV even in bed.

After she lost her hearing, however, her parents tried to make her learn other skill.

But as her appeal was so earnest, they visited the KAAD one day.

HEALTHCARE

Tools offer much help to obstetricians

"Sometimes, minor improvements given to some part of a medical device in keeping with conditions and environment can make it more efficient and helpful to patients," said Ri Chung Gil, doctor at the emergency department of the South Phyongan Provincial Maternity Hospital.

He has remodelled a CCD camera amnioscope which is widely applied in the obstetrical



Ju Su Yang (centre) performs for Korean dance *Trio Dance*.

Thus she joined the art group, distinguished herself in dancing soon afterwards and came to lead a fulfilling life.

"Ju has a flair for dancing. She has also great depictive ability and passion. Her novel and witty representation always better the works created by professional writers," said Jon Kyong Sim, staffer in charge of art at the KAAD.

The first work she performed was Korean dance *Ssirum Dance* in which she acted as a boy wrestler. After defeating "his" older and heavier opponent in the match, she expressed "his" joy by patting an ox on the back and making a thumbs-up sign, leaving the audience with lingering impression.

She has performed not only folk dances but foreign dances including fairy-tale dance *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and was extolled by audiences on foreign tours.

"My successes are not ascribable to any natural gift or my parents' efforts. They are attributable to the benevolent system which bestows great favour on us, persons with disabilities and the painstaking efforts of the lecturers of the association. I will keep dancing to sing of my country which provides everyone with every condition for fulfilling their high hopes," signed Ju.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Though the field of vision was narrowed, its accuracy, diagnosis speed and reliability are kept virtually unchanged.

The hospital also makes good use of an MTV delivery monitoring device in the clinical practice.

By taking full advantage of the obstetrical treatment facilities including CCD camera amnioscope in a rational way, the hospital raised the recovery rate by 7 percent.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

practice.

"To make an initial diagnosis on an emergency case arises as a difficult challenge even to experienced doctors," said Ri, adding the newly modified CCD camera amnioscope can be of help in that case.

He reduced the diameter of the amnioscope to nearly half that of the previously used one so as to minimize the inconvenience of patients.



Medical workers examine a patient using a CCD camera amnioscope at the South Phyongan Provincial Maternity Hospital.

REUSE

Bio-waste recycling technology established

A joint research team of Kim Il Sung University and the Pyongyang Meat Processing Trading Company has recently established a new technique of recycling domestic rubbish.

A great deal of organic rubbish from households and restaurants exerts a negative effect on public health and ecological environment.

However, organic refuse can effectively be used as feed materials or organic fertilizer for fish and livestock farming when it passes through a proper microbial fermentation, heat and mechanical treatment and biological treatment processes.

"In order to recycle organic refuse, first of all, it is required to draw up an effective microbial fermentation treatment method and explain the cultivation features of microbial spores accordingly," said So Myong Chol, department chief of the Life Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University.

Researchers separated a dozen species of bacterial strains including protein decomposition bacteria and cultured on an expansion basis various kinds of microbial spores with high decomposition activity and survival rate.

Meanwhile, technicians of the Pyongyang Meat Processing Trading Company focused their research on manufacturing a facility which can raise the effect of microbial fermentation while ensuring the endurance of facility in keeping with the characteristics of domestic rubbish with different acidity, alkalinity, saltiness and pollution level.

Finally, they designed and manufactured devices and parts necessary for the domestic rubbish fermentation process, thus succeeding in making the high-performance facility for organic rubbish fermentation that meets the specific conditions of the country.

"Our facility consumes only half of electricity as compared to imported ones, is productive and can minimize labour and site," said Ha Won Ju, a relevant official.

According to the analysis results of product made from domestic rubbish, it was confirmed that the nutritive, biological and hygienic safety indices reached the standards that could be used as the feed for fish and livestock farming.

Thanks to the establishment of the recycling technology in an industrial way, it came to make tangible contribution to the development of livestock farming and agriculture and the protection of environment.

By Pang Un Ju PT



SONG YONG SOK
Researchers work to find out the culture characteristics of microbial spores at the Life Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University.

against HIV/AIDS.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is posing a serious obstacle in the way of its prevention, testing and treatment.

The epidemic also constitutes a challenge and encumbrance to countries in the provision of necessary assistance.

As regards this, WHO called upon the governments, organizations, public establishments and individuals of each country to cooperate with each other to fulfil their responsibility in the face of the lingering global health crisis.

In the DPRK, intense information activities are conducted to give publicity to the danger of HIV/AIDS to mark every World AIDS Day.

AIDS

Global solidarity – shared responsibility

December 1 is World AIDS Day.

It was designated with an eye to promoting public awareness of the danger of HIV/AIDS and triggering change from the policy-level to community-driven action.

According to experts, tens of millions of people are suffering from this disease and hundreds of thousands die of it annually.

Last year alone witnessed 690 000 deaths from HIV/AIDS-related causes and 1.7 million contracted cases.

The disease continues to be a major global health problem, despite significant progress made in the combat against it since the late 1990s.

That's why the United Nations set World AIDS Day and has arranged a variety of events dedicated to preventing its spread.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2020 is "Global solidarity – shared responsibility".

It is an appeal to all the nations and peoples for fulfilling their responsibility in the effort

By Ri Sung Ik PT

CUBA

In defence of revolutionary gains

December 2 is the day of the Cuban revolutionary armed forces.

On the day in 1956 the Cuban revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro Ruz landed in their country on board the *Granma* and waged an arduous struggle to win victory in the revolution.

The Cuban people celebrate the day as the day of the Cuban revolutionary armed forces.

They established a socialist system for the first time in the western hemisphere and have made brilliant achievements in politics, the economy, culture and all other fields of

social life under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The Cuban revolutionary armed forces have fulfilled their mission and duty to reliably defend the revolutionary gains from the imperialists' vicious policy hostile to Cuba.

Today, Cuba is directing a great deal of energies to building up its military capability to safeguard national sovereignty and socialism in the face of the persistent anti-Cuban moves of the hostile forces to stifle it.

It focuses on intensifying the military training of service personnel, completing military

tactics and upgrading military equipment, while endeavouring to turn the whole country into an impregnable fortress and steadily improve its defence capacity. The armed forces are in constant combat-readiness to defend the country and socialism from the enemy invasion at any moment.

As in the past, the Cuban army still serves as the military basis of socialism and a reliable guarantee for ensuring national security and peace.

The DPRK-Cuba friendly relationship has been forged and strengthened in the course of making joint efforts to oppose

the imperialists' aggression and war policy, defend peace and achieve victory of the socialist cause for decades.

Today, bilateral relations have been bolstered up thanks to the special concern and efforts of the top leaders of the two countries.

The Korean people will, as ever, voice invariable support to and solidarity with the efforts of the Cuban counterpart to foil every threat and blackmail of the hostile forces and staunchly defend socialism and the country's sovereignty.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

goods with better quality and benefit from them.

While working to develop tourism, it promotes many-sided cooperation and exchanges with different countries for national development.

On September 13, a cross-border railway tunnel project was completed. It links the railway route between Kunming of Yunnan Province in China and Vientiane of Laos.

The opening of the 9.59km-long tunnel has offered prospects of active exchanges between the two countries.

Laos consistently pursues the foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation and works to develop international relations as it keeps in close touch with many countries in Asia and the rest of the world.

By Song Jong Ho PT

minister, or could a German chancellor visit the grave of Hitler?

"Japan does not give proper history education at schools and its politicians try to embellish its role in World War II. All Asian people abhor Japan and the after-effects of the Second World War have not been cleared yet there."

"Therefore, Japan is afraid of all neighbouring countries as well as north Korea."

As the saying goes, "Fear has a quick ear."

The Japanese ultra-right political forces are now openly arguing for the introduction of a "maritime missile defence system" and the building of the "capacity to attack enemy base" on the pretext of others' "threat", making desperate attempts to push ahead with the plans.

The real threat which is detrimental to Japan is the reckless confrontation hysteria of its ultra-right political forces that take the lead in the visit to the Yasukuni Shrine.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly**Russia**

Putin sanctions national anti-drug strategy

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently ratified the national anti-drug policy strategy until 2030.

The secretary-general of the Security Council said that it would contribute to consolidating good results achieved in the fight against drug abuse and boosting the efficiency of measures against a new drug threat.

Iran

Petrochemical producer inaugurated

A petrochemical factory with a large production capacity of ammonia and urea was built in Bakhtiari va Chahar Mahall, Iran, and inaugurated on November 26 with President Hassan Rouhani in attendance.

Uzbekistan

Rural development plan unveiled

The Uzbek government on November 25 issued a rural development plan until 2024.

The plan is aimed at improving the rural infrastructure and the quality of services in over 20 districts and more than 300 villages in five provinces.

France

Police outrage triggers off nationwide protest

Demonstrations took place in France on November 28 in protest against the maltreatment of black people by police.

Shortly ago, when a video clip showing several cops kicking a black man was open to the media, the authorities attempted to pass a bill on banning the release of such video footage revealing the act of human right abuse.

Antarctica

Ice melting to cause further rise in sea level

According to a foreign media report, over 2.63 million square kilometres of glaciers which take up one fifth of the total area of Antarctica melted away in the period between 1999 and 2019.

The rapid melting of ice in the continent will cause a rise in sea level, it said.

Australia

Large quantities of greenhouse gas released

Australia emitted 513.4 million tons of greenhouse gas during the 2020 fiscal year.

The amount of carbon dioxide released from the means of transportation including car and airplane reportedly reached 19 million tons between April and June.

LAOS

Southeast Asian country thrives on, celebrating 45th founding anniv

The Lao People's Democratic Republic marked its 45th anniversary on December 2.

Today, the Laotian people are striving to achieve social stability and national unity and implement the ten-year social and economic development strategy (2016-2025) under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

With an eye to increasing the country's power generation capacity, the government presses on with the construction of hydropower stations and increases investment in the natural energy development sector.

It also pays close attention to the training of talents by setting it as a major national policy for the country's future.

As it channelled efforts into early education for improving the quality of education last year, enrolment of five-year-old children increased by 2.3 percent. The total primary school enrolment is now 99.1 percent and the areas with an over 95 percent enrolment rate have grown to 134.

The government aims to boost primary school enrolment in rural areas and further raise the national educational level by promoting early education.

It also directs efforts to the improvement of the people's living standards.

Recently, it launched into a project for bettering the livelihood of residents in the country's northern region with the goal of establishing the elementary infrastructure, improving the nutritional conditions of residents and providing them with income sources in the poverty-stricken areas.

Accordingly, the government is said to provide technical support and assistance for nearly 250 villages in order to encourage them to produce

JAPAN

Who really threatens Japan?

Japan is not friendly with neighbouring countries.

There are several reasons for it. One of them is its "worship culture".

In Japan high-ranking government officials visit the controversial Yasukuni Shrine in spring and autumn every year, sparking a barrage of protest and denunciation from neighbouring countries.

Former Prime Minister Abe visited the war shrine in the early period of his term of office. As he came under immediate fire from the media and public at home and abroad, he confined himself to sending offerings to it.

But immediately after his resignation from office on September 16, he visited the shrine and wrote on his Twitter account that he reported to the souls on his resignation from the office of prime minister. On November 19 he paid a visit to the shrine again.

Of course, it is a universal practice in every country to visit the souls of national heroes or ancestors.

However, the Yasukuni Shrine he visited despite all protests houses the name tablets of war criminals who had reduced many countries in Asia as well as neighbouring countries to a slaughterhouse. The Japanese rulers highly praise war criminals, whose names still make the peoples of neighbouring countries shudder with anger, as "heroes of the Yamato nation".

It is not Abe alone who is very intent on pilgrimage to the war shrine. On October 17, a so-called great autumn festival began at the shrine and that day the sitting Prime Minister, Suga, sent an offering to it. Competitively, the dietmen and Cabinet ministers began to visit the shrine.

Calling Japan to account for its undesirable behaviour, the

spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the Yasukuni Shrine is the spiritual tool and symbol which made Japanese militarism ignite the fuse of war for overseas aggression and the place where the name tablets of 14 class-A war criminals who had committed grave crimes against humanity during the aggressive wars are kept and that it once again reflects Japan's wrong approach to its history of aggression.

An article was posted on the Internet, which said:

"After the war the Japanese king was safe and now its prime ministers visit the shrine housing the name tablets of war criminals on August 15 (the day of its defeat) every year. The maternal grandfather of former Prime Minister Abe was also a war criminal. If it were in Germany, could a grandson of Goering become a prime

minister, or could a German chancellor visit the grave of Hitler?

"Japan does not give proper history education at schools and its politicians try to embellish its role in World War II. All Asian people abhor Japan and the after-effects of the Second World War have not been cleared yet there."

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The real threat which is detrimental to Japan is the reckless confrontation hysteria of its ultra-right political forces that take the lead in the visit to the Yasukuni Shrine.

By Om Ryong PT

WILDLIFE

Protection effort yields solid results

"We have synthesized new information on nationwide wildlife protection and management by conducting a survey of 26 animal reserves covering more than 100 000 hectares across the country between May last year and April this year," said Kim Kyong Jun, PhD and deputy director of the Zoology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

On the principle of designating sanctuaries afresh or increasing them, the survey was carried out mainly to ascertain animals

under protection in reserves and surrounding forests and their living environment.

The surveyors observed over 40 mammalian species and 200 bird species in the reserves and confirmed that pheasant, roe deer and water deer remarkably increased in number in the areas south of the central part of the country as compared to five years ago.

They also found out 24 species of mammals such as Korean tiger, leopard, bear, red deer and musk deer and discovered

the habitats of goshawk, which had been known to breed in the areas north of South Hamgyong Province, in the animal reserve of Mt Yangam in Kangwon Province and the animal reserve of Mt Hakpong in North Hwanghae Province in the central region.

On the basis of the survey, the pre-existing animal reserves were reorganized as wildlife reserves and more forest areas inhabited by animals in a concentrated way were found out to designate them as such

sanctuaries. The area and form of them were rationally set in consideration of the multiplication and food chain of animals and ecological passages were opened between reserves.

Efforts have also been made to furnish wildlife reserves properly to provide animals with good living conditions.

Artificial caves, nests, grass fields and ponds have been built in larger number, arrowroot vines, hazels, cereals and other feed plants planted and salt pouches hanged on tree



BY COURTESY OF THE ZOOLOGY INSTITUTE OF THE STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



Researchers from the Zoology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences measure the girth of a tree with a goshawk nest (above). Hakpongsan Wildlife Reserve, an estimated goshawk habitat, in Pongbul-ri, Thosan County, North Hwanghae Province (right).

Ecological resources to be enriched for wildlife

Notable achievements have been made in the protection of animals in the DPRK this year.

Animal reserves have markedly been increased and progress has been made in the research for protecting indigenous and rare species.

This is attributable to intensified government measures to protect ecological environment,

A well-organized system for animal protection had been in operation in the country for decades with the undertaking being carried on as an all-people drive.

However, the country suffered a sharp decrease in forest areas and ecological destruction due to successive natural calamities during the Arduous March when it was experiencing hardship.

Entering the new millennium, the government took on afforestation and forest conservation as a priority task and encouraged all the people to turn out in this effort.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in December last year discussed measures for afforestation,



Choe Pong Hwan,
deputy department director of the
General Forest Bureau under the
Ministry of Land and Environment
Protection

the protection of ecological environment and the protection and multiplication of fauna and flora resources.

This year different activities have been conducted for the protection of animals including the survey of wildlife and protection and multiplication of useful animals. As a result habitats of animals have been splendidly furnished in

vast areas of forests.

As it summed up the ongoing forest restoration campaign that is conducted on an annual basis, the General Forest Bureau under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection mapped out a plan for completing such undertakings as to improve ecological environment of forests, make a survey of distribution of fauna and flora in all the sanctuaries in the country and reconfirm their areas until 2025 and put it into operation.

Accordingly, tens of thousands of hectares of forests have newly been selected as ecology reserves and regional ecological corridors created between the reserves.

In addition, measures have been taken to prohibit entry into mountains, logging and pasturing in the reserves and ecological corridors, especially the exploitation of underground resources and collection of wild fruits and medicinal herbs.

By drawing on our successes in animal protection, we will work to improve the ecological environment of the country.

Useful animal reserves increase in number

"This year, every province has set up two useful animal reserves on an experimental basis. With dynamic efforts being made to increase the number of useful animal reserves into ten in a few years, a large number of counties have built such sanctuaries afresh," said Ryu Ryong Nam, chief staffer of the General Forest Bureau under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

Large-scale useful animal reserves have newly been selected and registered at the broadleaf tree and mixed forests to cover from 300 to 1 000 hectares to meet the forest areas and characteristics of relevant regions, he said, and the work of selecting useful animal reserves to be built next year is making good headway.

Beautiful hilly areas with good traffic conditions have mainly been chosen so as not to give harm to the scenery and biological

branches.

Such animal protection measures are contained in the law on the protection of useful animals and the law on natural reserves of the DPRK which were revised and supplemented last September.

Kim Kyong Jun referred to the need to make the wildlife protection work an undertaking involving all the people, not confining it to those in charge, saying that forest supervisory institutions should tighten legal control on forest fire and secret and indiscriminate felling and the forest restoration campaign that is conducted on an annual basis should be directed to wildlife protection.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

By Ri Sung Ik PT



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WPK Central Committee convenes Politburo enlarged meeting

The 21st enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place at the office building of the WPK Central Committee on November 29.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the WPK, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, attended the meeting.

Present there were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

Present there as observers were leading officials of major departments of the Party Central Committee, members of the Party Congress preparatory committee and other relevant personnel.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un presided over the meeting upon authorization of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

The meeting discussed and studied as key agenda items the issue of hearing a report on the

preparations for the Eighth Congress of the WPK and taking relevant measures, the issue of reorganizing a relevant department mechanism of the Party Central Committee with an eye to strengthening the Party's ideological work sector, establishing its leadership system in relevant institutions more thoroughly and intensifying policy and Party guidance over them and other important issues for improving Party guidance over economic work and carrying out immediate economic tasks, before deciding on those matters.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee heard a report of the preparatory committee of the Eighth Congress of the WPK on the preparations for the congress, including the review of the work of guidance bodies of Party organizations at all levels and their elections, Party meetings for electing delegates to the Party Congress, preparations of documents for the congress and those for political and cultural events to be held before and after the congress. The Politburo pointed out a series of deviations and major duties

of the preparatory committee and indicated the orientation for the issues brought up by the preparatory committee.

The Politburo deliberated on relevant issues for improving and strengthening the Party's ideological work sector as required by the developing Korean revolution and approved the matter of organizational structure.

It sharply criticized economic guidance organs for failing to provide scientific guidance to the sectors in their charge to suit the subjective and objective

environment and conditions and for failing to overcome subjectivism and formalism. It stressed the need to ensure scientific accuracy in the planning and guidance for carrying out the Party's economic policies and display great dedication and responsibility.

The Political Bureau discussed measures for the important issues of carrying out immediate economic tasks for this year and adopted key decisions with unanimous approval.

KCNA



LEAD

Science and technology taken as lifeblood

The inaugural ceremony of the Sci-Tech Complex was held on Ssuk Islet in the Taedong River in Pyongyang on New Year's Day four years ago.

The DPRK saw in the New Year 2016 with the opening of the great temple of learning for all the people and the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea that took place in May that year set it forth as one of important targets to be hit preferentially in the building of a powerful socialist country to put overall science and technology of the country at the most advanced level in the world and ensure the rapid development of all other sectors, including the economy, national defence and culture, by dint of the leading role of science and technology.

The DPRK has concentrated on building a socialist power, which has great national strength and prospers forever and whose people live happily without envying anyone in the world, over the past decades in the face of the persistent sanctions and blockade moves of the imperialists.

Here it has taken science and technology as the lifeblood.

This is ever more vital at the present age of knowledge-based

economy.

It is a courageous ambition of the DPRK to take an honourable place among the ranks of the most advanced nations in the world in the near future in terms of overall sci-tech strength by not simply following the road taken by others but charging forward by leaps and bounds from one decade to the next.

The Party Congress served to encourage everyone to attach importance to science and technology more than ever before and every workplace has come to establish a climate of planning and carrying out every work on a scientific basis.

Under the leadership of the WPK the sci-tech sector is conducting a vigorous campaign to surpass the cutting edge in order to develop technologies with a world-class competitive edge, while drawing up and implementing scientific and technological plans for promoting the independence and Juche character of the economy and improving the people's living standards.

Upholding the slogan of ensuring that all the people are well-versed in science and technology, sci-tech dissemination bases have been built splendidly all across the

country, a nationwide sci-tech diffusion system set up in a well-ordered way with the Sci-Tech Complex as the hub and enterprises integrating research and development with production established amid the dynamic mass technical innovation drive.

And as science and technology have been prioritized, the country's economy is developing into a knowledge-intensive one in which information industry and knowledge-based industry play the leading role and the country is definitely following the track of new prosperity.

In recent years alone, the production system based on oxygen blast furnace was set up at the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes and the project for establishing the C1 chemical industry is being pressed on. And the machine-building industry manufactured new models of tractors, lorries, tube trains, tramcars and trolley buses.

It is the firm resolution and will of the WPK to build a powerful socialist country that thrives and advances by dint of science in the near future.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

HOUSING

Afflicted people in northern areas move into new houses

New houses for thousands of families have been built in the disaster-stricken areas of North and South Hamgyong provinces and Sonbong District of Rason City.

Many regions sustained severe damage simultaneously due to the typhoon and heavy rain that hit the DPRK between last August and September, and North and South Hamgyong provinces and Rason City witnessed collapse of public buildings and dwellings of thousands of households and many flood victims were left homeless.

Service personnel who were

dispatched to the rehabilitation sites and builders of provinces, cities and counties constructed new homes in a short period by waging a do-or-die struggle.

Ceremonies took place in new villages to move into new houses.

They were attended by Kim Chol Sam, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Pak Man Ho, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, Kim Pong Yong, chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's

Committee, Sin Yong Chol, chairman of the Rason City Party Committee, Sin Chang Il, chairman of the Rason City People's Committee, relevant officials, builders and residents.

Congratulatory speeches were made in the meetings and licences to use dwellings were conveyed to locals.

After the ceremonies, lorries carrying household goods arrived at modern houses.

The locals danced to the tune of merry music for joy in different parts of villages.

KCNA



Afflicted locals celebrate after they move into new homes.



INSPECTION

Premier visits power plant, salt works and tidal flats

Premier Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, looked round different production processes at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex to point to the need to increase electricity production by pushing the technical reconstruction in a planned way. As regards the protection of the ecological environment of the capital, he referred to the necessity to step up the technical upgrading of the dust-absorbing system of the complex so as to ensure a cleaner production

environment.

At the Kwisong and Unha salt works, he acquainted himself with the progress of the projects for repairing dykes.

The field consultative meetings discussed the measures for making the most of the existing generating capacity and ensuring a timely supply of equipment and materials for the projects by the relevant units.

Meanwhile, the Premier learned about progress made in the reclamation projects of Woldo and Honggondo tidelands.

KCNA



Premier Kim Tok Hun (foreground) is on an inspection tour of the Kwisong Salt Works in South Phyongan Province.

Nationwide

Sheep farm inaugurated in Changsong County



Brewery inaugurated



The Rason Brewery has been built in North Hamgyong Province.

The brewery in Sonbong District, Rason City, consists of an integrated control room, diastatic fermentation ground, beer production ground, quality and technical preparation section and hostel.

Autumn tree planting conducted

Kangwon Province planted many trees of good species like Kumya black pine in thousands of hectares and ensured more than 90 percent of their rooting rate.

Hundreds of thousands of trees were planted in the areas around the Pyongyang-Wonsan Tourist Motorway.

North Phyongan and Jagang provinces made sure that the distribution of tree species was correctly conducted and technological demand was fully observed.

The Kowon Tachung Power Station has been built in South Hamgyong Province.

The construction of the power station would contribute to reenergizing production at the Kowon Tachung Machine Factory and improving the livelihood of its employees.

STEEL

Complex steps up iron and steel production

The Chollima Steel Complex has recently directed great efforts to the upgrading of its equipment to boost steel production.

It made a new type of prompt gas analyser capable of raising thermal efficiency by analysing



Production is on the rise at the Chollima Steel Complex.

KIM Il Jin

the density of gas generated from heating furnaces in real time. It took over 15 minutes for the conventional analyser to make an analysis and its results varied according to the skills of analysts. But the new one is featured by short analysing time, high precision and long lifespan of sensors. According to Choe Won Chan, staffer in the technical development section, the billet workpiece heating time has remarkably been shortened as compared to before, and a medium rolling heating furnace boosted its daily rolled output by 10 percent and saved well

over 10 tons of anthracite after its introduction.

The complex also remodelled the diameter of tapping hole nozzle of a UHP electric arc furnace to halve the tapping time of molten iron and steel and lower power consumption.

"We have also set up a refractory production process with an annual capacity of thousands of tons," said chief engineer Song Myong Ho.

What draws special attention in this process is that, unlike previously, workers improve the quality of refractory bricks in a kiln in the high-temperature air combustion heating method by making the effective use of heat from a gas generator based on anthracite gasification. The process turns out high-grade refractory including high-alumina bricks which can be used in rotary kilns and heating furnaces.

In addition, it introduced a microalloy steel technology based on alloying elements to improve steel quality while sharply cutting down production costs.

By Kim Il Jin PT

development before the time set, and the Pyongyang Bearing Factory and Pyongyang Grindstone Factory also attained their goals for the ongoing 80-day campaign earlier than schedule.

The mining industry sector carried out the plan for producing apatite concentrate 1.2 times, as well as the targets for the 80-day campaign on major indices.

The Munphyong Smeltery more than doubled the nonferrous metal output by putting production on a high and normal track, and the Ssangryong Mine prepared enough raw materials for phosphate fertilizer production.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill reached the target for the 80-day campaign at 185 percent, while the Kangso, Kumya and Anju silk mills overfulfilled their daily plans.

The Aeguk and Wonsan knitwear factories struck the targets for the 80-day campaign and other factories produced much more knitwear and hosiery than their daily plans.

The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory completed its 80-day campaign plan and Ryuwon Footwear Factory and Mangyongdae Leather Shoes Factory finished their yearly plans.

By Jong Chol PT



PAK KWANG HUN
The Pyongyang Hosiery Factory overfulfills its monthly production plan.

PROFILE

Following in hero father's footsteps



“My father was the first manager of the complex. On his deathbed he stroked his medal of hero and said to me, ‘I believe you’,” said Yun Song Chol(pictured), chief engineer of the Sangwon Cement Complex.

True to his will, Yun came to the complex after graduating from Kim Chaek University of Technology 24 years ago.

He was first assigned to the limestone mine under the complex. At the time there was a shortage of everything in the country and the complex had a small supply of materials.

Yun buckled down to his job, finding out a way to make carbon brush for electric motor, a bottleneck in production, and ensure the normal operation of high-pressure electric motor and repairing a damaged machine. When the complex built a new mining pit with an annual production capacity of millions of tons, he contributed to making the equipment for ore transport large-sized and completed the research into power supply and control systems of the pit.

He was promoted from a worker to deputy workshop manager, workshop manager and chief engineer of the limestone mine and then chief engineer of the complex.

He acquired a knack of using every piece of technical information in production by studying it in close combination with the field conditions and visited workplaces regularly to meet the technicians and workers and solve the problems on the spot.

Once, the complex faced a pressing task to upgrade cement kiln No. 1.

It was a project to dismantle and assemble over 10 000-ton equipment pieces, while continuing cement production. If it had failed, the consequences would have been beyond imagination. But he completed it in a little over 40 days while providing technical guarantee of the project.

Yun Song Chol, chief engineer of the Sangwon Cement Complex

Yun studied and found a way to supply the complex with iron ore for cement production to open up a prospect for developing a new mine. And he developed an idea of using the earth from the strip mine for cement production, making it possible for the complex to gain handsome profits.

He also boldly broke the existing formula when the complex produced cement to be used for the foundation work of cable support at the Masikryong Ski Resort.

The employees of the complex call him an “indispensable official for the complex” with respect as he always gropes for increased cement production, gives efficient guidance on any problems and works sincerely for the good of the employees.

“My father’s earnest request to work harder to do his share always encourages me. I will always carry on his intention,” said Yun.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

ECONOMY

Different sectors hit November targets

The metallurgical industry sector overfulfilled the production plan of pig iron, steel and iron ore for November by over 10 percent.

The Unnyul Mine introduced a new blasting method and increased the transport speed of mine cars through a brisk mass technical innovation drive, thus hitting its target for the 80-day campaign ahead of schedule.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and Chollima Steel Complex overfulfilled their plans by 20 percent every day by ensuring that processes worked in close cooperation with each other and conducted mass drives including next shift helping.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex completed its polyvinyl chloride production plan 1.4 times ahead of schedule, while the Sunchon Chemical Complex stepped up the production of caustic soda to carry out its daily assignment at 110 percent.

The Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Mill, Haeju Youth Paper Mill, Wonsan Chemical Factory and Chongjin Chemical Fibre Mill

contributed to attaining paper production goals.

The Chongchong Thermal Power Station finished its annual plan till November 29, and the Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal power complexes and East Pyongyang and Sunchon thermal power stations generated a great deal of electricity.

The Kanggye and Thaecheon power stations and other hydropower stations in different parts of the country did a good job to fulfil their production quotas by following the Suphung and Taedonggang power stations that had overfulfilled their monthly plans 1.4 times.

Youth coal-mining complexes in Pukchang and Sunchon areas, the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex and others in the coal-mining industry sector drastically boosted coal output by conducting the socialist emulation drive between coal mines, pits and shifts.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 reached the goals of five-year strategy for national economic



County paves the way for local development

Role models play a key part

Our county has now turned into a place with many boasts though it was once called Tolmoru, or a stone anvil, as it had nothing to boast of, except stone.

Black chokeberry is counted first in our county.

Black chokeberry forests can be seen here and there in the county. Among them, the black chokeberry forest created by the Yonthan County source mobilization company is very worth seeing.

The income earned from the fruit of black chokeberry gives much help to the management activities of the company and the economic life of the county.

By putting the company forward as a model we make all factories and enterprises build their own tree nurseries and plant forests of economic value with good species of trees including black chokeberry, mulberry and Schizandra chinensis with high economic effectiveness so as to benefit from their cultivation.

It is an important matter to ease the shortage of electricity



Hong Kyong Suk, chairwoman of the Yonthan County People's Committee, North Hwanghae Province

in order to reenergize industrial establishments in the county.

There are many minor rivers and lakes in our county, including Lake Yonthan and Hwangju Stream.

We built several medium and small hydropower stations to satisfy electricity need.

Another pride of the county is that locally-run factories recycle

waste materials and by-products from production processes.

In the past, some factories and enterprises took an active part in recycling, but some others paid no heed to this work.

So, we channelled efforts into widely generalizing the experience of the furniture producers' cooperative.

The unit is a role model across the country as it makes steady efforts for recycling.

As it actively introduced good experience and developed it into better one, the essential chemical goods factory recycled plastic waste to increase production while reducing production costs.

The paper mill and foodstuff factory are now pushing in real earnest an undertaking to reproduce waste materials and by-products, which had been dumped uselessly, into new resources by introducing the recycling technology.

Our county won the title of model local industry county in 2015.

Black chokeberry cultivation bears fruit

"At present, black chokeberry is cultivated in different parts of the country, but people say that those growing in our county are superior in medicinal efficacy," said Kim Yong Chol, manager of the Yonthan County source mobilization company.

According to him, the plant begins to bear fruits when it is three years old, and fruits can be collected for more than 20 years.

The fruit is very good for human health. It is used for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases including arteriosclerosis and hypertension as it contains much anthocyan, catechol and flavonol which remarkably reduce cholesterol contents in blood and have antioxidant and capillary reinforcing functions.

Its edible value is very high since its fruit contains not only a proper amount of sugar and organic acid but also many vitamins and microelements.

The company started to plant the shrub some ten years ago.

When the company was first determined to plant the shrub in mountains, some people shook their heads saying when they would benefit from it.

"The thriving way for our county, which had no particular underground and marine resources, was to exploit mountains well," said the manager.

The company planted dozens



Aronia fruit extract produced by a local company in Yonthan County, North Hwanghae Province.

of hectares of black chokeberry forests on the sloping land overgrown with shrubs.

The employees had much trouble at first since they did not know how to manure and cultivate it.

In the course of this, they newly established a planting method based on saplings in humus cake which markedly hastens the production cycle of the saplings, saves much manpower and raises the rate of rooting.

And they applied quality composite microbial fermented compost in order to further increase the nutritional value of the fruits and their productivity.

The company produces different processed products with black chokeberry fruits.

Especially, the extract of the fruit is much sought-after as it helps supplement vitamins, strengthens blood vessels and is good for the cardiovascular system.

The company plans to produce tea, jam, jelly and syrup from the fruit.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

'Nothing to waste'

"There is nothing to throw away even from sawdust to splinters of wood," said Choe Tok Bo, chairman of the management board of the Yonthan County Furniture Producers' Cooperative.

The cooperative makes effective use of wood splinters and sawdust, the byproducts from wood processing.

It focusses its business strategy on getting maximum benefits with the minimum cost.

For more effective use of material wood, the cooperative introduced a new planing and veneering machines into the plywood production process, and turns out planed veneers and tongue-and-groove blocks with delicate patterns and natural beauty. The planing refuse is used to make chipboards that are applied on the front and rear of furniture pieces to make them more light and resistant to deformation.

It recycles plastic waste to make adhesives which are essentially needed in the production of plywood.

It also substitutes byproducts from wood processing for electricity.

It remodelled a previously used electric heating press into an oil-heated press using sawdust and planing refuse as fuel and applied it to the plywood production process and thus doubled the productivity.

"Small wood

splinters from wood processing is just another kind of resource," said Choe. "We are making furniture boards with splinters in the same size and such furniture pieces are much sought-after as they are light and have many uses."

All products of the cooperative are made from locally-abundant timber, he continued, adding they have no worry about materials as it is expanding the timber forests on the principle of planting one hundred saplings for every felled tree.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Factory satisfies local needs for condiments

The residents of Yonthan County like condiments produced at the local foodstuff factory very much.

It is because the factory has improved their quality by upgrading its modern soy and bean paste production line.

The factory's soy sauce and bean paste had been inferior in quality until several years ago, according to locals.

However, the factory paid primary attention to raising quality and ensuring hygienic safety and provided a guarantee

for automating the production processes from material transfer to material measuring, steam cooking and leavening. It also improved the quality and hygienic safety of soy and bean paste by introducing a new kind of fermentation tank.

The factory officials often visit retail shops to collect feedback on their products.

"Our soy sauce and bean paste are much sought after by locals for their remarkably improved taste," said Kim Yong Sop, staffer in charge of production,

adding they also increased the kinds of bean paste such as those made with green pepper, garlic and fruit of toothache tree.

Also, the factory built and installed a vacuum thickener to produce delicious confectionery with corn syrup. It remodelled the pattern roller of the biscuit machine to produce biscuits with different shapes and patterns.

"The factory has a solid raw material base, which produces corn, bean, acorn, sesame and perilla which are ingredients for soy sauces, bean paste, oil and other condiments," said manager Kim Thae Sik, adding herbs and wild fruits like black chokeberry fruit are used in the production of teas and liquor.

By Kim Il Jin PT



Employees work on a furniture piece at the Furniture Producers' Cooperative in Yonthan County.

EDUCATION

A year of progress, teaching adopts innovative ideas

Substance put on general, modern and practical footing

"To make educational content practical, comprehensive and up-to-date constitutes an essential part in the work for developing the intellectual potentials of students to the maximum and enhancing their abilities to acquire and apply new and practical knowledge," said Jo Chol, vice-chairman of the Education Commission.

Many universities have attained remarkable successes in this effort.

Kim Il Sung University reviewed all the educational contents from regular courses to the postgraduate course and included its scientific research achievements according to the international trend of educational development and made them strictly practical in keeping with the reality.

Also, it ensured the pedagogic interconnection between the contents of education in adjacent and cross-disciplinary subjects and basic and major subjects, while raising the introduction rate of latest science and technologies.

Kim Chaek University of Technology upgraded its educational contents so as to raise the level of study subjects with theoretical explanation in plain language, incorporate the achievements made in the scientific research and development of hi-tech products and give students practical knowledge needed to put the national economy on a Juche-oriented, modern, scientific and IT footing.

Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry

included the matters that are conducive to recycling raw materials in the light industry sector in all the curricula and updated the teaching contents in such a way as to improve education in basic and theoretical contents that can be applied in scientific research and production activities.

To this end, it ensured that students acquire knowledge in their major fields while learning basic subjects, integrated the contents with the similar academic foundations and created new subjects.

Technical colleges set up new courses including the artificial intelligence course, while upgrading the teaching content in line with the effort to improve education systems like the continuous education system from the undergraduate course to postgraduate school, said an official of the Education Commission.

The universities and colleges in the teacher-training sector have merged subjects so as to increase the share of practical and skill training and experiments on the basis of strengthening basic and theoretical education and created new subjects when necessary.

And they applied the optional subject system to both major and general subjects so that students can broaden their horizons according to their aptitudes, talents and abilities and enhance their practical abilities.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



Lecturers discuss how to improve online education at Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences.

Model schools built nationwide

As the climate of prioritizing education is fostered in the DPRK, model schools have been built in large numbers this year.

North and South Phyongan provinces have been the frontrunners in the effort.

The former built over 80 schools and the latter gave a facelift to more than 50 till October.

In Jagang Province, old school buildings were knocked down to build schools equipped with good educational conditions and environment.

Songgan County built or rebuilt several senior and junior middle schools, primary schools and even the branch schools attended by a small number of students.

Songwon County built

Hoeyang Senior Middle School into a model and spruced up schools in many ri.

The county is planning to renovate all other schools by next year.

Similar efforts were made in Unjong District, Pyongyang.

The district people's committee gave a total facelift to the educational conditions and environment of Unjong Technical Senior Middle School by launching the project early this year.

Referring to the climate of prioritizing education being established across the country, an educational functionary said that the construction of schools should not be regarded merely as a building project as education is the work for the rising generations and the future

of the country.

Phyongwon County in South Phyongan Province spruced up Sangryong Senior Middle School in a short period and pushed ahead with the construction of new buildings of several senior middle and primary schools. Hoechang County also refashioned a senior middle school into a model one.

In North Hwanghae Province, a model school was built by constructing not only a school building but accessory buildings



Refurbished Sohung Primary School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

Teaching methods based on latest technology



Teachers pool ideas for improving teaching conditions and environment at Wasan Technical Senior Middle School in Sosong District, Pyongyang.

This year the DPRK has made remarkable progress in education under the slogan "Let us develop education that can shape our future!"

Competitive efforts have been made to create new teaching methods since the beginning of the year, especially in the teachers' training sector.

Universities of education throughout the country made well over a hundred e-textbooks to develop the creative quest and application faculties of students, while raising the scientific level of education by contriving new multimedia presentations, experimental apparatuses and teaching aids, and developed simulated experiment and practical training programs conducive to enhancing both theoretical and practical application abilities.

Teachers and researchers in the general education sector generalized videos for model lessons of ordinary subjects across the country, completed model lessons which are helpful for students to understand artificial intelligence and programming methods in the course of making different types of robots, and worked out over 590 hours of e-teaching plans made of hypermedia presentations for the subjects of pupils in the first to fifth grades of primary schools.

This year hundreds of new teaching methods have been created in the general education sector, including the one based on the speech recognition technology.

Teachers intensified research by placing focus on developing the self-study, quest and application faculties of students through guide lessons and self-study to meet the lingering health crisis of the world, and made and applied the presentations for guide lessons in order to execute teaching programmes with the help of computers and TVs in families.

The higher education sector also created a new teaching method, which helps vividly simulate the content of lessons by using programs and advanced technology and map out even a device by applying them, and made it possible to build up abilities to settle realistic problems through the study of the latest sci-tech achievement data and essays.

In addition, it came up with lots of new methods of education including a teaching method which helps increase practical abilities and skills through virtual environment and the work of introducing the CDIO mode in line with detailed reality.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

DISABLED

Dance makes her dream come true

"Dance is my life and it gives me everything," expressed Ju Su Yang, art group member under the Korean Art Association of the Disabled, using sign language.

The entire audience is filled with admiration when this beautiful woman dances on stage, as they marvel at her vivacious, nimble and charming movements including quick spin and exact halt, pulsating rhythm and expressive countenance.

"Seeing her dance, I get excited and hum the tune unawares as I am so absorbed in her work," said Ri Song Ok, resident in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang.

The 23-year-old joined the art group of the KAAD ten years ago and has starred in more than 10 dance performances.

"Su Yang is now a famous dancer, as well as the pride of my family, but it was unimaginable in her childhood," recalled her mother.

Born with cheerful disposition, she was so fond of dance she tried the dance movements she saw on TV even in bed.

After she lost her hearing, however, her parents tried to make her learn other skill.

But as her appeal was so earnest, they visited the KAAD one day.

HEALTHCARE

Tools offer much help to obstetricians

"Sometimes, minor improvements given to some part of a medical device in keeping with conditions and environment can make it more efficient and helpful to patients," said Ri Chung Gil, doctor at the emergency department of the South Phyongan Provincial Maternity Hospital.

He has remodelled a CCD camera amnioscope which is widely applied in the obstetrical



Ju Su Yang (centre) performs for Korean dance *Trio Dance*.

Thus she joined the art group, distinguished herself in dancing soon afterwards and came to lead a fulfilling life.

"Ju has a flair for dancing. She has also great depictive ability and passion. Her novel and witty representation always better the works created by professional writers," said Jon Kyong Sim, staffer in charge of art at the KAAD.

The first work she performed was Korean dance *Ssirum Dance* in which she acted as a boy wrestler. After defeating "his" older and heavier opponent in the match, she expressed "his" joy by patting an ox on the back and making a thumbs-up sign, leaving the audience with lingering impression.

She has performed not only folk dances but foreign dances including fairy-tale dance *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and was extolled by audiences on foreign tours.

"My successes are not ascribable to any natural gift or my parents' efforts. They are attributable to the benevolent system which bestows great favour on us, persons with disabilities and the painstaking efforts of the lecturers of the association. I will keep dancing to sing of my country which provides everyone with every condition for fulfilling their high hopes," signed Ju.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Though the field of vision was narrowed, its accuracy, diagnosis speed and reliability are kept virtually unchanged.

The hospital also makes good use of an MTV delivery monitoring device in the clinical practice.

By taking full advantage of the obstetrical treatment facilities including CCD camera amnioscope in a rational way, the hospital raised the recovery rate by 7 percent.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

practice.

"To make an initial diagnosis on an emergency case arises as a difficult challenge even to experienced doctors," said Ri, adding the newly modified CCD camera amnioscope can be of help in that case.

He reduced the diameter of the amnioscope to nearly half that of the previously used one so as to minimize the inconvenience of patients.



Medical workers examine a patient using a CCD camera amnioscope at the South Phyongan Provincial Maternity Hospital.

REUSE

Bio-waste recycling technology established

A joint research team of Kim Il Sung University and the Pyongyang Meat Processing Trading Company has recently established a new technique of recycling domestic rubbish.

A great deal of organic rubbish from households and restaurants exerts a negative effect on public health and ecological environment.

However, organic refuse can effectively be used as feed materials or organic fertilizer for fish and livestock farming when it passes through a proper microbial fermentation, heat and mechanical treatment and biological treatment processes.

"In order to recycle organic refuse, first of all, it is required to draw up an effective microbial fermentation treatment method and explain the cultivation features of microbial spores accordingly," said So Myong Chol, department chief of the Life Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University.

Researchers separated a dozen species of bacterial strains including protein decomposition bacteria and cultured on an expansion basis various kinds of microbial spores with high decomposition activity and survival rate.

Meanwhile, technicians of the Pyongyang Meat Processing Trading Company focused their research on manufacturing a facility which can raise the effect of microbial fermentation while ensuring the endurance of facility in keeping with the characteristics of domestic rubbish with different acidity, alkalinity, saltiness and pollution level.

Finally, they designed and manufactured devices and parts necessary for the domestic rubbish fermentation process, thus succeeding in making the high-performance facility for organic rubbish fermentation that meets the specific conditions of the country.

"Our facility consumes only half of electricity as compared to imported ones, is productive and can minimize labour and site," said Ha Won Ju, a relevant official.

According to the analysis results of product made from domestic rubbish, it was confirmed that the nutritive, biological and hygienic safety indices reached the standards that could be used as the feed for fish and livestock farming.

Thanks to the establishment of the recycling technology in an industrial way, it came to make tangible contribution to the development of livestock farming and agriculture and the protection of environment.

By Pang Un Ju PT



SONG YONG SOK
Researchers work to find out the culture characteristics of microbial spores at the Life Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University.

against HIV/AIDS.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is posing a serious obstacle in the way of its prevention, testing and treatment.

The epidemic also constitutes a challenge and encumbrance to countries in the provision of necessary assistance.

As regards this, WHO called upon the governments, organizations, public establishments and individuals of each country to cooperate with each other to fulfil their responsibility in the face of the lingering global health crisis.

In the DPRK, intense information activities are conducted to give publicity to the danger of HIV/AIDS to mark every World AIDS Day.

AIDS

Global solidarity – shared responsibility

December 1 is World AIDS Day.

It was designated with an eye to promoting public awareness of the danger of HIV/AIDS and triggering change from the policy-level to community-driven action.

According to experts, tens of millions of people are suffering from this disease and hundreds of thousands die of it annually.

Last year alone witnessed 690 000 deaths from HIV/AIDS-related causes and 1.7 million contracted cases.

The disease continues to be a major global health problem, despite significant progress made in the combat against it since the late 1990s.

That's why the United Nations set World AIDS Day and has arranged a variety of events dedicated to preventing its spread.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2020 is "Global solidarity – shared responsibility".

It is an appeal to all the nations and peoples for fulfilling their responsibility in the effort

By Ri Sung Ik PT

CUBA

In defence of revolutionary gains

December 2 is the day of the Cuban revolutionary armed forces.

On the day in 1956 the Cuban revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro Ruz landed in their country on board the *Granma* and waged an arduous struggle to win victory in the revolution.

The Cuban people celebrate the day as the day of the Cuban revolutionary armed forces.

They established a socialist system for the first time in the western hemisphere and have made brilliant achievements in politics, the economy, culture and all other fields of

social life under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The Cuban revolutionary armed forces have fulfilled their mission and duty to reliably defend the revolutionary gains from the imperialists' vicious policy hostile to Cuba.

Today, Cuba is directing a great deal of energies to building up its military capability to safeguard national sovereignty and socialism in the face of the persistent anti-Cuban moves of the hostile forces to stifle it.

It focuses on intensifying the military training of service personnel, completing military

tactics and upgrading military equipment, while endeavouring to turn the whole country into an impregnable fortress and steadily improve its defence capacity. The armed forces are in constant combat-readiness to defend the country and socialism from the enemy invasion at any moment.

As in the past, the Cuban army still serves as the military basis of socialism and a reliable guarantee for ensuring national security and peace.

The DPRK-Cuba friendly relationship has been forged and strengthened in the course of making joint efforts to oppose

the imperialists' aggression and war policy, defend peace and achieve victory of the socialist cause for decades.

Today, bilateral relations have been bolstered up thanks to the special concern and efforts of the top leaders of the two countries.

The Korean people will, as ever, voice invariable support to and solidarity with the efforts of the Cuban counterpart to foil every threat and blackmail of the hostile forces and staunchly defend socialism and the country's sovereignty.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

goods with better quality and benefit from them.

While working to develop tourism, it promotes many-sided cooperation and exchanges with different countries for national development.

On September 13, a cross-border railway tunnel project was completed. It links the railway route between Kunming of Yunnan Province in China and Vientiane of Laos.

The opening of the 9.59km-long tunnel has offered prospects of active exchanges between the two countries.

Laos consistently pursues the foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation and works to develop international relations as it keeps in close touch with many countries in Asia and the rest of the world.

By Song Jong Ho PT

minister, or could a German chancellor visit the grave of Hitler?

"Japan does not give proper history education at schools and its politicians try to embellish its role in World War II. All Asian people abhor Japan and the after-effects of the Second World War have not been cleared yet there."

"Therefore, Japan is afraid of all neighbouring countries as well as north Korea."

As the saying goes, "Fear has a quick ear."

The Japanese ultra-right political forces are now openly arguing for the introduction of a "maritime missile defence system" and the building of the "capacity to attack enemy base" on the pretext of others' "threat", making desperate attempts to push ahead with the plans.

The real threat which is detrimental to Japan is the reckless confrontation hysteria of its ultra-right political forces that take the lead in the visit to the Yasukuni Shrine.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly**Russia**

Putin sanctions national anti-drug strategy

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently ratified the national anti-drug policy strategy until 2030.

The secretary-general of the Security Council said that it would contribute to consolidating good results achieved in the fight against drug abuse and boosting the efficiency of measures against a new drug threat.

Iran

Petrochemical producer inaugurated

A petrochemical factory with a large production capacity of ammonia and urea was built in Bakhtiari va Chahar Mahall, Iran, and inaugurated on November 26 with President Hassan Rouhani in attendance.

Uzbekistan

Rural development plan unveiled

The Uzbek government on November 25 issued a rural development plan until 2024.

The plan is aimed at improving the rural infrastructure and the quality of services in over 20 districts and more than 300 villages in five provinces.

France

Police outrage triggers off nationwide protest

Demonstrations took place in France on November 28 in protest against the maltreatment of black people by police.

Shortly ago, when a video clip showing several cops kicking a black man was open to the media, the authorities attempted to pass a bill on banning the release of such video footage revealing the act of human right abuse.

Antarctica

Ice melting to cause further rise in sea level

According to a foreign media report, over 2.63 million square kilometres of glaciers which take up one fifth of the total area of Antarctica melted away in the period between 1999 and 2019.

The rapid melting of ice in the continent will cause a rise in sea level, it said.

Australia

Large quantities of greenhouse gas released

Australia emitted 513.4 million tons of greenhouse gas during the 2020 fiscal year.

The amount of carbon dioxide released from the means of transportation including car and airplane reportedly reached 19 million tons between April and June.

LAOS

Southeast Asian country thrives on, celebrating 45th founding anniv

The Lao People's Democratic Republic marked its 45th anniversary on December 2.

Today, the Laotian people are striving to achieve social stability and national unity and implement the ten-year social and economic development strategy (2016-2025) under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

With an eye to increasing the country's power generation capacity, the government presses on with the construction of hydropower stations and increases investment in the natural energy development sector.

It also pays close attention to the training of talents by setting it as a major national policy for the country's future.

As it channelled efforts into early education for improving the quality of education last year, enrolment of five-year-old children increased by 2.3 percent. The total primary school enrolment is now 99.1 percent and the areas with an over 95 percent enrolment rate have grown to 134.

The government aims to boost primary school enrolment in rural areas and further raise the national educational level by promoting early education.

It also directs efforts to the improvement of the people's living standards.

Recently, it launched into a project for bettering the livelihood of residents in the country's northern region with the goal of establishing the elementary infrastructure, improving the nutritional conditions of residents and providing them with income sources in the poverty-stricken areas.

Accordingly, the government is said to provide technical support and assistance for nearly 250 villages in order to encourage them to produce

JAPAN

Who really threatens Japan?

Japan is not friendly with neighbouring countries.

There are several reasons for it. One of them is its "worship culture".

In Japan high-ranking government officials visit the controversial Yasukuni Shrine in spring and autumn every year, sparking a barrage of protest and denunciation from neighbouring countries.

Former Prime Minister Abe visited the war shrine in the early period of his term of office. As he came under immediate fire from the media and public at home and abroad, he confined himself to sending offerings to it.

But immediately after his resignation from office on September 16, he visited the shrine and wrote on his Twitter account that he reported to the souls on his resignation from the office of prime minister. On November 19 he paid a visit to the shrine again.

Of course, it is a universal practice in every country to visit the souls of national heroes or ancestors.

However, the Yasukuni Shrine he visited despite all protests houses the name tablets of war criminals who had reduced many countries in Asia as well as neighbouring countries to a slaughterhouse. The Japanese rulers highly praise war criminals, whose names still make the peoples of neighbouring countries shudder with anger, as "heroes of the Yamato nation".

It is not Abe alone who is very intent on pilgrimage to the war shrine. On October 17, a so-called great autumn festival began at the shrine and that day the sitting Prime Minister, Suga, sent an offering to it. Competitively, the dietmen and Cabinet ministers began to visit the shrine.

Calling Japan to account for its undesirable behaviour, the

spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the Yasukuni Shrine is the spiritual tool and symbol which made Japanese militarism ignite the fuse of war for overseas aggression and the place where the name tablets of 14 class-A war criminals who had committed grave crimes against humanity during the aggressive wars are kept and that it once again reflects Japan's wrong approach to its history of aggression.

An article was posted on the Internet, which said:

"After the war the Japanese king was safe and now its prime ministers visit the shrine housing the name tablets of war criminals on August 15 (the day of its defeat) every year. The maternal grandfather of former Prime Minister Abe was also a war criminal. If it were in Germany, could a grandson of Goering become a prime

minister, or could a German chancellor visit the grave of Hitler?

"Japan does not give proper history education at schools and its politicians try to embellish its role in World War II. All Asian people abhor Japan and the after-effects of the Second World War have not been cleared yet there."

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The real threat which is detrimental to Japan is the reckless confrontation hysteria of its ultra-right political forces that take the lead in the visit to the Yasukuni Shrine.

By Om Ryong PT

WILDLIFE

Protection effort yields solid results

"We have synthesized new information on nationwide wildlife protection and management by conducting a survey of 26 animal reserves covering more than 100 000 hectares across the country between May last year and April this year," said Kim Kyong Jun, PhD and deputy director of the Zoology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

On the principle of designating sanctuaries afresh or increasing them, the survey was carried out mainly to ascertain animals

under protection in reserves and surrounding forests and their living environment.

The surveyors observed over 40 mammalian species and 200 bird species in the reserves and confirmed that pheasant, roe deer and water deer remarkably increased in number in the areas south of the central part of the country as compared to five years ago.

They also found out 24 species of mammals such as Korean tiger, leopard, bear, red deer and musk deer and discovered

the habitats of goshawk, which had been known to breed in the areas north of South Hamgyong Province, in the animal reserve of Mt Yangam in Kangwon Province and the animal reserve of Mt Hakpong in North Hwanghae Province in the central region.

On the basis of the survey, the pre-existing animal reserves were reorganized as wildlife reserves and more forest areas inhabited by animals in a concentrated way were found out to designate them as such

sanctuaries. The area and form of them were rationally set in consideration of the multiplication and food chain of animals and ecological passages were opened between reserves.

Efforts have also been made to furnish wildlife reserves properly to provide animals with good living conditions.

Artificial caves, nests, grass fields and ponds have been built in larger number, arrowroot vines, hazels, cereals and other feed plants planted and salt pouches hanged on tree

branches.

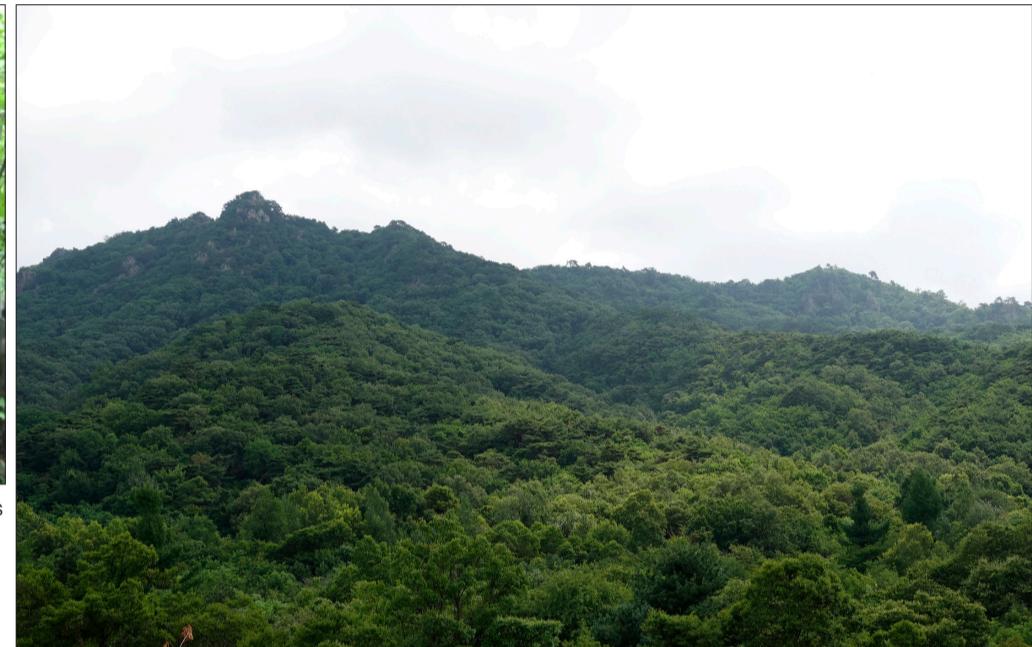
Such animal protection measures are contained in the law on the protection of useful animals and the law on natural reserves of the DPRK which were revised and supplemented last September.

Kim Kyong Jun referred to the need to make the wildlife protection work an undertaking involving all the people, not confining it to those in charge, saying that forest supervisory institutions should tighten legal control on forest fire and secret and indiscriminate felling and the forest restoration campaign that is conducted on an annual basis should be directed to wildlife protection.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



BY COURTESY OF THE ZOOLOGY INSTITUTE OF THE STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



Researchers from the Zoology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences measure the girth of a tree with a goshawk nest (above). Hakpongsan Wildlife Reserve, an estimated goshawk habitat, in Pongbul-ri, Thosan County, North Hwanghae Province (right).

Ecological resources to be enriched for wildlife

Notable achievements have been made in the protection of animals in the DPRK this year.

Animal reserves have markedly been increased and progress has been made in the research for protecting indigenous and rare species.

This is attributable to intensified government measures to protect ecological environment,

A well-organized system for animal protection had been in operation in the country for decades with the undertaking being carried on as an all-people drive.

However, the country suffered a sharp decrease in forest areas and ecological destruction due to successive natural calamities during the Arduous March when it was experiencing hardship.

Entering the new millennium, the government took on afforestation and forest conservation as a priority task and encouraged all the people to turn out in this effort.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in December last year discussed measures for afforestation,



Choe Pong Hwan,
deputy department director of the
General Forest Bureau under the
Ministry of Land and Environment
Protection

the protection of ecological environment and the protection and multiplication of fauna and flora resources.

This year different activities have been conducted for the protection of animals including the survey of wildlife and protection and multiplication of useful animals. As a result habitats of animals have been splendidly furnished in

vast areas of forests.

As it summed up the ongoing forest restoration campaign that is conducted on an annual basis, the General Forest Bureau under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection mapped out a plan for completing such undertakings as to improve ecological environment of forests, make a survey of distribution of fauna and flora in all the sanctuaries in the country and reconfirm their areas until 2025 and put it into operation.

Accordingly, tens of thousands of hectares of forests have newly been selected as ecology reserves and regional ecological corridors created between the reserves.

In addition, measures have been taken to prohibit entry into mountains, logging and pasturing in the reserves and ecological corridors, especially the exploitation of underground resources and collection of wild fruits and medicinal herbs.

By drawing on our successes in animal protection, we will work to improve the ecological environment of the country.

Useful animal reserves increase in number

"This year, every province has set up two useful animal reserves on an experimental basis. With dynamic efforts being made to increase the number of useful animal reserves into ten in a few years, a large number of counties have built such sanctuaries afresh," said Ryu Ryong Nam, chief staffer of the General Forest Bureau under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

Large-scale useful animal reserves have newly been selected and registered at the broadleaf tree and mixed forests to cover from 300 to 1 000 hectares to meet the forest areas and characteristics of relevant regions, he said, and the work of selecting useful animal reserves to be built next year is making good headway.

Beautiful hilly areas with good traffic conditions have mainly been chosen so as not to give harm to the scenery and biological

protection functions of forests while fully ensuring the inhabitation conditions for animals and birds including pheasant and roe deer.

Alder, oak, Korean poplar, wild vine, tara vine and arrowroot vine have been planted between dwarf pine groups in each useful animal reserve to build mixed forests, as well as herbaceous and fodder plants.

Thick shrubs have been planted to provide an environment for the inhabitation of such animals and birds as pheasant, deer and roe deer and forests of tall trees planted to provide habitats for big animals and different birds including goshawk.

Ryu Ryong Nam said that since the undertaking has been conducted as an all-people campaign, useful animal reserves could be built in large numbers this year.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

