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Kim Jong Un visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun on Day of Shining Star

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on February 16, the Day of the Shining Star.

Accompanying him were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and members of the Party central leadership body.

A flower basket was laid at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in the name of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.



Also placed there were baskets of flowers in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs

Commission of the DPRK, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and

revolutionary leadership.

KCNA

CELEBRATION

Nation celebrates Kim Jong Il's birthday

Baskets of flowers and bouquets were placed at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang in the name of Party, government and armed forces organs, public organizations, ministries and national agencies, units of the Korean People's Army and the Public Security Forces and institutions at all levels, industrial establishments and universities in Pyongyang to mark the Day of the Shining Star.

The chief and members of the Pyongyang mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front laid a bouquet before the statues.

Flower baskets were also laid at the statues of the great leaders and mosaics depicting their smiling images in different parts of Pyongyang, including Kim Il Sung University, the Ministry of National Defence

and the Mansudae Art Studio, in the name of KPA and PSF units, institutions and enterprises.

The visitors made a deep bow to the statues and mosaics.

Working people and service personnel visited the statues of the great leaders and mosaics of their smiling images in provinces, cities and counties to pay homage to them.

All the people of the DPRK significantly celebrated the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Many people visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, and made a bow before the portraits of their smiling images.

Working people and service personnel of the People's Army visited the statues of the President and the Chairman

on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and their statues and mosaics depicting their smiling images in other parts of the country to pay homage to them.

Photo exhibitions in celebration of the 79th birth anniversary of Kim Jong Il took place in Pyongyang and the provinces.

Performances were given at theatres and outdoor stages in Pyongyang and local areas.

Artistes of the Phibada Opera Troupe and the National Folk Art Troupe gave outdoor performances in front of the Pyongyang Grand Theatre and the Three-Revolution Exhibition House.

The revolutionary drama "Mountain Shrine", an immortal classic, was staged at the National Theatre.

Acrobatic performance given at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre delighted the working people enjoying the holiday.

Colourful performances were given by artistes of artistic motivational squads and members of mobile and women's union artistic motivational teams and dancing parties of young people took place at the plazas of Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, the Monument to Party Founding and other places,

revving up the atmosphere of the February holiday.

Similar performances were also given in South Phyongan, South Hwanghae, Jagang, Kangwon, South Hamgyong and other provinces.

The majestic and colourful illuminations of Changjon, Ryomyong and other streets of Pyongyang and in the provincial capitals added pleasure to the people celebrating the holiday.

By Pang Un Ju PT



The National Symphony Orchestra gives a concert at the Moranbong Theatre in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star.

Kim Jong Un sees Day of Shining Star celebration performance

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, saw the performance staged in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star, the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il, together with members of the Party central leadership body on Tuesday.

Officials of the Central Committee of the WPK also watched the performance which was given at the Mansudae Art Theatre.

The performance was staged by artistes of the band of the State Affairs Commission, the State Merited Chorus and major art troupes.

It started with the national anthem *Patriotic Song* and comprised two parts.

In the first part the performers sang such songs in praise of Kim Jong Il as mixed duet and male chorus *Shine, Jong Il Peak*.

They sang highly of the undying exploits performed by the peerless

patriot who was born as the Shining Star of Mt Paektu.

In the second part that started with song *People Are with the Marshal* the performers staged the songs the Korean people heartily sing in praise of the

respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who is confidently leading Korean-style socialism to a new victory true to the noble ideas of "The people are God", "single-hearted unity" and "self-reliance" associated with the lifetime intention of the Chairman.

The paean *A Dear Name*, a beloved song of the people singing of their great honour and happiness of upholding Kim Jong Il, resounded through the theatre again, encored by the General Secretary, making the auditorium brim with passion and delight.

Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction over the successful

performance.
A basket of flowers was conveyed to the performers in the name of the WPK Central Committee amid enthusiastic applause.

KCNA



LEAD

DPRK gives renewed impetus to self-reliance

Self-reliance and self-sufficiency are the main seed and the main theme of the five-year plan for national economic development set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in January.

The WPK's call for holding higher the spirit of self-reliance at present is an expression of its firm will to make epochal advance in socialist construction irrespective of whether the objective conditions are favourable or unfavourable by radically increasing the country's own force, internal motive force.

In the past five years for implementing the decisions of the Seventh WPK Congress the DPRK held fast to self-reliance as the powerful engine for development and overcame a multitude of difficulties to open a new broad avenue for socialist construction, ushering in a new era of self-existence and prosperity.

In the course of it, self-reliance has been consolidated as a national trait of the DPRK and the one and only fighting spirit of the Korean revolution.

The general direction of the

new five-year plan for national economic development is to build a solid groundwork for activating the overall national economy and improving the people's living standards by concentrating efforts on the main link of the whole chain for economic growth.

The DPRK sees self-reliance as the key to implementation of the new five-year plan and intends to develop self-reliance in the period of the new long-term plan into a state-sponsored, planned and science-based one.

Which means developing self-reliance into a centralized one of doing any work carefully in a planned manner under the unified guidance and strategic management by the state to meet the characteristic features of the socialist economy, a planned economy.

In the socialist economy in which all sectors are dovetailed only when the right balance is maintained between them and all units thoroughly implement their national plans, can the overall economy function dynamically without even one link being broken.

When all sectors and units give

top priority to the state interests and conduct production and management activities under the unified control and strategic command and guidance by the state, the country's capacity for independent development and internal power will be enhanced immensely.

The DPRK also intends to develop self-reliance into a scientific one aimed at making rapid progress by relying on advanced science and technology.

In the period of the new five-year plan, normal production, upgrading of facilities and equipment and domestic production of raw and other materials will be promoted on the strength of science and technology.

Cherishing it as its own faith that self-reliance provides a short cut to rejuvenation through decades-long first-hand experience, the DPRK is now dynamically advancing towards fresh victory along the path illuminated by the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

Kim Ung Ho, associate professor and section chief of the Academy of Social Sciences

INSPECTION

Premier visits industrial establishments



Premier Kim Tok Hun (right) on a visit to the Chollima Steel Complex.

Premier Kim Tok Hun who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea provided field guidance in major economic sectors on the spot.

While making the rounds of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the Chollima Steel Complex, he underlined the need to introduce rational working methods while shortening the melting time of electric furnace and to take measures for the supply of raw materials.

At the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, he

referred to the need to widely apply advanced science and technology and ensure the maintenance and repair of equipment in a planned way.

The field consultative meetings discussed the issues about reinforcing and expanding the existing production foundation and organizing self-checking system for compressing equipment.

The Premier also learned about the updating of the Kumsong Tractor Factory on the spot.

KCNA

RALLY

Working people vow to work towards innovation, development

Working people's organizations held rallies respectively to pledge themselves to thoroughly implement the first year's tasks of the new five-year plan put forward at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Workers and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea met at the plaza before the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province, on Friday.

Present at the meeting were Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Cha Pyong Yun, secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK, officials of the GFTUK and working people and members of the GFTUK in the province.

The report Kim Jong Un made at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK is a militant banner which vigorously inspires the working people and members of the GFTUK to brilliantly implement the programme of struggle set forth at the Party Congress, Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK,

said. He ardently called on all workers and members of the GFTUK to carry out the decisions of the plenary meeting most wonderfully and perfectly by waging do-or-die struggle.

The speakers pledged to go all out to implement the new five-year plan, upholding with one mind the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who set another milestone in the history of socialist construction.

That day, similar meeting of the officials and members of the

women's union took place at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph.

Earlier, agricultural workers and members of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea met at the plaza before the statue of President Kim Il Sung in Chongsan-ri of Kangso District, Nampho, and a meeting of the young vanguard was held at the Pyongyang Municipal Youth Park Open-Air Theatre.

Letters of pledge were adopted respectively at the meetings.

By Pang Un Ju PT



Young people march after a rally in Pyongyang to vow to thoroughly implement the first year's tasks of the new five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Nationwide

Presents sent to children across country

Kim Jong Un sent gifts to students of revolutionary and primary schools and children across the country on the occasion of the Day of the Shining Star.

Different kinds of presents from him were delivered to students of revolutionary schools including Mangyongdae and Kang Pan Sok revolutionary schools.

Officials of merit honoured with top decorations

According to KCNA, Order of Kim Jong Il was conferred on Song Yong Gyu, Hwang In Song and Cha Yong Chol who made a great contribution to socialist construction according to a decree of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on February 14.

Pig farm inaugurated

The Unjung Pig Farm of the State Academy of Sciences was built and inaugurated on Monday.

The farm consists of breeding stock, rearing, fattening and experimental blocks and a general control room, meat processing ground, feed processing ground, protein

feed cultivation ground and sewage treatment plant.



New posters released

New posters were issued to encourage the people to implement the first year's tasks of the new five-year plan.

The poster "All out for the implementation of the decisions made at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea!" appeals to all the Party members and other working people to turn out as one in a new revolutionary march.

Tideland project proceeds apace

The first-stage construction of networks of facilities in the Honggondo tideland is vigorously pushed ahead in North Phyongan Province.

The builders finished the earth piling of over 110 000 cubic metres for the construction of embankments of rivers and regulating ponds and collected some 10 000 cubic metres of rubble stones.

COAL

Complex plays a part in boosting the industry

The Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex takes the lion's share in coal production of the country.

Organized in September 1977, the complex has developed into a large-scale coal producer with three large-capacity coal mines, two prospecting corps and several supply units including coal-mining machine and equipment parts factories.

Its affiliated coal mines including the February 8 Jiktong, Chonsong and Ryongdae youth coal mines have overfulfilled their production plans every year.

In the past decades, the complex created lots of coalfields and has recently developed over hundreds of thousands of tons of capacity new coal pits in the two coal-mining areas.

It also increased the tunnelling speed by introducing an advanced blasting method as

required by rock conditions and positively invented advanced coal-mining methods including the hewing method based on prop bundles and horizontal coal-mining method.

The coal mines propped up over hundreds of thousands of metres of main pits.

All the coal mines introduced conveyor belts for coal transport and laid cableways in the pits where conveyor belts cannot be applied.

General coal production control rooms established an image-based production command and real-time coal output grasp system and computerized the designing of coal-mining process to expand production on a scientific footing.

The complex built a concrete prop factory in the Sunchon area to satisfy the need for concrete props for pits, while the Sunchon Coal-mining Machine Factory and Unsan

coal-mining equipment parts factory produce thousands of pieces of equipment and hundreds of thousands of pieces of small tools and parts.

All the coal mines furnished themselves with the bases to repair and maintain such coal-mining equipment as compressor and motor by their own efforts.

And they built livestock farming bases with an annual capacity of hundreds of tons and supply service bases to provide coal miners with rich material and cultural living conditions.

The complex, which produced many winners of official commendations including dozens of labour heroes and merited coal miners, completed its production plan for January this year before the time set.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

more effective than protein-rich insects as it feeds on animal faeces and organic waste. It multiplies quickly and is safe as it doesn't spread diseases to humans or domestic animals," said Ri Chun Sam, head of the protein culture plant.

After it underwent renovation, the farm's output for last year increased 1.5 times more than the previous year.

Processed meat and craftworks

The farm turns out various meat products, craftworks made from ostrich eggs and bones and tanned skin.

Its ostrich meat is soft and tasty and used for roast and other dishes. It is delivered to the Chilsong Restaurant in Moranbong District of Pyongyang and other catering facilities.

Special favourites with customers are minced meat, meat dumpling, sausage, ham and steamed muscles.

"Ostrich is of high utility value. Its eggs and bones are fit for making craftworks, leather for shoes and bags and feathers for duster and fan," said Pak Kwang Chol, a workteam leader at the Taeyang ostrich products works.

He added that pipes, rings and necklaces made from ostrich bones are in great demand.

As ostrich bones contain antibiotics 18 percent more than those of other creatures, they are especially efficacious for the treatment of arthritis and neuralgia.

By Yun Kyong II PT

from ostrich excrement contains organic acid-generating, antagonistic and digestive enzyme-generating bacteria and growth substances that are needed for culturing normal enteric microbes for young ostriches. If the liquid probiotic is sprayed three times at the incubation stage, the hatching rate will go up 1.5 times as compared to previously," said chief engineer Kim Kwang Jin.

The solid probiotic is added to assorted feed for poult to prevent respiratory troubles and diarrhoea.

The farm also uses animal protein feed and fermented feed to increase the fattening rate. In particular, it feeds ostrich with *Hermetia illucens* to reduce the consumption of grain feed.

"The insect is easy to rear and

OSTRICH

Farm increases meat and egg output



A panoramic view of the Pyongyang Ostrich Farm.

The Pyongyang Ostrich Farm is located in the suburbs of Pyongyang, covering an area of scores of hectares.

It has more than 110 aviaries, a feed production base, a meat and leather processing base and an ostrich products works.

Meat and egg outputs on rise

"The most important thing in increasing meat and egg production is to improve the survival rate of young birds," said Manager Mun Chol.

According to him, newly-hatched birds are prone to various diseases as they are deficient in immunity.

To prevent this, the farm makes and uses a probiotic.

"The probiotic separated

FORMULA

Factory upgrades formula production line



Part of the upgraded saccharification process of the baby formula workshop at the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory.

The Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, is pushing ahead with the modernization of its production processes.

It has recently remodelled the automatic temperature control system of the saccharification process of baby formula production. With the installation of an upper temperature sensor, the system got to have a dual sensing ability which further improved the stirring capacity of the saccharification oven as compared to the previous one.

It has introduced a new method of temperature control and installed a corresponding program and HMI so that one worker can monitor and control several processes at the same time. As a result, the normal temperature was ensured to substantially improve the quality of saccharified products.

Also, it automated the emulsification measurement

By Kim Il Jin PT

PART

New technologies applied to make parts

The February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex has introduced a drill bit soldering method based on a new technology to drastically extend its lifespan.

The technicians of the coal mine had applied the carbonitriding technology to nearly double the lifespan of hard alloy drill bit in the past. They employed the new drill bit soldering method to further increase its working hours.

While conducting research into the new drill bit soldering method, they found out that they cannot prevent elastic strain of drill bit during soldering and increase the soldering intensity by the previous soldering method.

They applied a high

frequency induction heating method to make drill bits which can increase the number of perforations two to three times, with the reduction of failure rate to 30 percent.

The coal mine has also established a wet water glass production process needed for coal production.

The technical personnel fixed the rational mixing rate of caustic soda, silicic anhydride and water.

"There are two ways of producing water glass by wet process. We have designed the reactor to produce water glass by the pressurizing method," said Ri Sok Chol, chief of the technical development office of the complex.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

EDUCATION

Competition heats up in general education sector



Teachers discuss how to help students better their English at Sinwon Junior Middle School in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

General education units in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, are pushing the work for creating new teaching methods, putting teaching management on a scientific basis and others.

Segori Senior Middle School in Pothonggang District, which records the high matriculation rate of graduates, created new teaching methods for mathematics, physics, native language, IT, English and natural science to set an example of the capital city.

Other junior and senior middle and primary schools and kindergartens worked out self-study tasks which would contribute to cultivating the

schoolchildren's independent study faculties and creative application and practical abilities, and make sure that teachers ensure the priority, principled and popular teaching in mapping out plans for guide lectures.

Meanwhile, teaching methods have been adopted so that substances and articles often seen in normal life can be used as substitute reagents and experimental apparatuses to make students practise the content of experimental lessons at home.

Foreign language study halls have been established so that all the middle and primary schools can apply foreign language

skillfully.

Last year, the district won high appraisal at the national exhibition of sports science achievements in the education sector by presenting a practical teaching program and well over a hundred teaching apparatuses, and sports teachers took the first place at the national sports educational competition last year.

Teachers of the district emerged victorious at the national social and natural science teaching competitions in the fields of kindergarten and primary and middle schools, which were held in the form of video-conference.

In addition, schools dynamically conducted a program development campaign to realize the informatization of education. The developments include e-school register, multifunctional education support system, text exercise program based on voice recognition technology and text reciting evaluation program.

"A sense of duty to make education the one to which our future can be entrusted inspires all the teachers in the district," said Kim Chol Min, chief of the in-service training centre of the district.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

knitwear products fresh in form and shape by changing neck, sleeve and waist parts in an organic way in line with people's tastes and sentiments differentiated by seasons and ages, and designed garments accordingly.

The factory rearranged technical processes ranging from pattern making to cutting, dyeing and processing and began mass-producing new products.

It has developed more than 800 pieces of products in some 20 kinds so far.

By Kim Il Jin PT

on different parts of women's underwear to enhance its refinement.

According to Ri Jong Sun, head of the technical department, lots of products of the factory are much sought-after, including different kinds of undershirts printed with the national flag and various patterns.

Employees have conceived



Meticulous attention is paid to developing new products at the Pyongyang Children's Knitwear Factory.

According to her, unlike the previous method by which some technical personnel were entrusted with the appraisal of presented garment designs or new products, the new method is to select best products out of trial products by analysing the opinions of customers at commercial service units.

In the course of this, the factory completed a new design of baby's wear made by using by-products and various kinds of convenient children's underwear and winter clothes quite different from previous products in style.

It added studs on the triangular collar of men's underwear and did partial printing accordingly and put decorative triple stitches

PROFILE

Woman in her 80s dedicated to obstetrics and gynaecology

Choe Jong Sim (pictured), lecturer at the obstetrical and gynaecological department of Pyongyang Continuous Medical Education College, is called a midwife heroine.

During her decades-long career, she has helped more than 80 000 pregnant women at childbirth and saved hundreds of serious cases from the jaws of death by donating thousands of grams of her blood.

How could she dedicate her whole life to assisting expectant and nursing mothers, as well as to caring for newborn babies?

She dreamed of being an obstetrician at the age of 6.

Born in a remote mountainous village in Hoeyang County of Kangwon Province before Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule, she happened to see her friend's mother dying while giving birth to a child as she had no access to hospital service. While consoling the weeping friend, she determined to be a medical worker when she was grown-up.

After the country's liberation, she finished her middle school course and graduated from a midwife training school and started her career as a midwife at the Hoeyang County People's Hospital at 19.

"I was busy with midwifery at that time as I was summoned here and there. But I was relieved of my fatigue as I saw newborn babies I delivered," Choe recollects.

However, her job was not all smooth sailing.

Some elderly women didn't even send a notice to the hospital about their daughters-in-law and daughters who were near their time of parturition, claiming that they had had babies without the help of midwives in days gone by. Some of them belittled her, saying such an inexperienced maiden could never deliver a baby properly.

Nevertheless, she patiently explained the health policy of the state to expectant and nursing mothers at their homes under her charge irrespective of time and even donated her blood to the serious cases on the brink of death.

She also trained 80-odd assistant midwives, thus making it possible to assist all the pregnant women in the county at childbirth three years later. For these feats, she was awarded the title of Labour Hero of the country at 22.

Later, she graduated



Even though I dedicate my whole life, it will be insufficient to repay the favour bestowed by the country. I think I'll devote my remaining days to women and children,"

Choe Jong Sim, lecturer at Pyongyang Continuous Medical Education College

from Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences and married to an army officer. Following her husband who was dispatched to Jagang Province, Choe went there to work as head of the obstetrical and gynaecological department at the Kanggye College of Medical Sciences Hospital for more than 10 years. Afterward, when the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital was completed, she worked there as an obstetrical department chief over ten years longer than her pension age.

She subsequently became a lecturer at the then Pyongyang continuous medical education school and taught incumbent doctors her rich clinical experience.

She has written 14 books on clinical technologies and more than 80 essays until now. Her book "Clinical studies of abnormal obstetrics" with enlarged version is now regarded as the essential reference for obstetricians and such books as "Pregnancy and health" and "How to bring up clever children" are much sought-after.

In 2016, she was awarded a doctorate by completing her study on the method of painless delivery.

"Even though I dedicate my whole life, it will be insufficient to repay the favour bestowed by the country which brought up this ordinary woman as a heroine. I think I'll devote my remaining days to women and children," said Choe Jong Sim.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

SAMARITAN

Old man adopts a disabled soldier to move many

The family of Ho Song Guk in neighbourhood unit No. 48 of Kyogu-dong in Central District, Pyongyang, seems to be a common household, but there is something uncommon about it.

Ho has an adopted son, who is a disabled soldier and whose name is Kim Jong Thaek. This is an extraordinary aspect of life in the old man's family.

Ho had been living in Sosong District with his wife, but he moved into his daughter's house some years ago as his wife died.

"Though we brought my widowed father to our home and my husband, son and I did our best for him, he seemed to be still gloomy. We first thought it was due to the loss of my mother, but I realized later it wasn't the only reason," recalled his daughter Ho Kyong Ae.

One day, she happened to hear her father laughing delightedly through the half-open door of his room. She strained her ears to catch the phone conversation

of her father with someone. And she could occasionally hear the name of Kim Jong Thaek.

Only then did she remember the disabled soldier who was living in Sosong District.

Her parents had looked after the young man with parental care for several years. Kyong Ae reproached herself for failing to understand the feeling of her father who had a deep affection for Kim.

After discussing with her husband, she took Jong Thaek to her home some days later.

This gave Ho's family a new lease of life.

According to the daily schedule made by Ho, Kim underwent a rehabilitation process amid the close concern of the whole family.

One day during a walking exercise in the promenade along the Taedong River, Kim fell down throwing his stick due to a twinge at the joint between his amputated part and artificial leg.

"It was hard to overcome

pain during treatment and what was more unbearable was that I became the burden for the whole family. So I told father I would stop treatment as I was all right as I was," said Jong Thaek.

But at his words Ho burst into a fit of anger which Kim saw for the first time, he recalled.

Ho who had worked as a university lecturer for decades earnestly said that it was not merely out of sympathy that he took care of Kim, but in the expectation that Jong Thaek who had unhesitatingly dedicated himself at a post of national defence would be an excellent man as much as his children by blood were.

Like this, Kim Jong Thaek became a true member of Ho's family.

Now he has made much progress towards health under the warm care of his father, sister, brother-in-law and lovely nephew and he is confident that he will be able to work like others.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

DEVOTION

From telephone operator to heroine

"Our post office produced the first operator heroine in the country," said Yun Song Ho, director of the Songchon County Post Office in South Phyongan Province.

She is Kim Song Hwa (pictured) who was awarded the title of Labour Hero at the age of 24.

Kim was assigned to the county post office as a telephone operator after finishing her technical school course in 1965.

In 1967, the DPRK was hit by an unprecedentedly devastating flood. Songchon County also suffered much damage as the Piryu River was in spate.

At that time, Kim Song Hwa was responsible for ensuring communication with Pyongyang, but it was cut off. To address the problem, she threw herself into the flooded river and succeeded in tracing the cable that had been cut apart. But as she failed to connect the cut lines, she grasped both ends.

Thanks to her self-sacrificing effort, the communication with Pyongyang was resumed, the situation of the afflicted county was informed to the capital and necessary rehabilitation measures were taken immediately, Yun recalled.

Kim was awarded the title of Labour Hero in 1972.

She is now working as the director of the Taedonggang District Post Office in Pyongyang despite her advanced age of 75.

"I came to understand what



I came to understand what kind of person a hero is, while working with her."

Kim Sun Yong,
an employee at the
Taedonggang District Post
Office in Pyongyang

kind of person a hero is, while working with her," said Kim Sun Yong, employee at her post office.

The title of hero is not a ticket for a comfortable life, she often says.

"She always leads an honourable life becoming to a heroine," said Kwon Sung Hyok, section chief of the Pyongyang Municipal Posts and Telecommunications Management Bureau.

By Pang Uu Ju PT

HEALTHCARE

Boy owes much to healthcare system

Kim Ung Ik who attends Songyo Primary School in Songyo District, Pyongyang, is known to everyone at the school and neighbourhood. One day in April two years ago, he broke an arm while playing at soldiers.

Holding him in their arms, his parents rushed to the Okryu Children's Hospital, where he was diagnosed with fracture of left forearm.

Surgeons of the extremal orthopaedic department paid much attention to the operation on the then six-year-old boy so as to minimize the burden on the patient and shorten the period of postoperative recovery.

Thanks to sincerity of doctors and nurses, Kim recovered health in about 40 days. But unfortunately, he was hospitalized again as he broke his right arm one year later. This time, several parts of the

arm was completely dislocated and fractured.

"We came to realize with our hearts how advantageous the system of free medical care is. Thank you very much," said Kim's parents with tears in their eyes to doctors and nurses as he left the hospital.

Shortly afterwards, the eight-year-old sent a letter to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

In his letter, he wrote that he recovered his broken arms at the Okryu Children's Hospital which was built under the warm care of the respected Marshal and visited by him and that he would become a fine man who would do lots of good things with his two arms.

Kim Jong Un read his letter in October last year.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



Researchers hold a discussion on new seasonal clothes at the Garment Research Institute under the Academy of Light Industry.

BOOK

Garment books draw attention of experts for fashion designs

"Types and designs of men's clothes" (11) and "Types and designs of women's clothes" (11), books published by the garment institute under the Academy of Light Industry, have recently drawn the attention of garment experts.

"The aspiration of people to diversify their clothes according to the modern sense of beauty grows more as the days go by," said Yu Chol Jin, director of the institute.

According to him, the institute has annually brought out the books since 2009 and developed new types of dress designs every year.

This year's books have been compiled to show diverse types of bright-coloured designs to meet the aesthetic sense of males and females and as required by national sentiments.

The books show the bright-coloured designs, from T-shirts and caps with the national flag pattern to suits, shirts, dresses, coats, overcoats and padded clothes, and new types of diverse designs demonstrate 171 kinds of men's clothes and 187 sorts of women's clothes.

And they offer detailed introduction of designs of original types of clothes in order to facilitate the understanding of them and the commonsense data that should be remembered in garment designs in a concise

By Han Kwi Hun PT

CHAE MYONG RIM

JAPAN

Liars have short wings

The world knows well about Japan's bloodstained past and why the memorials called

the "Girl's Statue of Peace" depicting a girl wearing Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) and sitting

Some facts about sex slavery

Here is some evidence revealing the sexual slavery crime committed by the imperial Japanese army.

According to a collection of materials on sexual slavery published by a Japanese judicial foundation at the request of the Foreign Ministry of the country in 1997, the commander of a Japanese army unit stationed in China during the Sino-Japanese war in 1940 sent a document to the manager of the "comfort station" belonging to the unit, which ordered him to "take comfort women to the unit in China as

they are badly needed for it".

The handbook of a former Japanese newsman who visited south Korea in 2015 carried a layout of a naval airport in Nara Prefecture of Japan including a "comfort station" during World War II.

He testified that more than 3 000 male Koreans were forcibly drafted to the construction site of the airport and 20-odd women were taken there as sex slaves and they were supplied with meagre meal.

The aforesaid evidence is the tip of the iceberg.

silently with a load of pent-up humiliation in her mind were erected in Germany and other parts of the world.

Japanese bigwigs have long made desperate attempts to shirk the responsibility for the sexual slavery on the pretext that there is not enough evidence. As the international community raised a strong objection to their bid, Japan schemed to give some money to the victims to gloss over the issue. On the other hand, it tries to instil a false view on history into the minds of the coming generations by distorting the facts related to the sexual slavery crime in its history textbooks.

And not content with that, Japan has recently set up a webpage exclusively dealing with the issues related to its past history in the website of its foreign ministry. The page carried a post which totally

denied the historical fact of the past sexual slavery crime of the imperial Japanese army.

Saying it is wrong to use the expression of "sexual slavery for Japanese army" as it is contrary to the fact, the post claimed that the number of 200 000 Korean women, who were abducted as sexual slaves and subjected to all humiliations, "is not based on concrete evidence".

It is indeed a barefaced distortion of history aimed at covering up the bloodstained past of Japan by all means and evading the legal and moral responsibility for the class-A crime against humanity.

Japan's attitude towards history is a yardstick by which to decide whether it would follow in the footsteps of the past militarism or not.

If Japan continues to deceive the rising generations and other peoples as well as itself, it will never be able to harbour a bright hope for the future.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

RUSSIA

Sustained endeavours for regional security

Russia gives top priority to building up its defence capability to ensure regional security.

It plans to raise the rate of modernization of its nuclear forces up to 88.3 percent this year.

It intends to deliver over 400 armoured vehicles to its army units this year and eight submarines of different classes are now on the stocks.

A lot of attention is being directed to improving the military and technical ability of military personnel.

In January alone the central and southern military districts of Russia staged a variety of military drills. All services, arms and special corps units are now conducting training to make service personnel well versed in their fields and weapons.

In June last year the

Russian president signed a decree on conferring on the Northern Fleet the status of an independent military district. The decree was issued to implement the measures for defending Russia's territorial integrity and inviolability and came into effect on January 1 this year.

A 2021-2025 military cooperation plan for maintaining stable cooperation in defence

and military security was approved and the main action plan adopted in the meeting of the council of heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States in December last year.

Russia works hard to ensure regional stability, while expanding strategic partnership with many countries.

By Min Chol PT

ECOLOGY

Int'l efforts strengthened to protect ecology

Many countries are paying much attention to the protection of ecological environment.

China dredged and cleaned rivers with a total length of 17 000 kilometres last year and planted forests of nearly 4 000 square kilometres in the last five years.

Belarus continues to direct a big effort to the protection of forests, rivers and lakes and environment.

The Indian government is pressing ahead with a plan for introducing "green tax" geared to environmental protection and pollution control.

The soon-to-be-imposed tax will target private automobiles which have run for a long time after registration. It will be charged at a low rate on public transport means such as city bus but at a higher rate in the cities which have a high pollution level.

However, hybrid or electric cars, automobiles running

on substitute fuel and farm vehicles will be exempt from taxation. The funds that were collected by the "green tax" will be channelled into pollution control efforts.

Singapore has recently announced the "Singapore greening plan 2030" for sustainable development.

According to the plan, only cars using clean energy can be newly registered in future and the number of recharging stations for electric cars will be doubled by 2030. Meanwhile, schools will provide systematic education about the greening project including protection of ecological environment.

In Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, seven photovoltaic power plants are in operation with a daily output of tens of thousands of kilowatts on average, thus saving dozens of tons of diesel oil and preventing emissions of a great amount of carbon dioxide.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Water pollution gets more serious

Recently, four people lost their lives and 56 others were taken to hospital after drinking polluted water in a small town in Nigeria.

Water pollution gets more serious as the days go by largely because of economic activities of humanity accompanying environmental destruction.

Lots of waste water released from production facilities flows into rivers, lakes and seas to seriously pollute water.

A few years ago, a research group of a country published their study result that lakes on earth and their deposits are heavily contaminated by at least seven substances.

The contamination of sea is also as much severe as that of lake.

Human existence is unthinkable without water.

However, the world's population growth, natural disasters like flood and drought, forest destruction, massive release of industrial waste water

and others have diminished fresh water resources day by day.

According to a survey result, about a billion people in the world have difficulty getting drinking water and over 30 percent of the world population are suffering from water shortage at least for a month in a year.

Various abnormal symptoms have developed among the people who drink contaminated water.

The WHO warned that lead poisoning causes nephritis, hypertension and anaemia.

Lead poisoning is particularly fatal to the unborn foetuses, children and pregnant women and in serious cases it will lead to death, causing spasm.

The reality shows that the prevention of water pollution and conservation of fresh water resources are an urgent task that should not be ignored any longer.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly**Russia**

President refers to sci-tech development

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a recent meeting of science and education council that the government should map out a new state plan for the development of science and technology, push ahead with the joint projects of scientific research and trial designing, and decide on the principle to be adhered to in the evaluation and sci-tech examination of their results.

China

Lunar New Year's Day celebrated

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council had a group meeting for greeting 2021 lunar New Year in the Great Hall of the People on February 10.

At the meeting President Xi Jinping underlined the need to satisfy the people's ever-growing demand, work out a plan for unified development and security of the country and consolidate the successes made in the anti-epidemic efforts and economic and social development, so as to greet the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China with remarkable achievements.

Pakistan

Premier underlines importance of tree planting

The Pakistani premier, at a ceremony held in Lahore on February 12, said efforts should be directed to planting trees in order to block the negative effects of climate change and assure the future of the coming generations.

UN

Israel censured for its settlement activities

The UN Secretary General urged the Israeli authorities to discontinue without delay all kinds of settlement activities which constitute a major obstacle to achieving the "two states solution" and establishing just, permanent and comprehensive peace, at a recent meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

England

Air pollution comes to a head

The British Parliament in a report released on February 11 noted that about 64 000 people are losing their lives due to air pollution in England every year.

The problem of air pollution in England should be solved immediately, the report said, urging the government to set higher goals for lowering the air pollution level.

MARTIAL ART

'We will keep honour of home of Taekwon-Do'

Taekwon-Do is the orthodox martial art of the Korean nation associated with its spirit and soul, which is regarded as a great pride of the nation.

Having mapped out a teaching and training programme for this year aimed at preserving the honour as the birthplace of Taekwon-Do, we are sparing no effort in the implementation of it.

Dozens of Taekwon-Doists are attending a systematic and scientific training course according to a plan for training accomplished players and those with special techniques.

A great deal of effort is concentrated on the plan centring on basic training. We test the players' skills regularly and organize sparring matches frequently to estimate and improve their physical and technical abilities. Meanwhile, we pay much attention to laying a firm



Won Se Chang, head of the Taekwon-Do team of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, vows to maintain the country's status as home of Taekwon-Do.

foundation for defending our reputation as a powerful team by scouting promising young Taekwon-Doists according to a plan for training future players,

We are going to actively introduce latest sci-tech hits into training and competition. This year, we are planning to adopt several technological achievements such as a rhythmic movement control program for keeping perfect conditions and dozens of new training methods including a combined training method

We also designed a plan for training excellent coaches and international and national referees, and are now going ahead with the preparations.

We will exert ourselves to help the players and coaches achieve fresh successes and exalt the honour of the country by dint of continuous innovation and creation.

Won Se Chang, manager of the Taekwon-Do team of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee

for professional physical development.

In accordance with the characteristics of Taekwon-Do which requires high concentration of strength and fast instantaneous speed unlike other sporting events, we are putting efforts into inventing and applying various kinds of functional gym facilities and making players gain hands-on experience on them.

gym facilities and making players gain hands-on experience on them.

SCENE

Ryongmun Cavern reconstructed

The Ryongmun Cavern has been rebuilt more wonderfully as one of underground scenic attractions.

The cavern, a large cave among limestone caves unfolding myriads of shapes of wonders, was built as a scenic spot 20-odd years ago and has been visited by millions of people so far.

According to Ri Pun Ok, director of the Ryongmun Cavern management station, the strange looks of beauty spots have recently been brought into relief while preserving the noted places of the cavern as they were and the beauty has been added to surrounding scenery.

The building at the entrance has been surrounded by granite to enhance its refinement and the ceiling of the building decorated with stalactites in relief to promote the relish of the natural cave from its entrance.

The entrance to the corridor of hundreds-of-metre-long cavern underwent waterproof

plastering and sound absorption repainting and photos showing the noted places of the cavern were put on display on the left and right sides. Indirect lighting was given on both sides of the ceiling to make visitors bodily sense the mystery and rapture of the cavern as they enter it.

Rainbow trout fishponds using the water of falls were newly built in the Jimyo Cave, one of the famous scenic spots, and Chonsang Ragwon Valley and illumination equipment was installed to bring into relief the beauty and wonderfulness of the scenic sights.

Safe handrails were installed at different scenic sights.

Soft-drink and souvenir stands and outdoor dining and resting places were arranged at the outside of the cavern to go well with surrounding scenery, while good species of trees were planted in large numbers to enhance the beauty of scenery.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

MEDICINE

Koreans use medicinal herbs since ancient times

"The Korean people began to use medicinal herbs in ancient times. It is evidenced by the tale about the foundation of Ancient Joson (early 30th century BC-108 BC) by Tangun, the founding father of Korea. The story also refers to wormwood and garlic," said Ri Kuk Song, researcher at the Folklore Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Wormwood and garlic are still widely used for dietary life and the treatment of diseases.

In this respect, it is clear to everyone that the Koreans have had a correct understanding of medicinal herbs and widely collected and used them for the improvement of health and treatment of diseases since ancient times.

In the period of Ancient Joson, such botanical medicinal materials as seed of the honey locust and such animal medicinal materials as millipede, swellfish and snakehead were widely used for the treatment of diseases.

In the period of Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla—between the 3rd century BC and 7th century AD, medicinal materials not only increased in kind but also improved in quality.

They included insam (ginseng), wildginger, large centipede and bezoar.

During the period of Koryo Kingdom, various medicinal materials of Korean origin including insam, musk, pine nut and *Siler divaricata* were widely exported to neighbouring countries. Especially, Koryo insam was spread across the world as it had high medicinal effect.

As seen in such historical records as *Sejong Sillok* (Chronicles of King Sejong)

and *Rimwonsimnyukji* compiled in 1825, there were many kinds of native Korean botanical medicinal materials.

Koryo medicines prepared as pills, powder and decoction with these as raw materials were administered for the treatment of cerebropathy, external injuries, toxic diseases and various other illnesses.

Old medical books of Korea so far known include *Hyangyakkuguppang* published in the period of Koryo Kingdom and *Uibangryuchwi* (Manual of Traditional Medicine of Korea), *Hyangyakjipsongbang*, *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopaedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea), and others authored by Ho Jun (1546-1615) and other medical workers in the period of feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910).

By Han Kwi Hun PT



Ingredients

- Rice 150g
- Pork or beef 50g
- Green vegetables 50g
- Bracken 20g
- Carrot 50g
- A third of a sheet of laver
- Half of an egg
- Condiment
- Broth 150g

restaurants but in families in the country at present.

By Pang Un Ju PT

FOLK FOOD

Boiled rice with assorted mixtures

Boiled rice with assorted mixtures is a kind of staple food of the Koreans.

It is made by putting various kinds of vegetables, meat and garnish on boiled rice to mix them. It makes dietary life convenient while having people take in different nutritive substances. It has been widely prepared in Phyongan, Hwanghae and Kyongsang provinces and famous for the savoury taste from olden times.

With the development of food culture, it has evolved into different kinds in terms of materials and recipes according to regions and seasons.

Pyongyang boiled rice with assorted mixtures is a most famous one.

Here is the recipe for one person.

Boil rice rather hard and panbroil or season mung bean sprouts, bracken, spinach,

platycodon, parsley and other vegetables. Mince or thinly slice meat and season it with spices before broiling. Beat the egg, salt and fry it and shred the fried egg. Put oil lightly on the laver, sprinkle salt on it, toast it and break it into pieces. Fill a bowl with boiled rice and put prepared vegetables and meat on it before garnishing it with sliced egg and hot pepper.

The food is served along with processed hot pepper paste, meat soup and watery kimchi made of sliced radish. Pour broth over it, flavour it with hot pepper paste and mix the contents before taking.

Different fresh vegetables and edible herbs are also used according to seasons, such as eggplant, pumpkin, cucumber, crown daisy, bracken, mushroom, platycodon, potato and radish.

It is widely made at not only

