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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un pays homage to Chairman Kim Jong Il

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche, was enveloped in a solemn atmosphere with profound reverence of the people for Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Accompanying the Supreme Leader were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, first vice-chairman of the SAC of the DPRK and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, Ri Pyong Chol, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of

the WPK and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the

SAC of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, and other Party and government officials and senior officials of the armed forces organs.

A flower basket in the name of the Supreme Leader was laid at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.



Baskets of flowers were also placed before the statues in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Presidium of the SPA of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

The Supreme Leader, together with other visitors, paid high tribute to the President and the Chairman before their statues.

At the hall where Kim Jong Il is preserved in his lifetime appearance, the Supreme Leader made a deep bow in deep reverence for him who dedicated

his whole life to the country and people with warm love and devotion till the last moments of his revolutionary life and glorified the dignified, great and ever-victorious Party and the country of single-minded unity all over the world.

KCNA

ANNIVERSARY

Chairman Kim Jong Il remembered by people around country

The whole Korean people cherished the memory of Chairman Kim Jong Il with profound reverence for him on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of his demise.

People from all parts of society and service personnel of the Korean People's Army 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 paid homage to them.

They also visited the statues and portraits of beaming images of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and across the country to pay floral tribute to them.

They saw documentaries

"To Fulfil the Desire of the President", "Chairman Kim Jong Il Is a Veteran of World Politics" and "To Hold General Kim Jong Il in High Esteem Forever" which show the long journey of patriotic devotion and undying revolutionary exploits of the Chairman.

The local people strengthened their resolve to hold him in high esteem forever and carry through his earnest instructions at workplaces and families throughout the country.

All the service personnel pledged themselves to safeguard Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un true to the instructions of the Chairman, the brilliant commander of Paektu who built up the

strongest military capability by making his way through the long and rugged paths on the long journey of Songun with a do-or-die will, and defend the security of the country and people more reliably.

The workers of the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes and other giant metal producers produced a large quantity of molten iron, bearing in their mind the great devotion and untiring efforts the Chairman directed to the successful production of Juche iron.

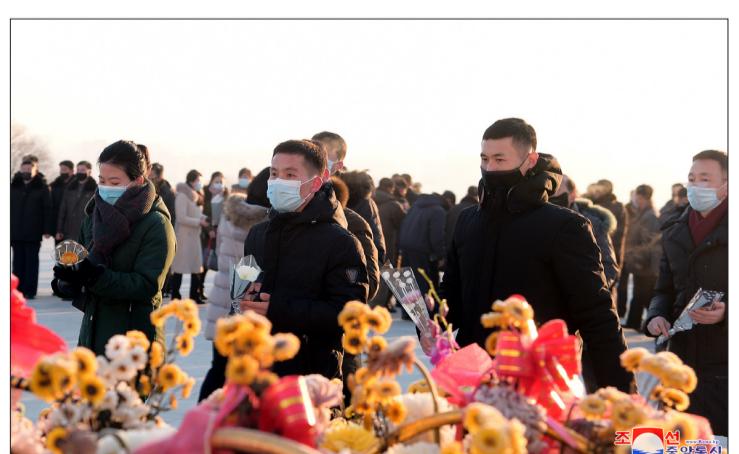
Production picked up at the units the Chairman visited until the last moment of his life to sow the precious seeds of improving the people's living standards.

Farmers across the country

were busy with preparations for next year's farming to fulfil the desire of the Chairman who took

measures to realign the land of

SEE PAGE 2



Pyongyang citizens lay flower baskets and bouquets at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill on Thursday to mark the ninth anniversary of the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

LEAD

A life wholeheartedly devoted to country and people

Nine years have passed since the whole country was grief-stricken over the loss of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

But the Korean people look back with deep emotion upon the whole life of their great leader dedicated to the country and people, with growing yearning for him with the passage of time.

His revolutionary career was that of the great leader who adopted "The people are my God" as his lifetime motto and worked hard to apply it to practice.

For him, who said if there is an almighty being in the world, it is not God, but the people, the people were the centre of all his thought and activities.

He asked first whether the people liked it or not when a building was constructed and often instructed officials that they should benefit the people and actually serve them when a factory was built or a product made.

He never allowed officials any ill practices of lording it over the people and encroaching on their interests by ignoring their opinions.

Epoch-making events and miracles that unfolded in each period of development in the

country were credited to the energetic leadership of him who always developed Party policies and translated them into reality according to the demands and opinions of the people.

Therefore, the local people loudly sing in praise of him, saying his lifetime exploits put together boil down to one thing: the people.

His revolutionary career was that of the popular leader who had continued his field inspection tour and always found himself among the people.

Go among the people, this was the creed he had maintained throughout his revolutionary career.

Whenever the country's socialist construction was faced with mammoth tasks and trials and difficulties, he always trusted the people and overcame them by relying on their strength and wisdom.

In the 1990s when the country had a hard time, experiencing unprecedented difficulties caused by the imperialists' economic blockade, he visited every nook and cranny of the country and inspired the people to perform feats. Thanks to his energetic leadership a solid

foundation was laid for the building of an economic giant.

The untiring efforts of the leader, who had made endless field inspection tour of the country in plain clothes to better the people's living all his life, resulted in the construction of modern light industry factories, livestock, fish and fruit farms and socialist fairyland villages across the country.

He was on his on-the-spot guidance tour even in December 2011, the last month of his life.

On the first Sunday of that month he visited the Amusement Park of Kaeson Youth Park and looked round the amusement facilities favoured by the people one after another despite the cold wind. And he provided on-the-spot guidance at the Hana Musical Information Centre and the Kwangbok Area Supermarket on December 15, two days before he passed away.

The Korean people will always remember the undying feats of the Chairman who had devoted his whole life to the prosperity of the country and wellbeing of the people.

By Pang Un Ju PT

programme.

Modern dwelling houses were built in Kanggye City and Jasong, Songwon and Junggang counties in keeping with their regional characteristics.



Farmers move into new houses in Kaesong

Rural dwelling houses for over 70 households have been built in Rimhan-ri, Phanmun District, Kaesong.

The low- and multi-storey houses have two or more living rooms, a kitchen and others to provide convenience to dwellers, with fruit trees planted around them.

A ceremony for moving into new houses was held on the spot on Friday.



Nationwide

Zoo population grows by over 2 000

Animals of over 200 species have brought forth more than 2 400 younglings at the Central Zoo this year.

Among them are those of rare animals presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un as gifts by foreign personages.

Fish cannery renovated

The Sinpho Deep-Sea Fishery Complex renovated the Sinpho Fish Cannery.

Equipped with an integrated production system, the factory is furnished with fish processing and pickling grounds, a sci-tech learning space, cultural and welfare facilities and others.



Jagang pushes rural housing project

Jagang Province has constructed new dwelling houses for over 860 families this year according to a long-term rural housing

North Hwanghae secures new arable land

This year, North Hwanghae Province has brought over 1

800 hectares of new land under the plow.

Cooperative farms in Koksan County reclaimed swamps, ridges and non-cultivating land, thus securing more than 150 hectares of farmland.

Rinsan County carpeted tens of hectares of land that had been washed away with humus soil to transform over 140 hectares of non-cultivating land into cropland.

New scaly graphite production process established

The Hungsan Mine in South Hwanghae Province has established a new scaly graphite production process.

The air power loading process can double productivity and also improve the quality of scaly graphite.

New production process set up at local cement factory

The Kyongam Cement Factory in North Hwanghae Province has newly built a cement production process with the capacity of tens of thousands of tons.

The establishment of the labour-, energy- and land-saving process provided the province with a guarantee for economic growth and improvement of people's livelihood.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

VIEW

Unforgettable smile of people's leader

"Chairman Kim Jong Il was well aware of the seriousness of his illness, but he dedicated his all to the good of the people until the last moments of his great life," wrote an official in recollection of the last days of the great General.

Whenever they read the passage our employees of the Kwangbok Area Supermarket feel a pang of grief and deeper yearning for the Chairman.

The great leader visited our workplace to see the newly built commercial service network on December 15 2011 when the winter cold was getting more violent.

As he made the rounds of different places on each floor, such as counters of goods for children, footwear and furniture, he asked about their quality, prices and others in detail.

He was pleased to see the cosmetics counter filled with Pomhyanggi-brand products favoured by Korean women.

At the bag counter he got an official to carry a bag to see how it looked and was satisfied with the improved quality of domestically produced bags.

Saying he had thought much about how to rename our service base called Kwangbok Department Store, he suggested naming it Kwangbok Area Supermarket as it would be most convenient to call thus.

His steps got slower and heavier as he went round all places of the supermarket for hours and he seemed to find it difficult to keep standing even for a short time since he changed his posture several times at one place.

But he wore a broad smile all the way as he was so happy to see the wonderfully built commercial service provider for the people.

Before leaving the supermarket, he said: It warms



my heart, though it is cold today, to see the Kwangbok Area Supermarket filled with goods. I feel happiest when I have done something for the good of the people. My happiness and pleasure lie in just those of the people. It is my invariable will and resolution to provide them with the best things.

However, like a bolt from the blue, we received the sad news that he passed away on December 17, or two days after.

The whole country writhed in grief in those days of mourning and we pledged ourselves to carry out his instructions as we shed tears of blood. And we have tried hard to faithfully keep the vow over the past nine years.

Always cherishing the warm memory of the day of his visit, we have secured sufficient goods and constantly improved our service and, as a result, our supermarket has turned into a commercial service base frequented and favoured by the people.

We will make further efforts to do more good things for them.

Choe Jong Rim, president of the Kwangbok Trading Corporation and manageress of the Kwangbok Area Supermarket

given by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang on December 17.

KCNA



The National Symphony Orchestra gives a concert at the Moranbong Theatre in honour of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Fertilizer giant goes into top gear hitting yearly targets

Production boosted by dint of advanced technologies

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex is overfulfilling its fertilizer production plan every day.

"The complex has to carry out an uphill fertilizer production task during the 80-day campaign. To this end, we carried out the second-stage thorough repair of the fertilizer production process until early October, thus making a breakthrough in the campaign," said Mun Kyong Nam, deputy manager of the complex.

It was not an easy job to finish the repair and maintenance of the extensive fertilizer production process, which includes a large number of chemical equipment, networks of pipelines, dozens of gas generators which look like high-rise apartment buildings and the raw materials supply system, in a short time.

However, the complex picked the prime targets of the general overhaul rightly and finished the project ahead of schedule, while ensuring sufficient supply of parts and iron and steel materials.

All the fertilizer production processes are now working at full capacity forming a big organic body.

The coal dressing supply workshop, the first process of fertilizer production, is sorting out coal as quickly as possible and sending it to the next process by ensuring the normal operation of equipment including conveyor belt and

vibrating sorting grizzly.

The coal rod production process is scientifically regulating the amount of raw materials and humidity to produce several tons of quality coal rods per hour and send them to gas generating process.

The focus of the semiwater gas production process was placed on the scientific control of temperature, raw material feeding and regulation of the amounts of air and steam in gas generators to increase the

amount of gas generation per generator.

The ammonia workshop is producing quality ammonia by introducing advanced working methods to raise the absorptivity of carbon dioxide.

As a result, quality synthesis gas is constantly flowing into the urea workshop and the shipment workshop is picking up the speed of packaging and shipment of fertilizer.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



Part of the ammonia production process at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.

Over 160 technical ideas introduced

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex has conducted a mass technical innovation drive to boost fertilizer production.

According to Chief Engineer An Yong Chol, the number of technical findings that have been introduced into production in the complex amounted to over 160.

First of all, economy-oriented production methods are explored and introduced.

The complex reduced over 15 tons of steam consumption per hour by remoulding the network of steam-generator and is recycling waste gas from ammonia synthesis process.

It feeds generator gas into the steam production process to prevent air pollution and save

nearly 100 tons of coal a day.

It also introduced jig conveyor into the coal rod drying process to boost productivity over 1.2 times and applied the PLC automatic dry-coal rod production system.

It improved the computer operating system for dozens of generators to produce more fertilizers.

The complex also uses plasma heat treatment method to increase the lifespan of screw blade for coal rod moulding machine and the working hours of plasma cutting welder, as part of an effort to raise the proportion of domestic production of parts of equipment.

The complex decreases

the consumption of imported catalyst by reusing waste liquor in gas purification. And it also ensures normal operation by recycling piston ring and other attached materials of large gas compressors which had been imported. It carries on the research into ensuring domestic production of sodium bicarbonate needed for the production of rod coal.

"In the past, we had to import MDEA in ammonia carbon dioxide absorption process. But while making research into producing it by ourselves, we recycle the existing MDEA," said Choe Hyon Bong, section chief of the complex.

By Yun Kyong II PT

Capacity-building projects pushed

Though we are now busy with carrying on the current production, our complex is pushing the projects for expanding production capacity of fertilizers, the overhaul of the sodium carbonate production process and the construction of a new catalyst production base.

Notable achievements have been made in the project for expanding fertilizer production capacity.

The complex built three 75-ton boilers, drying ovens and a hot-blast furnace and laid foundations for installing large compressors last year, thereby rounding off the construction of most objects. Also, it manufactured and installed many pieces of equipment including gas tank and gas generator.

The project of increasing the fertilizer production capacity has further been stepped up this year.

A project for expanding the capacity of a coal yard was finished in a short span of time.

We had to carry out the foundation work in nearly 60 places and place concrete for thousands of cubic metres, but we completed the huge task to increase the capacity of coal yard 1.5 times more than before.

In addition, the foundation works for the establishment of another substation, repair of transformer and installing more carbon dioxide and synthetic gas compressors have been conducted in a three-dimensional way to see its completion. At present, we are working to timely install necessary equipment and mechanisms.

An effort for remodelling the sodium carbonate



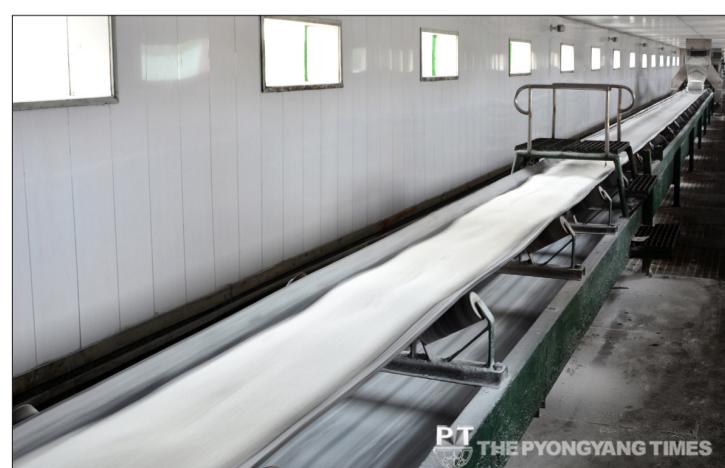
The complex has made great efforts to improve the quality of different catalysts and... turn the overall production processes into energy- and labour-saving ones and recycle waste."

production process based on glauberite and boosting the production capacity of catalysts is still going on.

The complex has made great efforts to improve the quality of different catalysts and ensure their domestic production so as to see certain progress, while pushing the construction of a new catalysts production base at present, and work to solve technological problems.

Meanwhile, it is carrying on the work to turn the overall production processes into energy- and labour-saving ones and recycle waste.

Mun Kyong Nam, deputy manager of the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex



The fertilizer production plan is overfulfilled every day at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.

JONG HWA SUN

COAL

Promising reserve coal fields found out

DPRK geologists have recently discovered tens of millions of tons of reserve coal fields.

In the course of analysing the prospecting data of a region, they found out that several disharmony folds exist in that region.

"As the structure of fold is directly connected with coal

beds or different ore bodies, the research into it is of great importance in tracing back to the crustal movement and its history and finding out underground resources," said Pak Hyon Uk, director of the geology institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

Generally, disharmony fold consists of anticlinal

fold and synclinal fold which were formed by the crustal movement.

According to Pak, the present coal mines in the region are placed at the anticlinal fold, but there are possibilities that anthracite coal beds may exist in the synclinal fold.

The geologists interpreted the deep structure of syncline in the region, which had been evaluated as the noncommercial district in the past. They also ascertained the characteristics of deep development of coal-bed with the help of geophysical prospecting means.

"On the basis of this, we have worked out a large-scale 3D transformed model of coal-bed structure of overall syncline based on the 3D geological information interpretation system. According to analysis results, it has been confirmed that there are tens of millions of tons of coal deposits," said Kim Kyong Chol, section chief of the institute.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



PAK KWANG HUN

Researchers are engaged in mineral analysis at the geology institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

FISH FARMING

Predatory fish habituated to assorted feed

In recent years, DPRK pisciculturists have been successful in mandarin fish farming.

Mandarin fish is known to have tough flesh which is delicious and highly nutritious. However, it is hard to breed with assorted feed as it is hot-tempered and hardly feeds on dead fish.

"In order to vitalize mandarin fish farming, it is necessary to produce fry that can be released into rivers and lakes," said Sin Sang Il, director of the central fish farming institute, adding they have recently developed a mandarin fish farming technology based on assorted feed.

According to him, they ensured a high protein content of the assorted feed by combining additives that contain fish powder, bean cake, vitamins and minerals.

In order to change the eating habit of mandarin fish from preying on live fish to having assorted feed, researchers starved them for a certain period so that they forgot the original eating habit and feed on the assorted feed competitively.

To improve the effectiveness of this method, the first assorted feed should be made from protein-rich ingredients and be fed immediately after production before drying up.

Especially, the researchers discovered that as their carnivorous nature becomes stronger as mandarin fish grows bigger, it is more effective to change its eating habit using assorted feed in the nascent stage of growth.

Forming feed into the shape of a willow leaf makes mandarin fish mistake assorted feed for live fish.

It is best to do mandarin fish farming using artificial feed in a small cage net because ensuring a high density can improve the utilization rate of feed by increasing chances for the fish to see and track feed, said section chief Kim Kang Nam.

The mandarin fish farming technology has been introduced into some natural water areas including Lake Yonphung.

According to an official of the Lake Yonphung Stocking Fishery Station, the new technology reduced the production cost of mandarin fish by half as compared to the method of using live fish as feed.

The technology of changing the eating habit of mandarin fish using assorted feed was highly appreciated at the 34th National Festival of Science and Technology last year.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



CHAE HYANG OK

Researchers at the Central Fish Farming Institute observe the mandarin fish farming process based on assorted feed.

REUSE

Recycling helps factory bring healthy profits



PT THE PYONGYANG TIMES

RYANG KUM CHOL

Two workers operate a machine to produce plastic panels from waste at the forest equipment and materials factory.

"Our factory produces various kinds of materials needed for sapling production such as plastic panels for greenhouses, plastic pots for growing saplings, plastic sun screens and nonwoven fabrics," said Ri Jae Hyok, manager of the forest equipment and materials factory located in Ryokpho District, Pyongyang.

The factory uses plastic waste as raw materials for its products.

"The recycling of plastic waste is very beneficial in many ways, such as environmental protection, cost reduction and normalization of production," said senior engineer An Se Chol.

The 64-hole sapling pot

made by the factory is said to be effective in ensuring a high rooting rate of saplings and protecting them from harmful insects.

Its sun screens are enjoying a growing demand in not only the forestry sector but also the agriculture and urban landscaping as they provide the saplings with light and soil humidity appropriate to their growth.

It also recycles scraps from its own production processes.

At present, the factory is building a plastic pulverizer for improving the efficiency of the recycling process.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Sci-tech hits applied

"This year we have applied over 20 new techniques to production," said Kim Ryong Nam, director of the Academy of Coal Science under the Ministry of Coal Industry.

It developed a new plastic roller for conveyor belt at coal mines. The researchers decided the structure, working characteristics, lifespan and ranging of utilization of high polymer PE plastic roller. The introduction of this roller into several coal mines including the

February 8 Jiktong Youth and Jenam coal mines helped them expand coal transport capacity 1.3 times.

The academy also developed a drill bit hard alloy deposit welding technology based on high-frequency induction heating device. Such a drill bit can bore several hundred blast holes. It enabled the coal mines to increase the tunnelling speed 1.1 times, while halving hard alloy consumption.

It made a pneumatic rotating drilling machine for coal mines. It can be used even in pits with hard coal seams.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



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RYU KWANG HYOK

A woman worker monitors a machine that produces artificial fur at the Songyo Knitwear Factory.

HEALTHCARE

Hospital improves service quality

Medical conditions and environment have been improved in the Nampho City People's Hospital.

According to deputy director Kim Yong In in charge of technology, the hospital underwent an extensive renovation in the second half of this year.

Outpatients' and sick wards with a building area of

15 000 square metres were reconstructed both inside and outside, roads repaved and green areas distinctively laid out.

Different kinds of treatment rooms were renovated and provided with more medical equipment.

The improvement of medical conditions and environment helps enhance the quality of



CHAE MYONG RIM

Medical workers engage in an operation at the Nampho City People's Hospital.

EDUCATION

Woman passionately committed to primary education



Ponghak Primary School in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, is renowned for good educational conditions and environment as well as for the competent teaching staff.

"The national fame of our school is unthinkable apart from painstaking efforts of headmistress Ri Kyong Ae (pictured)," said vice-headmistress Ko Won Hwa.

Ri Kyong Ae, who was born into a worker's family, graduated from a teachers training college and became a teacher, as she had always wished, at then Pyongyang Kansong primary school.

On the day of her graduation, her father told her that education which requires love and devotion is not just teaching students but the work with the mind of students, asking her to become an excellent teacher.

who pays meticulous attention to students and makes selfless efforts for them.

The class she took charge of for the first time was fairly backward in school records and some of her pupils were unruly mischief-makers of the school.

However, she devoted all her energy to making them excellent pupils.

She kept on searching for teaching methods to make her students acquire new knowledge completely and spent her time after school helping backward students with their study.

Thanks to her efforts, hers became an honour class from the following year.

After that, any class that came under her charge never missed the first place in the grade.

During the 15 years of her teaching career, Ri received 13 certificates of registration of teaching method and many certificates of invention of experimental apparatuses and teaching aids and of educational science achievements.

She became even busier after being appointed headmistress of Ponghak Primary School.

Under her guidance, the teachers of the school tried hard to improve their abilities and some of them were honoured with the title of October 8 Model Teacher.

She also paid much attention

to creating a favourable educational environment inside and outside of the school.

Some parents of students said they could not help admiring the corridors and halls which were turned into teaching spaces, the outdoor swimming pool and mobile visual aids.

Ri introduced a new teaching framework based on the subject of teacher system and hosted a national workshop on it, which became a sensation in the education sector.

At her initiative, the school runs over 50 extracurricular hobby groups so that students can fully display their aptitude and talent.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

DISH

Cold noodles still a goodie in winter

Pyongyang cold noodles are one of the four famous dishes of Pyongyang and a specialty of Korea.

"The appetite of Pyongyang cold noodle lovers does not change according to season," said Pak Hyang Mi, a workshop manager at the Okryu Restaurant in Pyongyang. "On solar and lunar New Year's days and other

ILLUMINATION

'Sorcerers' work a miracle with light



SON HUI YON / PICTORIAL DPR KOREA

A glimpse of illumination festival "Wonders of Light-2020".

It is very impressive to enjoy an outsized display screened on the wall of a big building at starlit night.

Illumination festival "Wonders of Light-2020" was splendidly held in Pyongyang in October when the whole country was filled with enthusiasm for celebrating the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The mixture of lights projected on one of the four walls of Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 created colourful and peculiar scenes on it in a splendid way, giving the audience a great thrill and adding to pleasure and delight on the auspicious holiday.

The festival showed the thrilling reality of creating better things more with their own hands and the beautiful and happy life of the Korean people in a three dimensional way with illuminations. It was credited to So Kwang Hyok, lecturer at the Faculty of Physics at Kim Il Sung University, and competent projection technicians.

"A multi-channel, multiplex technology presented people with a new culture called 'performance of the art of light'. You can multiply the visual effects scores of times by projecting small images from a computer onto a large wall or the floor of sports arena," said So.

Having widely been used on a global scale for over a dozen years, the technology is now

By Ri Sung Ik PT

snow-clad streets.

The meat stock for Pyongyang cold noodles tastes cool in summer, but it does not feel cold in winter.

Chon Kum Ran, a chef at the Chongnyu Restaurant, said that Pyongyang cold noodles are like a work of art.

A noodles contest was held at the Okryu Restaurant on October 2 between the Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants and the Pyongyang Noodle House. Diners say that the taste of Pyongyang cold noodles seems to have improved.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

MATERNITY

This year sees a dozen triplet sets leave hospital

Some 10 sets of triplets were born in the DPRK this year.

All of their mothers received medical care at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

At the beginning of this year, a female farmer from Kim Chaek of North Hamgyong Province, gave a birth to three boys at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, followed by another woman from Sariwon of North Hwanghae Province who bore two boys and a girl.

Kim Yong Hwa, resident of Taean District, Nampho City, was sent to the hospital immediately after delivering triplets at the Tacan District People's Hospital on October 25 last year due to the unexpected pain. In the DPRK, pregnant mothers who have diagnosed with triplets give birth to their babies at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital or will immediately be sent to the hospital to enjoy its medical service though they fail to deliver triplets at the hospital due to sudden circumstances. The hospital takes care of the triplets and their mothers until the newborns weigh 4kg.

As the health of the mother and her babies was not good at that time, medical workers of the hospital had scores of consultations and devoted all efforts to recovering their health in some 100 days.

ALTRUISM

Disabled woman says she owes much to socialist motherland

Ri Son Hui, a special-class disabled soldier who was paraplegic, now leads a normal life like others as the mother of a boy in Rason City.

People refer to this as a "miracle inexplicable with medicine alone".

After becoming paraplegic in an unexpected accident during her military service, she was demobbed and received lots of treatments at a sanatorium and hospital by turns for four years under the warm care of kind-hearted medical workers and other people. And enterprises in the locality admitted her as an honorary employee and took meticulous care of her as they would do their kindred.

Then, she found love one day.

All of a sudden, Kim Myong Guk proposed to her. He was a student at Rajin University of Marine Transport at the time and he had frequented

The triplets weighed 1.56, 1.84 and 1.79 kilograms respectively at birth, but grew 4.08, 4.48 and 4.72 kilograms at the time of leaving the hospital.

"Last March, the hospital had witnessed the 500th set of triplets since its establishment," proudly said Pak Song Suk, People's Doctor, PhD and deputy director of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

Their mother Ri Yon Hwa was diagnosed as having triplets for the 500th in November last year. During the 120-odd days in the hospital after her diagnosis, she was supplied with a variety of tonics and other nutrients for the pregnant women like her from the state gratis.

Quoting President

Kim Il Sung as saying that multiple births have been regarded as the sign of fortune for the country since long ago, Pak added that it was not once or twice when several sets of them were born a month this year on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

According to her, four sets were seen in March, three sets in June and two sets in September.

After leaving the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, which is called dearly the palace for babies, the triplets grow happily at baby homes in their provinces at the state's expense.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



A couple from Kim Chaek City leave the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital with their triplets amid the blessing of well-wishers.

her home to help the honoured disabled soldier with tender care.

But Son Hui and her mother could not readily accept the proposal.

The sturdy young man insisted on and handed a page of his notepad over to them.

"I will go with you all my life even by carrying you on my back!" ran the note.

Finally, they tied the knot.

Kim Myong Guk was always pressed for time as both householder and housekeeper.

One day the husband was heartbroken. Back home, he found his wife falling on the kitchen floor, sobbing. Out of a desire to serve him a bowl of warm cooked rice by her own hands, she tried to prepare the meal, but fell down with a rice-washing wooden basin in her hand.

"Till then, I flattered myself that I showed my wife genuine love. But only then did I realize

that true love was to help her stand up," recalled Myong Guk.

Therefore, he took on another task of giving medical treatment to his wife.

He travelled a long distance to bring the peloid good for treatment and applied the poultice to her legs while massaging her feet.

There were many unassuming people who cared for them, rendering sincere help to them.

The Rason sanatorium for persons with disabilities sent a doctor to her, as well as the Rason Maternity Hospital, when she was pregnant.

Finally, they could become the parents of a boy and she could get to her feet.

"My socialist motherland where everybody forms a large harmonious family worked such a miracle for me," said Son Hui as to the double blessings.

By Pang Un Ju PT

GAG

Gift of gab makes common-looking man a celeb

The emcee at the Comedy Show "Our House Full of Laughter" in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea elicited roars of laughter from the audience with amusing jokes, witticisms and gentle humours.

He was Ri Sun Hong, who is such a famous comedian that the mere call of his name is enough to make people laugh.

"People say zeal is the mother of success. Ri Sun Hong at our studio is a comedian who has succeeded in gag by dint of zeal," said the director of the Central Artistic Motivational Studio.

Until his middle school days, however, Ri was interested in medicine instead of art.

"I was fond of medical science and very much wanted to study it when I was a middle school student. Until then, I did not know I had a sort of gift for amusing people," recalled the gag master.

Once he saw a film or read a novel, the optimistic man would tell others the lines of actors and heroes. His mimicking was so vivid that he never failed to set the audience into a roar of laughter.

Such talent grew and enabled him to become a comedian.

Ri made his debut in a witty talk, which was a hit. The audience burst into laughter as they saw the tickling act of the man of small build.

He gradually realized he was needed to give people laughter and devoted his wisdom and zeal to this work.

After joining the then National Comedy Troupe in his 40s, he began to perform on stage the comic works he himself produced by representing the laughter in life and the life filled with laughter.

His first gag show caused a great sensation, drawing tumultuous applause from the audience.

"His acting is so original and novel that it is the envy of even his fellow actors and actresses. His every work is ingenious and very viable. His representation is varied and seems new each time and his vocal cords are incredible as he can imitate the voice of anybody, men and women, young and old," said actress Pak Mi Guk.

He has a huge reservoir of knowledge that never dries up and possesses a library of books which he values as his wealth including old documentary records and collections of materials, reference books and proverbs, she added.

The gag *Deathbed Repentance* is one of many excellent works he created and performed in decades of his



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Wherever I go, everyone smiles a welcome to me and wants to hear my gag. Everybody knows me and loves me, and that's everything to me.”

Ri Sun Hong, comedian of the Central Artistic Motivational Studio

stage career.

It tells about the harmful consequences of smoking through the lifelike portrayal of a chain-smoker and his family members. Many habitual smokers are said to have quit smoking after seeing his show.

He always finds the theme of his work in everyday life in families, villages and workplaces and perfects it by employing words and expressions reflecting the national mood and by dint of his characteristic acting style and exquisite storytelling skill. And he is said to stay awake almost all night while making new works.

"Whenever he writes a work, the whole family is pestered by him. He sometimes makes us spend a sleepless night as he practises the gag until early morning and asks our opinion about his work as the first examiners time and again. He often says, 'I'll fail to amuse other people if I can't my family members.' And we often promise secretly not to laugh at his gag, but we can't help laughing as we see his acting," said his wife Pae Chun Sim.

For over 20 years, Ri Sun Hong gave well over 500 performances on an annual average in Pyongyang and local areas.

"Wherever I go, everyone smiles a welcome to me and wants to hear my gag. Everybody knows me and loves me, and that's everything to me," Ri said.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

RUSSIA

Steady efforts made to boost whole economy

Russia has taken positive measures to develop the economy.

An online conference on economic issues was recently held in Russia, which was presided over by President Putin.

At the meeting, Putin appealed to regional authorities to minimize the negative effects on the economy and work carefully to suit their actual conditions, while ensuring the personal safety of the people. It is a matter of key importance to increase the income of Russians

and the rate of employment, he said, before referring to some defects found in the country's economic sectors.

The present Russian government is taking proactive steps to sustain economic growth after acknowledging that its overall economy has not yet been put on a course towards steady and long-term development.

It recently announced that a roadmap was adopted to improve the environment for business activities in the export sector.

The roadmap includes some measures to provide state assistance, simplify the demands on currency control, remove a barrier to the import of major goods, digitize the import procedures and others. It also embraces the issues of preparing a document to suggest the state organs lower the tariff on imported equipment and raw materials used for producing exports, improving the transport of goods and taking a measure to implement the plan for increasing their competitive power.

The Russian government also approved a machine tool industry development strategy to be executed until 2035. At a recent consultative meeting, the Russian Prime Minister said that according to the new strategy, the industry would ensure an annual average production growth of 6 percent, while meeting the demand for machine tools in domestic markets and expanding the export.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

JAPAN

Territorial claim far-fetched and unworkable

Recently, an advanced anti-aircraft rocket system of the Russian forces went on combat duty on Iturup Island of the southern Kuril Islands.

The newly deployed air defence system is a latest improved model of C-300 anti-aircraft rocket system, which can intercept ballistic missiles and other flying objects within an altitude of 37 000m and a radius of 400km.

Russia announced that it was deployed there for national defence.

On December 1, the

Japanese embassy in Russia lodged a protest to the Russian foreign ministry, in which it asserted that Moscow's military move goes against Japan's standpoint on the "northern territories" (the southern Kurils).

On the next day, Japanese Cabinet secretary Kato in a press conference said that Russia is reinforcing armaments on four islands of the "northern territory", adding Tokyo would continue to keep an eye on the movements of Russian forces in future.

Iturup Island where the

recent deployment took place is located in a hot spot which has long been the subject of territorial dispute between Russia and Japan.

The region which is called by different names in Russia and Japan reverted to Russia as a result of the Second World War. However, Japan has claimed the dominion over the region ever since, repeatedly asking Russia for its "return".

History textbooks in Japan describe the "northern territory" as an "inherent part" of its territory, teaching distorted history to young

generations.

An exhibition for asserting "Japan's dominion over the southern Kuril Islands" was held in Tokyo early this year.

The Russian foreign ministry denounced that Japan's behaviour showed once again its attitude of not admitting the result of World War II completely, saying that the legal sovereignty of the Russian Federation over the southern Kurils is indisputable.

Russia takes every opportunity to underline that the islands are legitimate part of the Russian territory where its sovereignty is exercised, rejecting Japan's persistent claims. It is deploying military equipment and staging drills in the region to bolster up national defence, while developing the regional economy.

By Min Chol PT

WILDLIFE

International community work to protect wildlife

According to information available, the number of wildlife has reduced to a third in the world for half a century and over a million species out of them are on the verge of extinction.

Shortly ago, the World Natural Protection Fund said that the number of vertebrate animals decreased by 68 percent on average between 1970 and 2016, and attributed it to the destruction of ecological environment and the trafficking of wildlife.

The decrease of their species and numbers will bring the destruction of ecological system, which will directly lead to the destruction of living environment of humankind.

Different countries

are directing big efforts to the protection of wildlife for the seriousness of the problem.

China's Tibet autonomous region conducted an eight-year-long survey of wildlife resources.

Through the survey experts reportedly studied the number, distribution and protection and management of some 150 species of wild vertebrate animals and establish a database for the protection of their habitats.

The Tanzanian government worked out a five-year action plan with the aim of promoting the research and protection of giraffe.

According to the plan, it will collect wider information about its number, distribution

and feeding activities and undertake research into the diseases in the coming five years.

A new national park has recently been built in Mozambique.

Covering an area of 2 300 square kilometres, the park is reportedly inhabited by hundreds of species of rare animals and plants.

In order to improve the ecological environment of the animal reserves and habitats, Kenya is planning to plant more than 100 000 trees in all national parks and reserves every year to double its forest area.

Mongolia channelled big efforts into the protection and management of antelope habitats. As a result, the

number of antelopes which had been only about 5 000 early this year rose to 8 500 till November.

Measures have also been taken to eradicate illegal hunting and trafficking.

The South African government set up rhinoceros protection areas in seven wildlife sanctuaries to prevent poaching of them and trafficking of their horns and protect black and white rhinoceroses that are on the verge of extinction.

Mozambique introduced advanced technologies into the protection of wildlife, with the result that the poaching of elephants has diminished by 70 percent since 2014.

On the basis of the survey of animal reserves throughout the country, the DPRK renamed the existing animal reserves wildlife reserves and chose new wildlife reserves by finding more forest areas inhabited by animals in a concentrated manner.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Briefly

Cuba

Event commemorates diamond jubilee of DPRK-Cuba ties

A central meeting was held at the palace of the revolution in Havana, Cuba, on December 11 to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Cuba.

Russia

NATO censured for raising military tension

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova in a recent press conference disclosed that an increasing number of NATO's warships are making calls at ports in the Black Sea while reconnaissance planes and drones are frequenting the areas near Russia's borders.

Russia is much concerned about NATO's military moves getting brisker in the waters, she said, adding such moves are undermining stability in the region.

Iran

Interference of the West rejected

The Iranian foreign minister on December 8 tweeted that the interference of the West is the root cause of difficult problems occurring in the region, adding Iran will not discuss regional issues with Western countries.

Japan

Troop presence prolonged in Middle East

On December 11, the Japanese authorities decided to station its Maritime Self-Defence Force troops one year more in the vicinity around the Middle East on the pretext that "tension remains high in the region" in the Cabinet meeting.

The escort ship and P-3C patrol plane, which have been performing the duty of information gathering in the seas off the Middle East, will reportedly be stationed there until December 26 next year.

CIS

Foreign ministers meet online

The council of foreign ministers of CIS nations met in the form of video-conference on December 10.

The meeting approved a plan for the future development of CIS indicating the major directions of its cooperation and adopted the draft joint statement of CIS member nations to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN.

China, Nepal

Altitude of Everest becomes higher

China and Nepal have recently confirmed that the latest altitude of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, is 8 848.86 metres.

It reportedly rises up by about 4 millimetres per year due to the movement of plates.

LEGEND

Pak Tu Ik makes a difference to Korean soccer

Former football player Pak Tu Ik is the first People's Athlete in the DPRK.

Born to a poor peasant family before Korea's liberation, he had loved football since his childhood.

Just after the Fatherland Liberation War, he led a working life and then was active at a factory football team.

He was selected by the Pyongyang Sports Club as he flaunted his unusual skills at sports games and cut a brilliant figure on the domestic front.

Possessed of an outstanding ball control ability, correct passing and strong shot, he was awarded the title of sports master in 1959 for giving full rein to his technique in the matches.

At the eighth World Cup finals, which was held in



Acting as a football player of the national team, he scored more than 80 goals in some 130 international matches.

While working as the coach of the April 25 football club after serving as football head coach at the Amnokgang Sports Club, he won successive victories at away games in Japan.

As he worked as head coach of the national team, he led his team to win the 13th universiad and the 1986 and 1987 Thai King Cup international soccer tournaments.

He is still healthy despite his advancing years of over 80. Dozens of years have passed, but he is now widely remembered by the Korean people as the master of football, who created the football myth of Chollima Korea.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Britain in July 1966, he scored a decisive goal as a centre forward in the match with Italians, a World Cup winner, leaving a deep impression on the world's football fans by creating a football myth of Chollima Korea.

INSTRUMENT

Kayagum still twangs to capture imagination of the public

The name *kayagum* is derived from Kaya, a Korean feudal state which existed between the mid-1st century BC and mid-6th century AD.

It was invented by Uruk, a talented musician in the state of Kaya in the early 6th century.

Its early form consisted with sound box, hook for 12 strings and bridge and it changed very little until the end of the 15th century.

The sound of *kayagum* is soft and elegant and the posture of playing is rhythmic and beautiful.

It is simple in structure, easy to tune by moving the bridge and learn to play and diverse in interpretation.

It was widely introduced to Silla by Uruk in the mid-6th century AD, to become one of its typical stringed instruments.

Kayagum and its music were spread more widely in the period of Koryo and the feudal Joson dynasty and the stringed instrument was much used for playing court music. Many gifted *kayagum* players were produced in succession and a new type of instrumental solo was developed as the instrumental for experts like the "collection of *kayagum* solos" at the end of the 19th century.

Kayagum was also upgraded to meet the modern aesthetic taste along with the development of musical art: the number of strings has increased to 21 and the musical range widened from pentachord to heptachord.

With *kayagum*'s distinctive timbre having been accentuated more remarkably, its interpretation has also developed.

It plays a leading part in the national instrumental music ensemble and an important role as a musical instrument for melody and rhythm in orchestra, instrumental ensemble and accompaniment.

"Tremolo, a *kayagum*'s unique playing technique, cannot be copied by any musical instrument in the world," said Choe Myong Hui, lecturer at Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

The beautiful melody of *kayagum* played at the national flag raising ceremony for the military parade in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea captivated all the audience.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



A scene from *kayagum* ensemble in the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance "The Land of the People" in 2019.

CUSTOM

Folk custom of winter solstice

Tongji or winter solstice is the 22nd of the 24th seasonal divisions according to the lunar calendar that falls on around December 22 of the solar calendar.

Korean ancestors celebrated it, calling it "small New Year's Day" and attaching a special meaning to it.

History of Koryo Dynasty, a history book, says that the winter solstice was celebrated as one of the nine folk holidays and *Mogunjip*, a book published in the 14th century, carries a poem about rice gruel prepared with red beans on the day.

The day is known to the Korean people as the day of taking adzuki-bean gruel.

The Koreans had originally taken the food as the first special food for winter after raising a good crop of the year. It developed into a seasonal and national dish for the winter solstice as it was connected with "small New Year's Day".

The rice and red-bean porridge was cooked after fully boiling red bean and putting a large amount

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



Adzuki-bean gruel.

WEAPON

Stone-shooting howitzer dates back to 14th century

Among the ancient weapons of Korea there was the Ryukhwa stone gun which was built in the closing years of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392).

The stone-firing howitzer of Roedung, meaning lightning and thunder, used black gunpowder as an advanced form of powder stone gun invented during the Three Kingdoms.

It was sited at fortresses across the country and demonstrated its power in repulsing foreign invasion.

It is known as the oldest one of the world's historically recorded powder stone guns.

In the late Koryo era, it developed into the stone gun of

By Ri Sung Ik PT

MONUMENT

Ginger plant group on Sinmi Island

There is a ginger plant forest on Sinmi Island in Sonchon County, North Phyongan Province.

The island has a great botanical diversity as it has been under the effect of the sea for a long time far from the mainland.

The ginger plant group is forming a mixed forest with pine, chestnut and oak trees. Ginger plant is a deciduous broadleaf tree belonging to the *Cinnamomum* family.

It was named thus as the pith of it smells like ginger. It is also

called Siberian crab apple.

It is an oil-bearing plant whose seeds have an oil content of about 50 percent.

The fruit is a round berry which gradually turns black as it ripens.

The tallest ginger plant in the group is 5 metres tall and the average height is 3 metres.

The ginger plant group on Sinmi Island is under good protection since it was designated as a natural monument.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

