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## WPK Central Military Commission instructs lower-level commission to hold an emergency meeting

The Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea on August 5 issued an instruction to urgently convene an enlarged meeting of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Military Commission for the recovery from damage by downpour and flood and other relevant instructions.

The WPK Central Military Commission issued an instruction to grasp the scale of damage in some regions of the province, immediately restore damaged roads in the afflicted regions by mobilizing engineering units and mobilize

the Korean People's Army units stationed in the province for the recovery campaign according to the decision of the provincial Party military commission, so as to finish the recovery campaign as soon as possible in cooperation with the forces of the province.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un, taking a measure to urgently supply relief materials by using state reserves, ordered the central organs to unsparingly support the province materially and financially in its recovery effort.

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### MEETING

## WPK South Hamgyong Provincial Military Commission convenes enlarged meeting

The South Hamgyong Provincial Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea convened an enlarged meeting on August 5, according to the instruction of the WPK Central Military Commission.

It was attended by members of the provincial Party military commission, chief Party secretaries at city and county levels, leading Party and administrative officials of province-level institutions and major industrial establishments, officials concerned in construction and design fields and military and political cadres of the Korean People's Army units stationed in the province.

The instruction of the Central Military Commission of the WPK was conveyed by Ri Jong Nam, chief secretary of the WPK South Hamgyong Provincial Committee.

It was mentioned at the meeting that upon receiving the news about damage by downpour in the province, General Secretary Kim Jong Un

specified repeatedly the direction and ways for recovery from damage and took measures for providing relief materials urgently.

It was particularly mentioned that the General Secretary set forth it as an important task facing the chief Party secretaries at city and county levels to pay primary attention to the lives of the afflicted people and strengthen Party work, the work with the people, so as to rally the broad masses closer around the Party under such difficult situation as now. It was also emphasized that he called for awakening and arousing the local Party officials and Party organizations into waging the recovery campaign skillfully and unyieldingly.

The meeting examined the scope of flood damage and took specific measures for thoroughly carrying out the instruction of the Party Central Military Commission.

It discussed such technical matters as the formation of construction forces to be rapidly

dispatched to the stricken areas and organized a powerful relief operation commanding team.

Also discussed at the meeting was the issue of taking emergency measures to promptly bring back to normal the lives of the people in the disaster-hit areas, further tightening emergency epidemic prevention work and minimizing the damage to crops.

The meeting called on all the local Party organizations, people and service personnel to turn out in the relief work with strong confidence that they will surely win if they display to the full the might of the single-minded unity, the army-people unity around the Party Central Committee.

The enlarged meeting of the WPK South Hamgyong Provincial Military Commission adopted with unanimous approval a decision on finishing recovery from damage by dint of the great army-people unity till the founding anniversary of the Party.

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### RECOVERY

## South Hamgyong steps up relief operation

The South Hamgyong provincial population and officers and men of the Korean People's Army in the province are now all out to repair the damage by natural disasters as early as possible.

The provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held an enlarged meeting of the provincial party military commission on the spot of relief operation in Sinhung County on August 8 again after the one on August 5.

The meeting discussed issues for finishing the reconstruction in the county after grasping the damage situation in detail and assigned concrete tasks.

The county officials admitted flood victims into the office buildings of the county party committee and people's

committee and took immediate steps to provide residents with proper living conditions.

Intense relief operation is now conducted in Sinhung County and other afflicted areas on the strength of army-people cooperation.

The province, cities and counties carefully organize the prompt supply of materials for the reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas and take measures to build river banks and make blocks for the construction of houses at the same time.

The KPA units in the province are pressing on with the reconstruction and repair of damaged bridges and roads and the construction of houses.

The state general design bureau, the South Hamgyong provincial design institute and

several other units are working hard to make plans for the construction of houses and public buildings in time. The related units in the province are also redoubling efforts to produce various kinds of building materials needed for reconstruction.

Trains for concentrated transport carrying cement for reconstruction are arriving in the afflicted areas in succession.

The province also pays attention to minimizing the damage to crops.

Projects are under way to restore the damaged communications facilities and make full preparations to counter the upcoming disastrous abnormal weather conditions.

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### DRIVE

## Technical innovation drives production growth

The mass technical innovation drive is conducted briskly in different economic sectors.

According to an official of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea, factories and enterprises across the country have taken active part in this effort to push forward with the modernization and informatization of production processes and ensure the domestic production and recycling of raw and other materials.

In the course of this, about 170 units have recently won the title of model technical innovation unit, with the result that the number of such units have totalled some 260 so far

across the country.

The Ryongsong disabled soldiers' injection-moulded boots factory produces smart boots by recycling all the waste pieces of bootlegs from the production process by means of technical innovations.

Many units in the agricultural sector also scrupulously manured and cultivated crops to increase crop yields by contriving farm machines and introducing different kinds of growth stimulants.

In addition, many units in all parts of the country are actively making new innovations through the development of science and technology.

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10 YEARS ON

# Opening a new chapter in immortalizing the leader

After Chairman Kim Jong Il unexpectedly passed away, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea issued in January 2012 a special report on preserving him in his lifetime appearance at the then Kumsusan Memorial Palace, the supreme temple of Juche, on erecting his statue reverentially, on designating the greatest national holiday of February 16 when he was born as the Day of the Shining Star and on putting up his beaming image respectfully and erecting the tower to his immortality across the country.

The special report fully reflected the ardent desire of the Korean people for holding the Chairman, who devoted his whole life for the good of the people, in high esteem forever and their will to translate all his lifetime intentions into reality

## Kumsusan Palace of the Sun supreme temple of Juche

Chairman Kim Jong Il made sure that the Kumsusan Assembly Hall was built for President Kim Il Sung, who had been leading the Korean revolution to victory while experiencing all hardships, in reflection of the desire of the Koreans for holding him in higher esteem. And after



**The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance.**

on this land, and the past decade witnessed a new heart-warming history of the cause of immortalizing the leader unprecedented in the world.

he declined to do so, saying it was the eternal presidential palace of the great leader, and worked in a plain office and train until the last moment of his life.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was determined to fulfil the people's desire for having the Chairman stay at the wonderful assembly hall in his lifetime even after his passing, preserve him in his lifetime appearance in the memorial palace like the President, rename it Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and refurbish the palace into the eternal temple of the Sun.

In the year 2012 alone he went to the spot on more than 40 occasions to give detailed instructions on building the

President's unexpected demise, the Chairman ensured that the assembly hall was majestically remodelled into the memorial palace and that he was kept there in his lifetime appearance. And although the people petitioned the Chairman to work at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall,

Kumsusan Palace of the Sun as the supreme temple of Juche and issued over 150 instructions.

As a result, the President and the Chairman were preserved in the palace reverently in their lifetime appearance, splendid halls were built to exhibit the decorations conferred on the great leaders and such relics as car, coach, electric car and ship used by the Chairman and photos showing revolutionary activities of the great leaders were put on display at the access corridor and different other places.

And the plaza of the palace turned into a magnificent park in which the nice lawns and flower gardens, wonderful fountains and resting places

blend together.

The opening ceremony of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun was held solemnly on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of the Chairman and the plaza of the palace was wonderfully rebuilt in April 2013 to mark the Day of the Sun, the birthday of the President.

The Seventh Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in April 2013 adopted the law on the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun legalizing the work of eternally preserving the palace and adding eternal brilliance to it as the grand monument of immortality of the leader.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

## Chairman lives on among the people

Though Chairman Kim Jong Il passed away, the Korean people invariably hold him in high esteem as the eternal leader of the Party and state.

The Fourth Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea in April 2012 took a crucial measure to uphold Kim Jong Il at the top post of the WPK for all eternity.

The Fifth Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK that followed solemnly declared that the Socialist Constitution was amended and supplemented on upholding the Chairman as the eternal chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and it was adopted as an SPA ordinance.

Since the Chairman dedicated everything for the people saying his whole life can be boiled down to the word "people", the Korean people had such a deep and boundless yearning for him.

That is why they erected his statues, mosaic murals of his

beaming image and towers dedicated to his immortality all across the country and hung his beaming portraits reverently on the walls of houses and offices.

Recollecting the happy days in the past which had been brought about by his devotion and painstaking efforts, the Koreans willingly showed their

deepest reverence and pure conscience in the work for immortalizing the Chairman. They visit his statues, mosaic murals and portraits in the morning and evening and in weal and woe and speak to him from the bottom of their hearts.

The slogan "The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il will always be with us!" which is seen everywhere in the country is the hearty call of the people as well as the reality in the DPRK.

By Yun Ki Song PT



**The tower to the immortality of the great leaders reads: "The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il will always be with us!"**

## At the behests of the leader

It is the unanimous determination and will of the Korean people to implement the behests of Chairman Kim Jong Il without fail to the end and to make his sacred revolutionary history go on invariably.

Presiding over an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in February 2015, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un stressed the need to grasp the instructions of the Chairman as an important guideline and carry them out to the letter to implement his plan and desire perfectly.

All units and enterprises, from officials to ordinary workers, factories, farms and scientific research and educational institutions, have turned out to implement his lifetime instructions.

The units inspected by the Chairman took the lead in this effort.

Farmers of the Ryongjung

and Sinchang fish farms bred sturgeons and other rare fishes, while young builders of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station completed the power station construction ahead of schedule.

The Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute and the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute increased production remarkably and bred new varieties of vegetables and flowers.

"The Chairman affectionately encouraged us to work hard, highly appreciating the painstaking efforts of ordinary women workers including me," said Ri Myong Sun, weaver of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

All the Koreans regard it as their noble moral obligation to carry through the instructions of the Chairman. That is why his desire is being translated into brilliant reality.

By Pang Un Ju PT

LEAD

# Liberator of Korea

August 15 is the day of Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule.

Celebrating the day, the Korean people pay the highest respects to President Kim Il Sung who fought a long and bloody anti-Japanese war to defeat Japanese imperialism and achieved the historic cause of national liberation.

In retrospect, the Korean people led a miserable life after having been deprived of national sovereignty and even their culture and names by the Japanese imperialists in the early 20th century.

The President set out on the road of revolution in his early teens, making a firm pledge not to return home before Korea achieved independence and declared an all-out war against Japanese imperialism by organizing a new type of revolutionary armed force.

He kindled the flames of an armed struggle in the vast areas of his homeland and Manchuria, crossing the Amnok and Tuman rivers with Mt Paektu as the strongpoint during the anti-Japanese war.

The anti-Japanese armed struggle, which was waged against Japanese imperialism that had been armed to the teeth with no support from the state rear and regular army, was

a period of unprecedentedly arduous and harsh trials beyond human imagination.

The President forced his way to national liberation experiencing heartrending grief over the loss of his beloved parents, younger brother and invaluable revolutionary comrades and through such a critical moment on Tianqiaoling when he braced himself up not to lose his consciousness as he was attacked with a chill and composed and sang *Song of Anti-Japanese War* and the worst adversities like that during the Arduous March.

He paved the way for national liberation at the cost of blood, overcoming all those unimaginable hardships and trying ordeals with superhuman will.

He applied original strategy and tactics and superb guerrilla tactics to mercilessly annihilate Japanese aggressors in many battles.

They included the battle to defend the Xiaowangqing guerrilla base in which the anti-Japanese guerrilla army defeated over 5 000 enemy troops armed with guns and warplanes, the battle of Pochonbo in which it dealt a heavy political and military blow to the enemy after successfully penetrating the border guard Japanese

imperialists boasted of as being "impregnable" and the battle of Jiansanfeng in which it destroyed a large enemy unit with only a few hundred-strong force. As a result, the one million-strong Japanese army suffered only ignominious defeat by the Korean People's Revolutionary Army which they called "a drop in the ocean", losing lots of its troops.

At the time, the Korean people told such legendary stories about General Kim Il Sung, saying that he applied 99 kinds of camouflage art and that he was a peerless general who attacked the enemy after foreseeing weather conditions, and turned out in the anti-Japanese sacred war led by him, looking up to him as the sun of the nation.

Seventy-six years have passed since the day when the hearty cheers of "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" and "Long live national liberation!" rang out throughout the country in praise of the liberator of the country, rocking heaven and earth. The century has changed and many decades have passed, but the undying exploits he performed for national liberation will shine brightly as a priceless asset in the hearts of the Korean people forever.

By Ri Sang Il PT

## natural monument list



In Rason City, there is a cape named after pipha (Korean mandolin) for its appearance.

Cape Pipha is rich in marine products and serves as a habitat of seals.

The Pipha seal, 1.5 to 2 metres long and 120 to 150 kilograms in weight, inhabits the sea off Cape Pipha from spring to autumn every year, feeding on fish and cephalopods like octopus and squid.

## Youth shock brigade makes headway in power station project

Young builders of Kangwon Province involved in the Kosong Army-People Power Station construction project have finished the expansion of a thousands-of-metre-long waterway tunnel.

They are now pushing the concrete coating of the tunnel.

## New pig farm built



The Pukchong Pig Farm has been inaugurated in South Hamgyong Province.

The farm which consists of a sanitary inspection room and fattening and breeding blocks is equipped with the feed processing and transport system and meat processing and organic fertilizer production processes.

## North Phyongan overfulfills spring cocoon production by 20 percent

North Phyongan Province overfulfilled its spring cocoon production plan by 20 percent.

Jongju City applied an advanced management method, thus carrying out its production plan for the year before others in the province.

Kusong City, Pakchon County and other areas in the province have made it possible to boost production of cocoons by improving soil fertility and introducing close-planting and crop-rotation methods, before applying deep layer fertilizer and exterminating harmful insects.

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## Nationwide

### Young people in Pyongyang volunteer to work at livestock farming base

Over 20 youth league



members in Pyongyang volunteered to work at the livestock farming base in the Sepho area of Kangwon Province with a single desire to uphold the intention of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to supply children with more nutritious foodstuffs including dairy products.

A meeting was held on August 11 at the hall of the Pyongyang municipal youth league committee to give them a hearty send-off.

### Innovations in afforestation and landscaping

This year has witnessed the planting of more than 400 000 trees and lots of ground-cover plants and the production of millions of flowering plants for the decoration of flower beds and flowerpot stands by the urban management sector.

### Pipha seal registered on

## STATEMENT

# Senior official blasts joint war games in s. Korea

Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, issued a statement on Tuesday.

The following is the main content:

The US and the south Korean army finally launched the joint military exercises further exacerbating the unstable situation despite the unanimous denunciation and rejection at home and abroad.

The joint military exercises are to be conducted, divided into an "exercise of the staff for crisis control" from August 10 to 13 and a "combined command post exercise" from August 16 to 26. These are the most concentrated expression of the US policy of hostility towards the DPRK designed to stifle our state by force and an unwelcoming act of self-destruction for which a dear price should be paid as they will threaten the safety of our people and further jeopardize the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Whatever the scale and mode, the joint military exercises are a war rehearsal and preliminary nuclear war exercise for further rounding off the preparations for putting into practice the operational plan with the preemptive strike on us as the

main point. Herein lies their aggressive nature.

Every March and August, military tension and the danger of conflict increase in and around the Korean peninsula due to the war frenzy of the US and south Korea.

The prevailing situation proves once again that we were quite right when we decided to steadily build up the capabilities for national defence.

For peace to settle on the peninsula, it is imperative for the US to withdraw its aggression troops and war equipment deployed in south Korea.

We have already clarified that we will counter the US on the principle of power for power and goodwill for goodwill.

We will step up our efforts to increase the absolute deterrent to cope with the ever-growing military threats from the US, i.e. the national defence capabilities and powerful preemptive strike capacity for rapidly countering any military actions against us.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express my deep regret at the perfidious behaviour of the south Korean authorities.

I release this statement upon authorization.

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## INSPECTION

# Premier tours flood-hit areas in South Hamgyong Province



Premier Kim Tok Hun (second from right) acquaints himself with the recovery work in flood-hit Yonggwang County.

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, inspected the flood-stricken areas in South Hamgyong Province to learn about the relief operation.

Looking round the afflicted areas in Yonggwang, Sinhung and Hongwon counties and Tanchon City, he gave pep talks to the service personnel of the Korean People's Army and people in the province who are fully displaying the

might of the great army-people unity in their dynamic reconstruction campaign and held a consultative meeting.

The Premier also visited the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the Ryongsong Machine Complex and the February 8 Vinalon Complex. He took practical measures to put their production on a normal basis and push ahead with reinforcing and expanding their production foundations.

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## Closely integrating science, technology with production



### Shoe factory adopts new techniques to improve quality

The Pothonggang Footwear Factory turns out quality shoes by employing various technologies.

One of them is the shoes production process based on direct injection-moulding.

"Instead of making plastic sole and outer rim separately and gluing them together as in the previous method, this process involves attaching outer rims to soles while it is being moulded," said Jang Ryong Hwan, chief of the technical division, adding the simple process proved profitable.

The hardest part in applying the technology was to find a material for outer rim that can stick to the injected material heated to a high temperature in the easiest way.

Technicians and workers of the factory put their heads together to find out the most suitable outer rim material and, on the basis of this, designed the process and remodelled the equipment.

As soles and outer rims stick together at a high temperature without using adhesives in the direct injection-moulding

process, the adhesive intensity is much higher than the previous one. The technology also helped save much labour and dozens of kilowatts of instantaneous power in the shoemaking process.

The injection-moulded canvas shoes production process based on the direct adhesion method using PVC injection was registered as a national sci-tech achievement at the end of last year.

The factory also made a

pneumatic foaming device and installed it into the injector.

With the help of this device, the factory produces light high-quality shoe soles from waste plastics.

The factory has recently completed a synthetic leather adhesion method based on heat sealing, making it possible to manufacture synthetic leather shoes with local materials.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



Two technicians work on a new automatic control system at the Pothonggang Footwear Factory.

### Every worker eager to come up with original ideas

closely related with reality," said Jon Kyong Chol, manager of the belt workshop.

This year he upgraded a facility used in the production of central belt rubber based on the extrusion process to greatly contribute to ensuring the precision of half-finished goods.

Ri Hyok Chol, experimenter of the industrial laboratory who recently graduated from the college, introduced some technical innovation plans like the remodelling of blade water turbine for increasing the pressure of exhauster and that for gas condensing.

Amid a positive technical innovation drive for implementing the new five-year plan, graduates and students of the college have introduced over 10 technical innovation plans and original ideas into production in the first half of the year.

These achievements enabled the factory to carry out its national economic plan for the first half of the year ahead of schedule.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

### Constant technical upgrading pushed

The Kangso Sprayer Factory improves the quality of its products and raises production efficiency with the help of technical upgrading.

"The general goal of technical development we have put forth since the inauguration of the factory more than 10 years ago is to develop and manufacture highly-efficient sprayers," said the manager.

To this end, the factory dispatched some researchers to rural areas to get them to learn about technical problems arising in reality and intensify research while spraying agrochemicals.

All of the employees strived to produce sprayers in line with the requirements of reality by pooling their collective wisdom.

In the course of this, it developed a backpack fine sprayer which emits finer and more even particles than previous ones and unveiled a new type of knapsack wide mist sprayer in succession.

In keeping with the demand for sprayers growing in

different sectors including those for agrochemicals spraying, prevention of drought damage and emergency infectious disease prevention, it ensured the domestic production and recycling of raw materials and equipment and updated products on a constant basis.

Shortly ago, it has developed a self-propelled remote control mist sprayer and knapsack drive sprayer.

"With the cycle of technical upgrading constantly shortening, the cost of products has been reduced systematically and productivity has increased several times as compared to three years ago. This year, we have completed the annual economic plan in the first half of the year," said its chief engineer.

As its products prove effective in cultivating and manuring crops, saving agrochemicals and increasing yields, they are now enjoying great popularity among cooperative farms.

By Jong Chol PT

### Sci-tech learning space plays its part in production growth

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill improves the sci-tech knowledge of employees through its sci-tech learning space.

"For us, the sci-tech learning space serves as a room for acquiring knowledge needed for production. Here, we come up with new technical innovation plans and creative ideas, which become the great reserve for increasing production, and give full play to brilliant ideas," said weaver Kim Yong Hui.

According to Myong Hye Ok, chief of the technical development department, the mill introduced the "browsing system 2.0 for the sci-tech learning space" this year in cooperation with the Sci-Tech Complex.

The introduction of the browsing system has made it possible to study professional knowledge without consuming a lot of time.

And the mill established the "study support system 1.0" at the sci-tech learning space to improve the practical abilities

of employees.

"We upload latest data to the server every week and month. At present, we are building the database of nearly 430 000 pieces of e-books and multimedia data, especially pamphlets, magazines and videos, for 100-odd occupations," said Choe Yong Ju, chief of the sci-tech learning space.

Meanwhile, lots of employees are now enrolled at the online courses of several universities to acquire latest scientific and technological knowledge and take an active part in developing new technologies.

According to the chief engineer, more than 10 employees finished their online courses to obtain qualifications of highly skilled workers for above fifth grade. Over 800 creative ideas were produced by its employees, and dozens of them were of national significance and 16 of them were granted national patents, he added.

Of late, the mill has solved

some problems arising in production including the one of raising the quality of tetron rayon fabric and jacquard fabrics by running the sci-tech learning space.

After completing technical preparations for ensuring the domestic production of such major chemical auxiliary reagents as fixing agent, softener, water softener, detergent and neutral soap which had been imported in the past in close collaboration with the State Academy of Sciences, it designed and developed scores of kinds of equipment for normal production. It also produced a material for the prevention of oil from neutral soap so that it can apply it to recycling process.

The mill is now working to introduce a network, which enables its employees in different workshops and the sci-tech learning space to discuss sci-tech problems, through its Ethernet.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

## RECYCLING

# Waste water reclaimed for fish farming

The Songyo district cage-net fish farm in Pyongyang breeds more fish by introducing water-saving fish farming methods and solving the feed problem.

"We are using domestic waste water for freshwater fish farming to tackle the water shortage in fish culture," said staffer Kim Chol Mo.

The characteristic of freshwater fish breeding in the farm is that it uses sewage as a water source for fish culture.

According to the examination of water, the water which is purified in several stages through an automatic flowing system fully meets the conditions for the inhabitation of fishes. Waste water gathered from several

drainage canals is decontaminated by water purification solution and purified again in six stages through gravel-packed filter tanks and pool before flowing into outdoor and indoor spawning ponds. The method made it possible for the farm to provide enough fresh water needed for fish farming without preparing other water sources.

Workteam leader Kim Yong Chol said his farm has doubled the survival rate of fries in recent years by moving them into cage-nets after raising them for some time by the new freshwater farming method.

The fish farm has also eased the feed problem.

While making floating feed

from fish meal, domestic animal bones and other by-products, it has newly built habitats of earthworms and water fleas to make protein feed. Especially, protein contents and conditions required for the inhabitation of earthworms are provided by mixing waste mushroom substrates, mud and animal excrement.

As it increased the amount of supply of protein feed, the fattening rate of fishes went up 1.5 times over the same period of last year.

The farm also developed a technique for the hatching of red carp and Ryongjung fish.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

## HANDICRAFT

# Cooperative turns out sought-after grasswork



Different grasswork products from the Sinuiju City Grasswork Production Cooperative.

The Sinuiju City Grasswork Production Cooperative in North Phyongan Province is a small unit with only dozens of employees.

But they earn a large income through the production of over 100 articles of goods in over 20 kinds using sedge, corn shucks, various plastic waste, bits of thread and scraps of cloth.

Especially, since the development of a method of weaving corn-shuck cloth using its fibroid character, they have turned out grasswork using the locally-abundant shucks that cost less than sedge.

Demand for footlockers made from corn shucks is on the rise as it prevents spoilage and degeneration of cosmetics, medicines and foods for their remarkable heat-preserving ability. Various specifications of grasswork boxes are used for keeping snacks, medicines and various consumer goods.

Its corn-shuck cushions of various forms and shapes are cool in summer and warm in winter and are favoured by



elderly persons. They come in different patterns and decorations in various colours and therefore they are just right for offices and homes in the light of aesthetics.

Straw hats for men and women also come in various sizes and shapes.

The wall tapestry, bag and pillow made from corn shucks are well-liked by many.

The corn-shuck rucksacks are favoured by children. According to worker Kim Kyong Suk, the bags designed to suit children's psychology are ordered in large numbers by parents on the occasion of children's holidays including International Children's Day.

The cooperative also makes confetti with by-products and many people buy it on the occasion of school-open days.

Chairman Kim Jong Il admired the grasswork produced by the cooperative on his visit to it on November 24 2009.

It displayed well over a thousand grasswork pieces at the 2010 Shanghai international

expo in China, where they enjoyed popularity.

"We will continue to lead others in grasswork production by making more fashionable goods," said Cha Hwa Suk, chairwoman of the management board of the cooperative.

By Yun Kyong II PT

## R&amp;D

# Hi-tech hard alloy tools developed

The tool laboratory of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering has developed tools made of ultrafine coarse-grained gradient-structure hard alloy.

The developers produced cobalt-iron-nickel powder, a new binding material which possesses the properties of the three metals and can replace any of them in the production of tools. They also came up with the gradient structure of hard alloy using ultrafine and coarse-grained powders,

## SKINCARE

# New beauty products unveiled



Skin-protecting solution made from cow's milk brought out by the Mangyongbong health products company.

The Mangyongbong health products company has developed a variety of beauty products, health foods and sanitary goods.

Typical beauty products include a skin-protecting solution made from cow's milk and a sponge cucumber juice skin-protecting solution.

The former provides the facial parts with enough supplementary elements of cow's milk to maintain pretty and white skin like the baby's.

According to the key developer, the solution was made by injecting ethyl alcohol into skim milk, adding lactobacilli and mixing them before leaving the mixture for dozens of hours.

"I lightly massage my face for a minute after washing it and applying the solution or sometimes use it after a bath. My skin became smooth and soft and preserved moisture and elasticity," said Kim Ji Un, a woman living in Mirae-dong, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

Users say that it removes the side-effects of cosmetics, allergic dermatitis and pimple.

The latter is a double functional product designed to have strong whitening effect and remove freckle, black spot and skin mole in a short period.

By Kim Il Jin PT

and can be applied for a variety of uses such as drilling and boring, cutting of cast iron and alloy steel and drawing.

The ultrafine coarse-grained gradient-structure hard alloy tool was registered as a high-tech product of the DPRK.

It has so far been introduced into several units including the Komdok Mining Complex and Mangyongdae Machine Tool Factory and proved effective in practice.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

## STUDIO

# Prolific art producer 35 years on



"Our fine arts studio has produced lots of artworks of national treasure value and masterpieces showing the beauties of humanity and nature since its establishment," said Song Chun Nam, director of the Central Fine Arts Studio in Pyongyang.

Inaugurated in 1986, the Central Fine Arts Studio comprises Korean painting, oil painting, graphic art, embroidery, industrial art, craftwork and other

production units, which are staffed with many renowned artists.

They created over 60 kinds of artworks, which were selected for the national art exhibition in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the DPRK in 1988. Of them oil painting "Mother", print "Hip, hip, hooray" and two others were put on the list of the state's possession.

Later, it has so far produced thousands of artworks selected

for national art exhibitions and shows on well over a hundred occasions, hundreds of them being added to the state's possession list.

The studio won greater fame after its employees depicted in artworks the portraits of hundreds of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and persons related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle President Kim Il Sung recalled in his reminiscences *With the Century*.

"Kimchi-making season", "Gold mountain" in autumn", "Request" and many other artworks produced by the studio leave a great impression on the people as they give a lifelike and vivid portrayal of the requirements of the times and the aspirations and life of the people.

The artists of the studio are now engaged in the production of artworks to be presented to the national art exhibition and sculpture and craftwork festival.

August 7 was the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the fine arts studio.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



Oil painting "At the construction site of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang" (left) and oil painting "Holiday in the morning" (right).

## DEVOTION

# Dong office chief gives herself to residents in her charge

Rim Tae Sun, head of the office of Kwangbok-dong No. 1 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is called by residents "Our motherly dong office head".

The 50-year-old always keeps a pocket notebook and frequently looks at it. It contains detailed information including the birthdays of war veterans and honoured disabled soldiers in the lowest administrative area and every problem arising in the living of residents.

Her day's work begins with hearing from heads of neighbourhood units about the opinions of residents.

"The demands of residents are not simple opinions. These

tell me and other dong officials what we should do. Therefore we should never neglect every opinion of them," Rim says.

Thanks to her painstaking efforts, playgrounds were rebuilt and village environment spruced up in recent years.

Playgrounds were upgraded to suit juvenile minds, beautiful flowers are in full bloom on flowerbeds and villages are neat and clean.

"Her mind is always on improving the dong work," said Kim Yong Suk, head of a neighbourhood unit.

Rim always busies herself among residents resolving their troubles as she shares joy and sorrow with them.

Most recently, she helped a family in a neighbourhood unit with their house repair.

On the morning of New Year's Day, she together with dong officials visited a war veteran's house with tonics. And not long ago, she congratulated a newly-married couple, giving them daily necessities as presents.

There are many other such stories about her.

As she always takes the lead in undertaking difficult and arduous tasks and devotes her all to the good of residents, they first call on Rim whenever they celebrate happy events or experience difficulties.

By Sin Pyol PT

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

# Traditional instruments enhance national sentiments



Traditional musical instruments are displayed at the Pyongyang National Musical Instrument Factory.

Since ancient times the Koreans had sung songs reflecting their desires and sentiments and in that course they created and developed national music.

The Korean folk song is expressive of the tender, gentle and graceful emotions of the nation by its unique expressing means including mode and tone.

"The folk songs of the northwestern provinces consist in gentle, beautiful and flowing melodies rich in national sentiments and occupy the dominant position in the Korean folk song. Such folk songs as *Arirang*, *Platycodon* and *Yangsando* are widely known around the world as they give their listeners an urge to sing together with the singers and fill them with national dignity and pride," said Ju Hye Ryon, lecturer at Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

Traditional musical instruments of the Koreans includes such stringed instruments as *oungum*, *okryugum*, *kayagum* and *haegum*, such woodwind as *tanso*, fife, pipe and *saenap* and such percussion as *janggu*, gong and drum.

By Min Chol PT

## EDUCATION

# In-service training helps teachers build capacity

Much attention is now paid to in-service training of teachers as part of the effort for improving the country's education.

The quality of education largely depends on the qualifications of teachers, said Ri Hyon, an official of the central teachers training centre.

Pyongyang Teachers Training College prepared teaching programmes for over 30 subjects to be used in refresher courses and has already offered such courses to teachers of similar colleges in all provinces in the form of subject training and is now putting effort to the preparation of future courses.

Kim Hyong Jik University

of Education finished the preparations for running online refresher courses, which are to be launched within this year and geared to improving qualifications and teaching methods of lecturers at provincial universities of education.

According to Kang Yong Il, an official of the Education Commission, all universities and colleges in the teacher training sector have mapped out detailed plans for offering regular reeducation to all teachers.

Besides, substantial measures are being taken to raise the qualifications of teachers.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

## CUBA

# Fidel Castro still a beacon to Cuban people in their revolution

The Cuban people say: "Fidel Castro did not die. His idea is alive. He made our country respected on the international stage. He will always be with us."

Fidel Castro Ruz was an ardent revolutionary fighter who established the socialist system in the western hemisphere for the first time and devoted his whole life to the country's prosperity.

Born on August 13 1926 in Oriente, Cuba, he took part in the struggle against violence and corruption of the dictatorship at home and abroad between 1947 and 1952. In July 1953 he carried out an attack on Moncada military barracks together with other young people and students, a military strategic point of the Batista dictatorship. The assault marked a new turning

point in the Cuban revolution because it lit a signal fire for armed struggle.

Later, the Cuban revolution developed into an all-people resistance movement under the leadership of Fidel Castro. Finally, the pro-US dictatorship was overthrown in January 1959 and a revolutionary government was established in February.

Enjoying the absolute support of the Cuban people, Fidel Castro worked as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers for a long time.

Fidel Castro wisely led the Cuban people to invariably hold up the banner of socialism and achieve continued social progress in the face of decades-long sanctions and blockade by hostile forces after the

establishment of the socialist system.

Under his leadership, the Cuban government and people firmly defended the country's sovereignty and dignity and the revolutionary gains and made remarkable achievements in various fields of social life.

The socialist system in which everyone enjoys equal rights and freedom and learns and works to their hearts' content was established on the land where only ignorance and darkness, poverty and backwardness prevailed and tangible progress was made in all fields including politics, the economy and culture. Cuba has undergone a sea change.

The victorious Cuban revolution and proud changes that have taken place in the country are unthinkable apart from the leadership of Fidel

Castro.

His soul is still kept in the hearts of the Cuban people, further promoting the socialist cause in the country.

Fidel Castro visited the DPRK in March 1986 and met with President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. He directed great efforts to strengthening and developing the militant ties of friendship and friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of the two countries.

He was awarded the title of Hero of the DPRK and several other DPRK orders.

The friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and Cuba provided by the leaders of the older generation are invariably carried forward today.

By Song Jong Ho PT

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

# ASEAN counts on synergy to seek shared development

August 8 was the 54th anniversary of the foundation of ASEAN.

The Association of South East Asian Nations was formed in a foreign ministers meeting of five Southeast Asian nations, namely Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on August 8 1967.

The purpose and mission of the association are to ensure peace and stability in Southeast Asia and promote regional

cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Later, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia joined the association so that it developed into an influential regional organization comprising ten countries.

Since its foundation, ASEAN has constantly raised economic power and influence and now it plays an important part in the management of regional and international problems.

Its logo depicts ten ears of rice tied in a bundle.

It is blue, red, white and yellow in colour, which includes the colours in the national flags of ASEAN countries.

The blue colour symbolizes peace and stability, red bravery and vigour, white purity and yellow prosperity.

The ten ears of rice represent the ten countries of ASEAN and the bundle denotes unity.

Now ASEAN adheres to its basic principle of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful

coexistence and prohibition on use of force to ensure political stability and peace in the region.

It is also making joint efforts with countries outside the region to develop cooperative relations.

Today, the ASEAN nations are striving to strengthen unity and collaboration and to achieve security and peace, social progress and prosperity of the region.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

over 4 000 dying of the disease a day.

The number of people infected with  $\delta$  mutated virus increased explosively in July in the US with the largest number of infected cases in the world.

According to statistics, its infection rate was only 6 percent of newly-infected cases in June, but it increased to over 90 percent in less than two months. The number of its daily infected cases has exceeded over 100 000 from August 2.

The countries and regions to which  $\delta$  mutated virus spread have grown in number from over 40 in mid-May to more than 130 as of late July.

And its infectivity is reportedly stronger than such epidemics as MERS, SARS, Ebola, smallpox

and varicella so far known, a patient infecting 8-9 people on average.

According to the WHO's survey of situations in six regions in the past several weeks, five of them saw a rapid increase in infection rate which was attributable to  $\delta$  mutant.

In this vortex, public fears about the appearance of more dangerous mutated viruses are growing.

The WHO director-general said that the novel coronavirus has mutated till now since it was notified for the first time, arguing that more mutated viruses would appear as long as it continues to spread.

The reality teaches a lesson that it is difficult to end the worldwide health crisis at an early date and tension should not be relaxed even a moment in anti-epidemic work.

## Briefly

## Russia

**Putin calls for taking action against COVID-19**

Russian President Vladimir Putin at a conference on August 5 called on the government to rapidly react to the spread of COVID-19.

He pointed to the need for the government to deal with the changing situation of the pandemic spread and generalize the good experiences gained in the anti-epidemic work in all areas.

## Iran

**Raisi rejects outsiders' interference in Mideast issues**

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi at the talks with the Kuwaiti foreign minister on August 6 said that if any problem occurs in the Middle East region, it should be resolved by all means in the way of developing mutual contact and dialogue between regional countries.

He also stressed the need to give no chance to foreign powers to interfere in the regional affairs.

## Lebanon

**President censures Israeli air strike**

The Lebanese President on August 5 denounced Israeli warplanes' indiscriminate missile attack on a southern area of his country as a blatant violation of international law and regulations.

Israel, which had constantly threatened the sovereignty of Lebanon, revealed its design for aggression once again through the recent air raid, he added.

## Japan

**Man stabs ten on train**

According to foreign media, a 36-year-old man wielded a knife to wound ten passengers on a moving train in Tokyo, Japan, on August 6.

The criminal thrust the knife several times into the back and breast of a woman to put her in a critical condition, and attempted to set fire after spreading oil on the floor.

He then assailed other passengers.

## South America

**Snowfield decreases in Andes**

Snowfield is decreasing in the major peaks and mountainous areas of the Andes.

An analysis of satellite photos of the region confirmed that the layer of snow covering mountain peaks has been reduced in a wide area in recent years.

The reduction of snowfield may entail serious problems in the region.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## COVID-19

# Spread of pandemic remains severe

The number of infected cases of the novel coronavirus has exceeded 200 million worldwide in less than seven months since it reached 100 million.

In view of the fact that it took over 12 months to grow to 100 million after the first infected case was identified, the malignant virus has spread faster.

It is because whereas the virus continues to mutate into highly infectious forms, many countries fail to respond to the long-term anti-epidemic crisis with heightened vigilance.

This year dangerous mutated viruses including  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  rapidly spread across the world, creating unexpected situations.

Though its mutants turned out to be highly contagious, many countries did not take well-timed anti-epidemic measures, making light of it.

In the UK the daily infected cases continued to be over 50 000 from the beginning of the year with the spread of  $\alpha$  mutated virus, showing signs of a bad omen, but many countries turned a blind eye to it.

At that time,  $\delta$  mutated virus appeared and was transmitted across the oceans and continents in no time.

The malignant virus has plunged many countries into a whirlwind of worldwide epidemic more deeply.

India faced the worst health crisis in May, with more than 400 000 being infected with and

KCNA

## TABLE TENNIS

# Sports school focuses on honing ping-pong skills



**Students train table-tennis at Pothonggang District Juvenile Sports School.**

Pothonggang District Juvenile Sports School is applying a new table-tennis instruction and training method.

"In the past, all recruits would undergo the same instruction and training process. To be more specific, whether they started learning table tennis at the age of four or fourteen, they went through almost the same training stages. Therefore, we drew up and adopted new training schedules for students according to their ages," said

instructor Jo Hyon Sun.

The findings the instructors of the school presented and introduced in that course have been highly appreciated on several occasions.

Table tennis instructors formed teams with students in their charge to give them special training for a certain period and arrange matches between them.

The method has fostered competitiveness in students and enhanced the coaching abilities of instructors as well.

"We continually encourage the match-based training in consideration of the characteristics of table tennis in which psychological factors affect more greatly than in any other sports," explained instructor Choe Song I.

The instructors assess their training scientifically as they put stress on quantity in training students at the basic level.

They use a mobile electronic device indicating dropping points of the ball with marks in order to accurately assess the training results in figure and on that basis they give students next training assignments.

The instructors of the school often present papers on the achievements and experience they obtain through instruction and training to share opinions with readers and strive to keep abreast of the development trend in table tennis and acquire all-round knowledge.

Thanks to their efforts, many graduates of the school have been picked to different sports clubs to be seeded players.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

a peacock fan to Wang Kon, the founder of Koryo. And a Koguryo tomb mural (4th century) in Anak County, South Hwanghae Province, depicts a fan.

The Korean fan was widely known to neighbouring countries for its beauty and elaborateness.

A king of a neighbouring country was very fond of the Korean fan, especially folding fan, and made sure it was also made in his country and named it Koryoson (fan of Koryo).

It has become a fashion to exchange a fan as a gift at the time when the heat began about the middle of the Koryo period, and such a fashion was prevalent to the end of the feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910). In particular, a king saw to it that famous fan makers from across the country offered local fans as tribute and distributed some of them to his subjects.

The subjects who received fans made sure that pictures were drawn or writings were done from painters or renowned calligraphers on them or kept them in their original state.

From time immemorial, fan was used to raise wind and it was also used to prevent sunshine or avoid dust wind or cover the faces of prestigious men and women.

By Kil Chung II PT

## ARTEFACT

# Hand fan favoured by Korean people



**Feathered fans.**

Hand fans have long been an essential article that people should keep as they go outside in summer.

Korea has a long history of hand fan using.

There is a saying which goes that a fan is given as a present for summer solstice and a calendar for winter solstice.

A fan can be divided into two kinds: a folding fan and one with a handle. It is subdivided into wooden, feather, bamboo and straw fans according to the

materials of its ribs, into silk and paper fans according to the materials of its surface and also into several kinds according to the quality of silk and paper.

According to old relics and records, fan was in vogue in the periods of Koguryo (277 BC –AD 668) and Koryo (918–1392).

The oldest record of fan can be found in *Samguk sagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) which says that Kyon Hwon, king of Later Paekje (900-936), sent

## CUISINE

# Kosong octopus adds colour to local diet

The sea off Kangwon Province adjacent to East Korea Bay is the joining place of the warm east Korea current and the cold north Korea current which is home to a variety of rare marine life.

Seaside people of Kangwon Province have long taken advantage of this favourable condition to catch a lot of fish.

An old record *Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam* compiled in 1530 introduced trepang and octopus as sea specialties of this area and, especially, octopus from Ryongjin (today's Haebang-ri in Kosong County, Kangwon

Province) as the most popular one.

Octopus of Kosong has widely been known not only because it was abundant there but also for its unusually good taste.

Fishermen in Kangwon Province were good at catching octopus using a pot with bait in it or a weir by taking advantage of its living habits.

The seafood is generally served cold.

Today, the specialty of Kosong is widely applied in the Korean cuisine.

**Jong Mi Hyang**, researcher at the Academy of Social Sciences



**Octopus dish, specialty of Kangwon Province.**

## RUNNING

# Running seen through Korean history

Running is the most elementary and basic sport that has been continued since the period when mankind started their production activities.

Historically, walking and running developed as sports in the period of Koguryo and the Koguryo people enjoyed walking and running and their day-to-day motion was very fast.

"The records showing that the Koguryo people's manner of walking seemed to running and that Koguryo dispatched ten people who travelled 400km a day to a neighbouring country are the representative expression that the Korean people did running well," said Han Jong Chol, deputy department director of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.

Hong Tae Yong, a realist who lived from 1731 to 1783, said in his book that the Korean children had historically been fond of running.

In Koguryo, a powerful state noted for the high spirit of attaching importance to military affairs, running was promoted to

improve physical fitness and it attached importance to running as a basic sport for performing agile, light and quick military movements.

And it was chosen as an important criterion for recruiting soldiers since running well helps develop strong willpower.

Even in the period of Koryo which existed between 918 and 1392, running served as an important event of martial art and a basis for promoting physical training.

What was distinctive in the races in medieval Korea was that a scientific method was introduced.

The running custom of ancestors has been carried on even at present. Running is now a mass sport and the DPRK produced such world-class athletes as Sin Kum Dan who renewed world records on several occasions and Jong Song Ok, gold medallist of the women's marathon event at the seventh world track and field championships.

By Min Chol PT

