

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 23 (3 163) weekly

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Sat, June 5, Juche 110(2021)

Blessing sent to Cuban veteran leader

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a congratulatory message to Raul Castro Ruz on Thursday.

He in the message extended his sincere congratulations and warm comradely greetings to Raul Castro on his birthday.

He said Raul Castro made a distinguished contribution to achieving the freedom and liberation of the Cuban people by waging the hard-fought armed struggle in his early years together with Fidel Castro Ruz, the eternal leader of the Cuban revolution. He had victoriously led the struggle of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Cuban people for firmly defending and adding lustre to the sovereignty and dignity of the country and the gains of the revolution braving all kinds of hardships and difficulties of the history for the past several decades, he noted.

He said he was very glad that the revolutionary cause of Cuba pioneered and led by Fidel Castro and Raul Castro all their lives has been carried forward steadily and is advancing dynamically.

KCNA



Kids count on the abacus at the November 3 Kindergarten in Moranbong District, Pyongyang. Great attention is given to child education in the DPRK. See ICD, page 5



INSIDE
Young people groomed to be promising footballers

Sports, p8

LEAD

Nothing spared for children

It has been over 70 years since the DPRK began to commemorate International Children's Day (June 1).

Before the country's liberation, the Koreans marked the "children's day" which had been set by campaigners for children's rights.

At that time, they called for eliminating the time-worn attitude of indifference to juveniles and loving them throughout the society.

Writer Pang Jong Hwan said in an article published in May 1923 entitled "Promise on children's day" that children should be treated more kindly than grownups. "If an adult is a root, a child is a sprout. If the former presses down on the latter regarding itself as the foundation, the tree will die. But if the root brings up the sprout, the tree will grow tall," he said.

However, their plea was nothing more than a distant echo since Korea was under the military occupation by the Japanese imperialists.

It was only when the country was liberated on August 15 1945 that an epochal turn was brought

about in children's destiny and they could be freed from Japanese colonial rule and feudal fetters.

Children are treasures of the country and a future Korea belongs to the children, President Kim Il Sung said in a letter sent to the children throughout the country in May 1946 on the occasion of the first children's day after liberation.

The President discussed the problem of providing children with pencils at the very first meeting of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea.

In August 1946, the Workers' Party of North Korea set forth the protection of children by the state as a task in its programme. Since then, it had seen to it that nurseries and kindergartens were built in cities, factories, enterprises and government-run farms and instituted a policy of bringing up children at state expenses, though the country was going through hardships while building a new Korea.

During the period of the fierce Fatherland Liberation War, the DPRK set up baby homes and orphanages and took a measure

to make sure that the war orphans were brought up by the state. After the establishment of the socialist system, it developed the system of bringing up children at the expenses of the state and society.

The system was further consolidated when the law on the nursing and upbringing of children was adopted at the Sixth Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in April 1976.

Today, kindergartens develop intellectual faculties of children in an all-round way and foster their sentiments and artistic talents and physical strength through systematic education.

Thanks to the compulsory one-year preschool education, the number of talented children are constantly increasing in the country.

The DPRK children are growing up happily and healthily with no envy in the world under the state policies that make sure that they are provided with all school things and enable them to give full play to their abilities.

By Kim Tong Chol

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ECONOMY

Monthly plans fulfilled by metallurgical, coal-mining, rail transport sectors

Sectors of metallurgical and coal-mining industries and rail transport carried out their national economic plans for May.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex increased the operating rate of facilities including UHP electric arc furnace, oxygen converter and continuous casting machine to ensure a timely production and supply of heavy rails.

The Chollima Steel Complex increased the charging ratio and maintained and repaired UHP electric arc furnaces in a responsible manner to turn out a large quantity of molten iron every day. The Posan Iron Works ensured the full operation of its rotary kiln to overfulfil its iron production plans day after day.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex also implemented the production plan of rolled steel last month ahead of schedule.

The Musan Mining Complex, Unnyul and Jaeryong mines and others strove to ensure the full operation of mining facilities

and vehicles to boost iron ore production.

The coal-mining sector also overfulfilled its plan for the month.

The February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine and the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex increased the proportion of pit work done by machines to expand coal output per shift. The Kaechon, Tukjang and Anju area coal-mining complexes allocated tunnelling forces in a concentrated manner to areas with large coal deposits and favourable mining conditions and increased the operating rate of coal tubs, thereby digging larger quantities of coal than planned every day. The Tokchon and Kujang area coal-mining complexes, the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and other coal producers exceeded their monthly targets through collective innovations.

The rail transit sector also acquitted itself well in freight transport.

Several locomotive corps and railway stations under the Pyongyang Railway Bureau speeded up the repair and maintenance of engines and ensured well-knit scheduling of processes, thus achieving its freight transport target at 103 percent in May, while the Kaechon Railway Bureau took measures to cut down the round-trip time of engines and wagons in order to expand its successes.

The Kowon Locomotive Corps and the Tanchon Youth Locomotive Corps under the Hamhung Railway Bureau carried out their monthly plans at over 159 percent and several railway stations increased the volume of traffic while concentrating efforts on reducing the train formation time and the loading and unloading time.

The Chongjin and Rason railway bureaus raised the operating rate of locomotives to haul more freight than their quotas.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

ANNIV

Battle of Pochonbo heralds dawn of national liberation

On June 4 1937 the Korean People's Revolutionary Army carried out an assault on the then Pochon township of Pochon Sub-county of Hyesan County in South Hamgyong Province (today's Pochon county town of Pochon County in Ryanggang Province).

Being recorded as the Battle of Pochonbo in history, it was not a large-scale battle, but is of great historical significance.

In the latter half of the 1930s, the Koreans were so oppressed by the Japanese imperialist aggressors no small number of them had a misapprehension about the mightiness of the Japanese troops. Surprised at their instantaneous occupation of Manchuria, some Koreans believed that no force on earth could match the Japanese army.

Therefore, it was crucially important for the Korean revolutionaries to eliminate such misapprehension and instil faith in national liberation in the people.

For this reason, General Kim Il Sung led the operation of the KPRA to advance into Korean soil.

At 10 p.m., one gunshot signalled the start of the stirring battle to annihilate the enemy's establishments and forces in

Pochonbo.

Flames shot up everywhere and the enemies fell dead without having a chance to put up resistance.

The KPRA soldiers wound up the battle in a trice and Pochonbo turned into another world full of joy of national resurrection.

Kim Il Sung delivered a stirring speech to the crowds calling on them to staunchly fight for national liberation.

The flames at Pochonbo implanted in the Koreans the conviction that Korea was not dead but alive and it would be liberated for sure.

The news on the battle caused a great sensation across the country and beyond.

The battle hit the headlines in China and the Soviet Union as well as Korea and Pochonbo was visited by lots of Koreans from across the country.

At that time, the Japanese army and police officers concerned raised a hubbub, saying, "We feel as if we have been struck hard on the back of the head."

The enemies continued to let out screams during the battles on Mt Kouyushui and Jiansanfeng, leaving an episode about "pumpkin heads".

The Japanese aggressors pounced on the anti-Japanese guerrilla army soldiers on Jiansanfeng in a desperate bid to reverse their defeats at the battles of Pochonbo and on Mt Kouyushui, but were totally annihilated, caught by various protean tactics adopted by the guerrillas. As they suffered too many casualties to carry all the corpses away, the Japanese cut off heads from the dead bodies to put them into sacks. When asked what were there in the sacks, they answered "pumpkins" for fear of disclosure of the fact to the public.

This was how the episode of "pumpkin heads" emerged.

After the news of the battles spread, numerous Koreans from across the country and abroad were eager to join the KPRA and the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle of the Korean people was given a new lease of life.

As the Battle of Pochonbo left an indelible trace on the historical course of struggle for Korea's liberation, it is commemorated in splendour still today and the spirit displayed by the revolutionary forerunners that day is being carried forward.

By So Chun Gi

More than 200 animals and birds of over 60 species including some 10 species of gift animals brought forth young at the Central Zoo this year.

Last March, chicks hatched out of the eggs laid by gift doves sent by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un on September 7 2012.

The Samoyed sent by General Secretary Kim Jong Un on January 4 2018 threw a litter of four pups in May.

Phungsan, the national dog of the DPRK, also dropped three healthy puppies, and *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*, *Vulpes fulvus* and many other animals reproduced themselves.

In addition, *Cercopithecus aethiops*, lemur, crab-eating macaque and other kinds of primates gave birth to their young in succession.

People honoured as meritorious persons of socialist patriotism

Lots of people across the country have been awarded the title of meritorious person of socialist patriotism since the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Kyong Chol, manager of the Blast Furnace Workshop of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, introduced more than 30 inventions into putting the production of iron

by the Juche-based method on a normal footing and played a vital role in producing pig iron three times as much as its output in the early days of its operation.

Several officials and workers were honoured with the title in the first half of the year. Among them is Kim Tong Su, forest ranger in charge of Kaphyong-ri of the Ryongyon County Forestry Management Station, who has turned the forest of more than 1 000 hectares into "gold" and "treasure" mountains over the past 20-odd years.

Many others in provinces, cities and counties across the country also won the title.

Plastic goods producer pushes recycling

The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory is overfulfilling its daily plans by over 20 percent.

It pushes ahead with the production of plastic containers, vinyl sheets, plastic pipes for different uses and other plastic goods by introducing the recycling technology.

And it upgraded an integrated power management system and newly established the production process of plastic containers based on domestic materials.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

INSPECTION

Premier visits North, South Hamgyong provinces



Premier Kim Tok Hun (second from right) on his inspection tour of the Chongjin Steel Works.

Premier Kim Tok Hun inspected several units in North and South Hamgyong provinces.

Learning about the overall situation of the Kim Chack Iron and Steel Complex, he stressed the need to concentrate forces on the construction of a new energy-saving iron blast furnace, increase the operation rate of equipment and perfect the concentrates transport system.

At the Chongjin Steel Works, he said the current production processes should be updated by dint of advanced technology and timely supply of raw and other materials and fuel ensured to drastically increase the production.

At the Musan Mining Complex, the Premier referred to the need to boost the iron ore production by steadily strengthening the material and technical foundations.

Inspecting the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex and the Hoeryong Coal-mining

Machine Factory, he discussed the practical issues arising in developing and producing modern coal-mining machines, according to the orientation of developing the machine-building industry in the period of the new five-year plan.

The field consultative meetings discussed measures to increase the capacity of making iron by the Juche-based method and use brown coal in the northern area of the country for the production of pig iron. They organized in detail the work for the relevant units to responsibly supply equipment and materials and fully supply iron and steel needed for the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang.

The Premier also inspected several farms in Tanchon and Hoeryong cities and Hongwon, Pukchong, Kumya and Kowon counties to acquaint himself with their immediate farming and take appropriate measures.

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Nationwide

Birthday spread sent to centenarian in Sukchon

Kim Pyong Hun living in Paegam-ri, Sukchon County, celebrated his 100th birthday.

He has a cheerful disposition and has been doing farming in the kitchen garden and breeding domestic animals since retirement.

A birthday spread sent by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was delivered to the centenarian.

North Phyongan pushes different construction, reconstruction projects

North Phyongan Province is pushing ahead with the construction of the provincial condiments factory, reconstruction of the Ryongchon Army-People Pig Farm and upgrading of the Kusong and Sinuiju chicken farms at the final stage.

After winding up the construction of the Phihyon Children's Camp in a short span of time, it is now stepping up external and internal projects for outdoor swimming pool, multifunctional hall and others on a full scale.

Animals bring forth young at Central Zoo

MEETING

Youth league holds enlarged meeting of its second plenum

An enlarged meeting of the Second Plenary Meeting of the 10th Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League was held on June 2 through the video conference system.

It was attended by members and alternate members of the youth league central committee.

Present there as observers were officials of city and county youth league committees.

The meeting discussed the issue of fulfilling the tasks set forth by General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Jong Un in his letter sent to the Tenth Congress of the Youth League *Demonstrate to the Full the Might of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League on the Historic March towards a Fresh Victory in the Revolution*.

Mun Chol, chairman of the

youth league central committee, in his report said that the youth league is now faced with the task of strengthening itself into a powerful political organization absolutely faithful to the ideology and leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and a strong force of socialist construction in line with the requirements of the times and the developing revolution, suggesting measures to this end.

He said that youth league committees should fulfil their responsibility and role in bringing up the youth as masters of socialist morality and civilization and maintaining, carrying on and developing the inherent and superior morality and culture of society.

KCNA



Chongjin aspires after self-reliant, diverse development

City has great potential for growth

Chongjin City has made notable achievements in the improvement of the people's living standards and economic growth in recent years.

A new type of hydraulic turbine blade was made to improve the efficiency of water turbine in the Puryong Power Station which has a large share in the production of electricity needed for the economic development of the city and a drive was pushed ahead in all sectors and units as an important undertaking to widely exploit renewable energy resources.

New models of trolley bus and bus were produced, bathing resorts given a facelift and water and fuel shortages solved properly.

At present, our city is pressing on with the construction of Orangchon Power Station Unit 3, while stepping up a series of huge projects including those for perfecting the Juche-oriented iron-making process at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and upgrading the



centre of Phohang Square.

We have exciting prospects for its development.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the Chongjin Steel Works, the Musan Mining Complex and the Puryong Ferroalloy Factory that take the lion's share in the metallurgical industry are concentrated in our province.

Among them the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the Chongjin Steel Works are in our city.

It shows the development potentials of our city, which provide us with a guarantee for fulfilling our planned tasks.

And the city has machine-building, mining and other heavy industry factories in a balanced way including the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex and it is a favourable condition for the development of our city.

As it faces the sea and along the coast there are fishing ports, inlets and bays and gulfs favourable for shallow-sea culture, Chongjin also has ideal conditions for propagating the aquatic resources.

All the working people in our city are full of enthusiasm to hit the goals for this year without fail now when the spirit of self-reliance is running high across the country.

Kang Jun, chairman of the Chongjin City People's Committee of North Hamgyong Province

Port city given a fast facelift

The appearance of Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, a port city in the northern area, is taking on new looks.

High-rise apartment buildings are now built in downtown Phohang District of the city, and the Chongjin Theatre and other public buildings are constructed to make the characteristics as a port city stand out.

Eye-catchers are several blocks of high-rise apartment buildings with wind turbines using the sea wind installed on rooftops.

According to developer Kim Kwang Hyok, director of the Yoram building parts company of the material supply station for schools for orphans in North Hamgyong Province, the wind turbines consist of semicircular vertical-axle wind turbine blades with a length of over seven metres and the fixed structure that guides wind. It is featured by the fact that it produces no noise and vibration, though it was installed on the roofs of buildings.

An external construction project for the Chongjin Theatre with thousands of seats has already been wound up, while the Chongjin Restaurant, Youth Open-air Theatre and other public buildings are now being constructed simultaneously.

A service building built in the shape of wave to match well with the scenery of seashore adds more beauty to the appearance of downtown Phohang District.

Land readjustment, road paving and landscaping are also being carried on.

A project is now underway to pave walkways extending for well over a thousand metres, arrange tens of thousands of square metres of area and build resting and fountain parks.

An official of the city said that when the structures forming an architectural group centring on Phohang Square are completed, the appearance of the port city will be more beautiful.

By Jong Chol PT

Local needs for building materials satisfied

"We have developed building materials with raw materials abundant in the province in order to speed up construction while reducing costs and preventing environmental pollution," said Choe Myong Sik, director of the building materials institute of North Hamgyong Province.

The institute developed such main building materials as coloured mortar, light burned magnesia panel and concrete accelerating agent, curing accelerator and anti-freezer.

The coloured mortar is produced with the adhesive made by recycling locally abundant natural stone powder and used plastic bottles and its colour varies according to the colour of the stone.

Builders say the concrete curing accelerator and accelerating agent help increase the construction speed and enhance the quality.

According to researcher Kim Sung Chol, the anti-freezer of his institute guaranteed the successful completion of such major construction projects as the Chongjin Theatre, the Orangchon Power Station and several other structures using the wet method in winter conditions.

"We developed this additive using the waste material from the synthetic fibre production process of a factory in our city. The recycling of the waste which was buried in the past has also prevented environmental pollution," said Choe Myong Sik.

In addition the light burned magnesia panel and chairs are popular with relevant sectors as they are of high density and ensure compression and bending strength.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



Researchers work on a variety of building materials at the North Hamgyong provincial building materials institute in the effort to satisfy the local needs.

Fishery station fosters ecology to enrich, protect marine resources

The Chongjin Fishery Station has been successful in offshore culture after creating an ideal ecological environment for the increase and protection of marine resources.

What is noticeable is the mixed culture of sea algae and mussel, sea urchin, trepang and scallop.

According to some research findings, these organisms provide favourable growing conditions to each other. Kelp absorbs carbon dioxide in the course of photosynthesis

and discharges oxygen, while mussels behave the other way round. Trepang and scallops eat kelp leaves falling from above and their excrement becomes manure needed for the growth of kelp.

"As arable land is needed for crop farming, large-scale offshore farming requires a large water area. However, expanding the area of offshore culture without scientific consideration is like pouring water into a bottomless pot," said Ri Hui Chol, manager of the fishery station.

After thoroughly estimating the water quality and other marine conditions, the station has scientifically confirmed the water areas that are less vulnerable to tidal waves and with favourable water quality conditions, thus expanding the farming area by more than three hectares every year in the past five years.

It provides itself with structures and materials needed for laying foundations for the production by applying a recycling technology. For example, it produces anchors and ropes for fixing the structures using scrap iron and torn fish nets.

It increases kelp production to promote mixed culture and makes effective use of natural breeding grounds as good breeds and supply of feed are important in the culture of sea urchin and trepang, while creating many artificial reefs. It also made mesh stone bags and put them into the sea.

"If we drop only stones into the sea, many of them get pushed away by waves or buried under sand. But the concentrated dropping of 500-odd-kilogram stone bags helps provide the condition favourable for the growth of marine animals and plants and further increase production," said Ri Jong Hwan, member of the management of the station.

The station has built a large breeding ground that can produce well over a million fries of trepang, sea urchin and Pacific salmon as well as filtering and settling tanks for ensuring water quality.

Besides, it improved the scientific level of its artificial culture by establishing an integrated production system in its breeding ground.

By Kil Chung Il PT

FACTORY

Production stepped up with reinforcement of foundations

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill is overfulfilling its monthly economic plans.

"The secret is to ensure the full capacity operation of all equipment," said deputy chief engineer Ri Hwa Chol.

According to him, the mill's silk production plan for this year is higher than last year. But the number of equipment to be actually operative is relatively small since production and equipment overhauling should be conducted at the same time according to the five-year plan. Therefore, equipment is an important factor in implementing the plan.

The factory is concentrating all efforts on technical innovation while regarding full capacity operation of working equipment as an effective way to push ahead with adjustment and reinforcement of production foundations and current production at the same time.

The important work it focuses on is to restore the original performance of facilities lying idle or defective equipment by ensuring a full supply of necessary parts.

A technical innovation team was formed to this end. When making an innovation, workers and technicians set a goal which is of significance in reality



Employees discuss how to ensure domestic production of a reeler at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

based on accurate calculation and take an active part in its implementation. Therefore, valuable technical findings they create every month play a decisive role in reducing costs and boosting production.

The factory has recently produced and supplied a lot of machine parts needed for the normal operation of cocoon boiling, reeling, hygienic product and quilt production processes.

In this course, it restored dozens of rewinding reeling devices and several cocoon containers and prolonged the lifespan of reeling power gear from a month to a year. It also

improved working environment by upgrading the dust collecting system of cocoon inputting box.

"In view of equipment operating performance in April, the number of silk reeling machines used in production was smaller than the same period of last year, but there was little difference in the overall operating time of equipment. As a result, the operating time of each equipment used in production has been prolonged more than the past," said head of the technical department.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

efficiency of insam products.

The hall serves different national foods made of Kaesong Koryo insam.

Diverse insam foods including thick chicken soup, *yakpap*, or sweet rice dish, and white kimchi retain the delicacy of traditional Korean foods.

It is unusual that the native species of chicken in Kaesong is used to make thick chicken soup or *samgyethang*, a chicken boiled with insam, so as to preserve the delicacy of food, said the chief chef.

Everyone likes the Kaesong Koryo insam foods served along with the insam liquor as they are good for health and longevity.

The tea stand, which is fragrant with insam tea aroma, serves diverse Kaesong Koryo insam teas including barrenwort tea.

Clients are on the increase as the days go by since they can enjoy the thick local flavour.

"Since its inauguration in January 2018, our exhibition hall has served lots of visitors from home and abroad. In the future, we will make this hall always crowded with visitors by increasing the variety of products made of Kaesong Koryo insam and types of service business," said manageress Won Song Hui.

By Kim Il Jin PT

SPECIALITY

Exhibition attracts customers with Kaesong Koryo insam

"This exhibition hall draws the attention of visitors with its signboard. Because it bears the name of Kaesong Koryo insam, a speciality of Korea and world-famous special product." This is a remark made by a visitor to the Koryo insam exhibition hall in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

The hall is fragrant with subtle aroma of Kaesong Koryo insam which is good for longevity,



A saleswoman serves a customer with different kinds of insam products at the Koryo insam exhibition hall.

RYU KWANG HYOK

INSTITUTE

Academy gears up to advance agro-science

Different institutes have recently been built in the headquarters of the Academy of Agricultural Science.

The U-shaped four-storey building houses the Plant Protection Science Institute and Agricultural Nanotechnology Institute at its centre, with the Agrobiology Institute and Agrochemistry Institute in both wings side by side.

An official of the Academy of Agricultural Science said that the successful inauguration of the institutes has made it possible to conduct more briskly scientific research that contributes to the stabilized and sustainable development of agricultural production.

"Our institute is equipped with study rooms and laboratories in which research conditions and environment are fully provided in line with the development trend of bioengineering technology," said Kim Sang Il, director of the Agrobiology Institute.

He added that the institute contributed to breeding high-yield varieties in the past by introducing achievements of modern biology including cell engineering and genetic engineering into agricultural science research.

The Plant Protection Science Institute is working on research into the biological ecology and distribution and biogenesis characters of blight and weeds

By Sin Pyol PT



KIM YONG CHAN

Researchers work at a lab of the Plant Protection Science Institute under the Academy of Agricultural Science.

Innovation plan proves effective

The Pyongyang Mechanical Pencil Factory in Central District, Pyongyang, has introduced a technical innovation plan into production and revitalized its business activities.

Technicians of the factory contrived moulds for coloured mechanical pencil and thus renewed the looks of its products.

"The core part of the recent innovation was the precision processing of the sleeve and gripper which grab and send out refill leads. We created plastic

moulds for sleeve and gripper instead of metal ones and thus modernized the shape of pencils and markedly reduced the production cost," said Kim Song Ho, chief engineer of the factory.

They also increased the lifecycle of moulds by more than 50 percent with the development and introduction of an automatic mould protective device that monitors and repairs the injection process in real time.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

ICD

Children grown to be talent thanks to caretakers



Kindergarten children play with Rubik cubes at November 3 Kindergarten in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

"Gone are the days when the children with special aptitude were only trained into talented ones. Our kindergarten makes all the children be involved in different extracurricular groups," said Jon Kum Nyo, chief of November 3 Kindergarten in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

The kindergarten has over ten extracurricular groups including abacus, *paduk* (go), workmanship, vocal music, composition, drawing, Rubik cube and English.

On the basis of a deep

understanding of the children, kindergarten teachers enrol them in relevant extracurricular groups.

"Of course, we respect parents' intention. Some parents, however, would select any group by giving priority to their desire. But they follow the intention of teachers, when they explain in detail while citing the nature and talent of children," said teacher Choe Un Hui.

The teachers can correctly understand the children thanks to "individual cards".

The kindergarten makes individual cards for every child

to record all the data related to their life at the kindergarten in detail.

Kang Sin Jong, teacher in charge of the Rubik cube group, applies drawing to the children with good abilities of using visual aids, the heptachord to those with fine hearing and numbers to those with marvellous numerical memory, in order to give a clear understanding of the formula related to cube to the children with insufficient logical thinking.

All the children in the group can reassemble trihedron, tetrahedron and pentahedron in ten minutes, and many of them skilfully play Rubik cube while doing the guessing of notes by hearing, word game and English word relay.

Those learning abacus can easily add and subtract up to 80 one-digit numbers, which are presented at an interval of 0.2 second, 50 two-digit numbers at an interval of 0.6 second, 50 three-digit numbers at an interval of 1.4 seconds and 30 four-digit numbers at an interval of 2 seconds, and also correctly calculate numbers based on the abacus visualization and abacus cards.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

1 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, remembered songs at once when he heard them at the age of two and had perfect pitch.

When he was four, he began to learn to play the piano at the kindergarten.

He acquired rapidly what he had learnt with the help of special concentration and absolute pitch and soon caught up with others who began to learn the piano earlier than him.

Sometimes, he practised the piano until after midnight.

A few months later, he could do the children's piano exercises and began to play percussion instrument.

According to kindergarten teacher Choe Sun Yong, he

also plays the works requiring high skills with improvisatory accompaniment capacity.

His special forte is rich representation and he plays the piano, fascinated by the content of the music, rather than merely following music scores.

"There is no musician in our family. My parents thought that their grandson had a clear head, but did not think that he would be called a piano prodigy. Kindergarten teachers found out and cultivated the bud of his talents," said mother O Myong Chun.

Ri Kun Dan is good at the addition and subtraction of four-digit numbers by dint of abacus visualization.

prize.

O Myong Hwa recalled that the more he learnt, the more emotional he became and the freer interpretation he offered and the resonance of sound was also different from others'.

Kindergarten children often forget what they have learnt. But he remembered all without missing any of them and kept correct time and rhythm. A few months after he began to learn the violin, he correctly heard the common and seventh chords.

Now he is superbly playing not only etudes and solos for kindergartners, but also folk songs and foreign concertos.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Seven-year-old pianist



Seven-year-old boy Ri Kun Dan (pictured) at Tangsang Kindergarten No.

Violin prodigy



"Our kindergarten took part in the national kindergarten children's art festival and children's music TV show dozens of times and won all their instrumental music competitions," said Kim Ok Ju, Merited Teacher and head of Munsin Kindergarten No.

1 attached to Kim Hyong Jik University of Education in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang.

Sok Jin Myong (pictured) is now counted as the number one violin player among the kindergarten children.

"Jin Myong seems to be a gifted violinist. When he first played violin, he adopted correct performing posture and tone and played fiddlestick smoothly," said kindergarten teacher O Myong Hwa.

He began to learn how to play the violin three years ago. A year after he took part in the 30th national children's music TV show, he contributed to the kindergarten's winning the top

EXHIBITION

Composer remembered for his magnum opus

A concert was held at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre on April 28 to commemorate the 100th birthday of composer Kim Hyok.

The programme included the famous composer's masterpieces such as *Do Not Forget the Female Guerrilla*, *My Country*, *March of Young Socialist Builders* and *We Are the Happiest in the World* and some other children's songs.

Born on April 1 1921 into an independent farmer's family in Posong County, South Jolla Province, Kim was gifted with a fine voice and dreamt of becoming a musician as a child.

However, his dream could not come true as his family lived in poverty during Japan's military rule over Korea.

After leaving his home at the age of nine, Kim led a vagabond life in Kyongsong (Seoul). At the age of 19, he entered a music school in Tokyo, Japan, but was expelled after two years as he could not afford the tuition.

He returned to Kyongsong but there seemed little hope of fulfilling his dream under Japan's heinous oppressive measures.

It was only after he came to the north of Korea after its liberation that he could feel the hope of realizing his dream again.

As he longed for the stirring reality in north Korea where the people became masters of land and factories, he came over to the north in 1946.

Kim worked as chairman of the North Phyongan provincial committee of the then north Korean musicians' union and director of the Sinuiju music institute in 1948. During the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953), he was an officer in charge of cultural and information affairs of a unit of the Korean People's Army and, after the war, became a composer of the central committee of the Korean Composers Union.

"My father would emotionally recollect the day when he met Chairman Kim Jong Il who studied at Pyongyang Middle School No. 1," said Kim Yong, son of Kim Hyok.

"At that time, the great leader talked to my father who was invited as a music teacher time and again. One day, they had a meaningful talk looking at the brightly-lit streets of Pyongyang for postwar reconstruction at night."

That night the Chairman told him that the vibrant features of the country should be eulogized in songs and, therefore, creative artists should delve into realities as always instructed by President Kim Il Sung.

Later, Kim Hyok found his place among the people at

He called to mind the instruction of the President who said that he was the father of them and their home is the bosom of the Party.

factories, farms, construction sites, schools, and kindergartens and composed fine songs in succession.

His most important work is song *We Are the Happiest in the World*.

Harbouring a desire to write a song that shows the feeling of the whole Korean people on the occasion of the Fourth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, he went to the then Haeju school for bereaved children.

The happy looks of the children who were laughing and frolicking free of any cares and worries were enough to inflame his creative ambition. He called to mind the instruction of the President who, whenever he met children of those who died during the war, said that he was the father of them and their home is the bosom of the Party.

The sound of cheering children from the playground and that of an accordion resounding across the blue sky evoked a powerful emotion from inside him. He rushed to a piano at a breath and started putting down notes and symbols on a paper.

Blue is the sky and gay is my heart

The sound of an accordion rings out far and wide

What a wonderful homeland we have

A land filled with harmony and hope

Our father is Marshal Kim Il Sung

Our home is the Party's bosom

We are all blood brothers and sisters

We are the happiest in the world.

The song soon became very popular, causing a great sensation across the country.

"It was his creative personality to sing in praise of the times and reflect the aspirations and feelings of the people with emotional, lifelike and philosophical expressions rather than loud and vehement tunes," said Kang Yong Hui, 81-year-old former secretary general of the central committee of the Korean musicians' union.

Kim was awarded the title of Merited Artist and high state commendations.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

EXHIBITION

Art show of budding artists captures public imagination

The national art exhibition of budding artists that opened at the Okryu Exhibition Hall in Pyongyang on May 11 continues to draw the attention of visitors.

"Put on show are over 230 pieces of works of budding artists including Korean, oil and acrylic paintings and sculptures," said Jang Un Ok, lecturer of the artwork dissemination agency.

The works created by combining traditional and modern techniques are a showcase of the talents of burgeoning artists.



RYANG KUM CHOL
Visitors observe exhibits at the ongoing national art exhibition of budding artists.

Such works as oil painting "Mt Paektu", Korean painting "Production plan overfulfilled", Korean *posokhwa* (jewel painting) "Sobaeksu Valley in the morning", sculpture "With our own technology" and woodcut print "Breath of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex" vividly reflect the ideological and spiritual world of the Korean people.

There are also the works on the themes of Korean history, folklore and the life of working people.

Korean painting "Our village undergoes seachange", oils "The pride of my family" and "Field service" and plastic craftwork "Hot spring bath for children" depict the local people's home villages undergoing eye-opening changes and present reality of the DPRK where people lead a happy life.

A special eye-catcher is Korean painting "Inheriting the soul of the nation" portraying a ceramist who is lost in deep thought against the background of Koryo celadon pieces.

Wood craftwork "Pine tree" also draws the admiration of viewers as it exquisitely represents the features of the national tree of the DPRK.

And there is also doll craftwork "Woman" representing a beautiful Korean woman wearing a traditional wedding dress. On his visit to the exhibition hall on May 15, the Russian ambassador in Pyongyang made an entry in the visitors' book:

"I looked round the art exhibition of budding artists with deep interest. It demonstrated the high level of Korean art."

The show runs until June 7.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

The store began to distinguish itself in such contests some 20 years ago.

According to Kim Kyong Jin, it won several contests of the mass-based art sector, including the national singing contest of working people in 2000, the national folk song and traditional instrumental music chorus contest in 2004 and national folk music contests of the mass art sector in 2017 and 2019.

"We get immense pleasure in seeing happy customers who smile at us after buying an armful of goods. Our business goes well, which is attributable to the employees' attachment to their job and shared love," said manager Pak Yong Sil.

At the mass art contest, the contestants won enthusiastic applause from audience.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

66

Affection and fine sentiments enable us to do more work than a sense of responsibility."

Kim Mi Yong, deputy manager of Pyongyang Department Store No. 1

lively singing, and they enter the national singing contest of working people with the songs they practised.

It is participated in by the manager, deputy manager and all employees.

The store focuses on such team events as group singing and small chorus, instead of the individual one.

"Everyone is enthusiastic and active in singing practice. The common aspiration for winning the contest motivates them to try hard to achieve vocal ensemble and improve performance after a day's work," said staffer Kim Kyong Jin.

Their workplace always brims with vitality and vigour for the



PROVIDED FROM PYONGYANG DEPARTMENT STORE NO. 1
Saleswomen at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 perform as part of their artistic activities.

MEMOIRS

Collectivist slogan has eternal viability



CHAE MYONG RIM

Pang Ha Su (right) writes his memoirs as his wife looks on.

Whenever I see the slogan "One for all and all for one!" memories of the world-startling events in the early 1960s come flooding back.

In November 1960 when I was eight years old, I got third-degree burns over 48 percent of my body and was driven to the then Hungnam fertilizer factory hospital in a coma. At that time my life hung in the balance.

The flesh almost fell off the upper half of my body to reveal the walls of the chest and I suffered a high fever, so my life was maintained singly with help of medicines.

My parents felt hopeless, only shedding tears of despair.

The medical team of the hospital, however, did not give up hope.

Surgeons including surgery department chief Kang Ha Jong conducted dozens of rounds of skin graft tests to get a scientific guarantee and performed a dermatohomoplasty with confidence. For the operation they decided to donate their skins. And 17 students from Hamhung College of Medical Sciences, who were undergoing practical training at the hospital, joined them in donation.

On the morning of the first-day operation, the corridor in front of the operating theatre was crowded with voluntary donators including doctors, nurses, college students and even inpatients.

This was how I was restored to health miraculously.

This news was published by newspapers.

President Kim Il Sung highly appreciated the laudable deeds of the medical workers of the factory hospital and the interns from the medical college, dispatched excellent doctors to the hospital and sent me precious medicines and even gifts.

Over 10 000 letters of encouragement came to me

The President lifted me up on the table on the platform. That day he called me 'son of the Workers' Party' and 'son of communists'".

Pang Ha Su, resident of Phyongchon District, Pyongyang

from across the country and medicines and foodstuffs flooded into the hospital for me.

On May 7 1961, I had the honour of presenting a bouquet to President Kim Il Sung at the mass rally held in celebration of the inauguration of the then February 8 Vinalon Factory. The President with a broad smile on his face lifted me up on the table on the platform. That day he called me "son of the Workers' Party" and "son of communists".

Over half a century has passed since then, but beneficent policies are uninterruptedly pursued in our socialist system that values human beings the most and the collectivist spirit of the Chollima era is being carried on still today.

Commendable deeds are performed everywhere in our society. A father rescued a drowning child of other parents before his own, young women tie the knot with disabled soldiers and many people adopt orphaned children and support elderly persons who have no children to rely on.

Pang Ha Su, resident of neighbourhood unit No. 108, Puksong-dong No. 1, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang

JAPAN

Bid for naval buildup makes neighbours warier

According to Japan's government sources, the country is examining the installation of the Aegis system in warships for their independent use as a substitute for the Aegis Ashore which was already cancelled.

Japan had decided to deploy ground-based ballistic missile defence system Aegis Ashore at its Cabinet meeting in late 2017.

The country has eight Aegis warships on a BMD mission.

Many in the government party strongly assert that it needs to assign Aegis ships the guard duty in the waters where China intensifies advance.

In the circumstances, what

draws the attention of experts is the operational radius and target of the two Aegis Ashore warships to be built.

Reportedly, they will be able to maintain great secrecy about their movement as they are to undertake missions independently without forming a fleet, and they will be specially built for long-term operations on the sea.

In addition, Japan has buckled down to a full discussion of the "strengthening of security cooperation" with a third country on the pretext of "joint warship building".

In 2014, it modified the "three principles of arms export" into the "three principles of transfer

of defence equipment" to pave the way for exporting the equipment for disaster relief, lookout, transport and mine-sweeping. In August last year, it exported an AA radar to the Philippines for the first time according to a contract.

In mid-May, it was revealed that the country was going to receive an order for such vessels as escort ship from other country to draw the attention from home and abroad.

Based on the judgment that the "three principles of defence equipment transfer" allows it to transfer even escort ships in case of joint development or co-production in which the use of equipment is not limited, Japan

is seeking the way to export the warships loaded with guns and other offensive weapons.

It is hell-bent on building up its naval forces while playing up "security threat" and on boosting arms export under the pretext of "joint warship building" with a third country. It is a revelation of its evil intention to realize its wild ambition of overseas expansion by gaining the military upper hand at sea.

As analysts comment, such moves of Japan will only heighten vigilance against it on the part of its neighbouring countries.

By Om Ryong PT

WED

Recovery of ecosystem vital for human existence

World Environment Day (June 5) was designated at the 27th session of the UN General Assembly in October 1972 and has been commemorated every year since 1974.

The theme for the day is set in reflection of the world's major environmental issues and important points for that year and many countries conduct a variety of activities and events according to it.

The theme for World Environment Day 2021 is "Ecosystem Restoration".

The 74th session of the UN General Assembly in 2019 set the period from 2021 to 2030 as the UN decade on ecosystem restoration. The main purpose of this project, which is conducted under the sponsorship of the UN Environment Programme and the UN Food and Agriculture

Organization, is to prevent, stop and reverse the loss and destruction of the ecosystem in the world. It envisages the restoration of millions of hectares of land and aquatic ecosystems.

Saying that the world suffered various crises in 2020 including the lingering global pandemic and climate and pollution crises, the executive director of the UN Environment Programme said shortly ago that everyone should recognize that it is an urgent matter vital to the existence of our planet and humankind to take intentional measures for switching from the crisis to recovery in 2021 and restore nature.

The environmental protection issue is not confined to a nation, but an important matter that should be shouldered by all the countries over the world.

The 74th session of the UN General Assembly in 2019 set the period from 2021 to 2030 as the UN decade on ecosystem restoration.

Many countries are directing big efforts to protecting environment.

Last year, China rearranged 17 000km-long sections of rivers and streams, while the Tibet autonomous region created over 3.97 billion square metres of forests during the past five years.

Belarus keeps paying big attention to protecting

environment including forests, rivers and lakes.

The Indian government mapped out and is pushing a plan for imposing a "green tax" with an eye to protecting environment and preventing pollution.

Besides, many countries are working to realize the zero-emission of carbon, introduce green GDP, turn out eco-friendly products, build green architecture, produce electric car and recycle waste, as they take practical measures for environmental protection.

The DPRK set it as a major policy of the state to protect ecological environment and annually plants a large areas of turf and forests, and is steadily pushing the work to protect and increase forest resources.

By Song Jong Ho PT

CLIMATE

Calamitous weather hits Asian countries

In May, calamitous meteorological phenomena occurred in several Asian countries, causing untold damage to them.

A cyclone hit the west coastal areas of India at the speed of 190 kilometres an hour along with torrential rain, killing 19 people, injuring many others and causing damage to over 200 000. And 16 500 houses and over 100 ships were destroyed and 40 000 trees rooted out.

Two rounds of sand storm swept across Mongolia, leaving many residents homeless and blowing roofs

from apartment houses and other buildings.

A violent storm whipped the northwestern coastal areas of Turkey to sink or damage over 60 ships, blow off roofs from houses and shatter their windows.

A whirlwind rushed through Wuhan, Hubei Province of China, killing 6 persons and injuring over 210 others, and the rain came down in torrents in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, with 1 459 people having been evacuated in emergency and over 810 living rooms damaged.

In Indonesia and Afghanistan torrential rains triggered floods and landslides, causing loss of life.

In recent years, the Asia-Pacific region has often been hit by typhoon.

The Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, China, Japan and other countries have sustained severe damage from typhoon continuously.

In particular, typhoon arises in the waters around the Philippines for about 20 times every year, which inflicts heavy losses on the country as well as other countries.

China also suffers serious damage from frequent typhoons.

A super-typhoon struck the eastern and northeastern areas of China in August 2019.

As a result, 12 884 000 people suffered damage, 2.04 million were urgently evacuated, 132 000 living rooms destroyed and crop harvest failed in 996 000 hectares of farmland in eight provinces, including Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Shandong, Hebei, Liaoning and Jilin, and Shanghai as well.

Briefly

Zambia

President points to importance of cultural, artistic development

Zambian President Edgar Lungu said on May 25 on the occasion of the Day of Africa that culture and arts play an important role in achieving the socio-economic development of each country and continental integration and that the present age demands African countries put efforts into cultural and artistic development with a correct understanding of this.

Pakistan

PM clarifies stand to cope with climate change

The Pakistani Prime Minister clarified the government's stance to cope with climate change at an event held in Haripur in the northwestern part of the country on May 27.

Pakistan is one of the countries which are most seriously affected by climate change, he noted,

Belarus

FM expresses stand to cope with West's sanctions

The Belarus foreign minister said in an interview with the Russian newspaper Kommersant on May 30 that the West is planning to impose a new round of economic sanctions on Belarus, adding that such measures will affect the national economy and the welfare of citizens.

He noted his country is ready to advance to the last along the road for defending the independent rights of the country.

China

Japanese spy arrested

The Chinese national security agency arrested a former professor of Hokkaido university of education of Japan on charges of spying for a Japanese intelligence service.

A spokesman for the Chinese foreign ministry in a press conference on May 26 said that the criminal had long been engaged in espionage against China on orders from the Japanese secret service, adding anyone who undermines China's national security should be punished.

Syria

Minister condemns EU's sanctions extension

The Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates slammed the EU for having decided to extend sanctions against the country by a year in a statement issued on May 29.

The statement branded the EU decision as a unilateral high-handed measure and a blatant violation of human rights and international humanitarian law.

School trains promising football reserves



Pyongyang International Football School is situated on the picturesque Rungna Islet. The school, which was built cosily to blend in well with natural environment of the islet, consists of four school blocks in an area of over 10 000 square metres. It has a school building for accommodating over 200 students, playground, dormitory and cultural and welfare facilities.

It has produced many soccer player reserves since its inauguration in June 2013.

Most of its graduates are now active as seed players at the national premier league.

"The secret of success is the scientific instruction and

training methods," said principal Jang Sung Dok.

The school directs particular efforts to making students improve their own judgment and decision-making ability.

"If a coach keeps giving

instructions to students during a game, they will be unable to acquire the ability to make correct judgment and decisions during matches by themselves. The coach cannot play the game in place of players," said



AN CHOL RYONG / PICTORIAL DPR KOREA

Pyongyang International Football School applies new training methods to help students correctly acquire elementary skills. Students are under training in the pitch.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

MAGIC

Time-honoured Korean magic art

"A picture album published by a neighbouring country, which reflected the artworks of different countries in the East over 1 500 years ago, contains a vivid picture of the Korean magic art. This shows that the Korean magic art has a long historical tradition," said Kong Myong Song, director of the Folklore Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Magic art developed in a diverse way in the period of Koryo which existed from 918 to 1392 in the wake of the Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla that existed between the 3rd century BC and AD 7th century.

An old record says that a clown in the period of Koryo burnt away a ship by mistake during the "Play of demon" in which he breathed out fire.

Until the end of Koryo such magic pieces as breathing out fire and swallowing a knife were generally included in performance programmes of clowns, and poems created in

the late period of Koryo mirror them.

Magic art made rapid development in the period of the feudal Joson dynasty which existed from 1392 to 1910.

According to old records, there were various magic pieces in the period including undoing a string knot in which a knot tied with a twisted paper string was undone under a cushion, character quiz in which a word written and sealed in an envelope is guessed right and money trick.

Afterwards, the magic art was called "ollun" which means that a juggler made spectators coming in and out of sight with rapid hand skills so as to deceive them.

The national magic heritage played a big role in further enriching and developing the national circus.

Today, the magic art is making further progress in line with the aesthetic sense of the Koreans.

By Min Chol PT

FOOD

Haeju kyoban has good taste

Among the specialties of Haeju City, the capital of South Hwanghae Province in the middle part of Korea, there is famous Haeju kyoban, or boiled rice mixed with spices, vegetables, meat and others.

The food, which was named thus as it came into being in the Haeju area, has an unusual history.

It happened in the current Haeju area, South Hwanghae Province, in the closing years of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392).

When the Japanese aggressors invaded the region in the early morning, an official clerk told his maid servant to prepare boiled rice and follow him to the fortress of Mt Suyang.

The maid made a porter carry boiled rice and other dishes in a wooden basin and quickened her pace towards the thickly wooded fortress carrying an earthenware containing soup.

When the battle was over, the official clerk felt hungry and

instructor Jong Song Man.

The school encourages students to try to make a bold person-to-person breakthrough without fearing failure.

It regularly tests the students' skills once a quarter and includes or admits gifted ones. During the selection of players, it gives priority to their comprehensive indexes including resourcefulness, personal characters and grit, to say nothing of their height and strong constitution.

Efforts are being channelled into using the professional evaluation system in instruction and training and further perfecting the training and game evaluation system based on information means.

"The school gives lessons of football and other subjects according to the grades of students. Through this, students acquire many-sided knowledge, which constitutes the foundations for them to become promising soccer players," said Jang Sung Dok.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



Pyongyang International Football School consists of four school blocks in an area of over 10 000 square metres. It has a school building for accommodating over 200 students, playground, dormitory and cultural and welfare facilities.

It opened in June 2013.

As the soldier told him that the food was tasty, the official clerk tasted and admired it and called soldiers to share it with them.

Since then, whenever foreign invaders intruded into the region, villagers cooked boiled rice with assorted mixtures and carried it to the front.

The recipe of Haeju kyoban is almost the same with that of boiled rice with assorted mixtures of other areas. What is different is that rice is cooked with sesame oil and mixed with the bracken growing in Mt Suyang in Haeju and roasted and crumbled Ongjin laver, in addition to edible herbs and meat.

The food, which was inscribed on the local intangible cultural heritage list in December 2020, is widely used in the dietary life of the Korean people.

The Okkye Restaurant serving special foods of South Hwanghae Province in the Munsu area of Pyongyang draws many citizens.

"I usually come to this restaurant at lunchtime to eat Haeju kyoban. As it is tasty and convenient, the food is suitable for lunch," said Ryom Chol Jin, a regular diner of the Okkye Restaurant.

Ryom Chol Jin, regular diner of the Okkye Restaurant



Haeju kyoban, speciality of Haeju City.



As it is tasty and convenient, the food is suitable for lunch."

By Kim Rye Yong PT

