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Ground-breaking ceremony of project for building 10 000 flats held in Pyongyang

Modern houses for 50 000 families will be built in Pyongyang in reflection of the noble ideal of "The people are God" and the idea of the Juche-oriented architectural beauty of the Workers' Party of Korea during the period of the new five-year plan, according to the grand plan for capital city construction put forward at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

A ground-breaking ceremony of the project for building 10 000 flats in Pyongyang took place in the Songsin and Songhwa areas of Sadong District on March 23.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, arrived at the venue of the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Jo Yong Won and Kim Tok Hun, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, Ri Il Hwan and O Su Yong, who are secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Yong Hwan, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK, and officials of the Cabinet,



ministries and national agencies and others in Pyongyang.

Also present there were Kwon Yong Jin, Kim Jong Gwan and other officials of the armed forces organs.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made an enthusiastic speech full of warm love for the people and deep trust in the builders and personally awarded the leading officials the flag of the headquarters of the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang.

Korean People's Army Vice Marshal Kim Jong Gwan, minister of National Defence, made a pledge on

behalf of the builders.

He expressed the firm will of the builders to create a new Pyongyang speed and perform new construction miracles by becoming standard-bearers of charge and construction heroes in the ongoing struggle for bringing about a turning point for a new victory in the history of socialist construction, holding high the flag of the headquarters awarded by the respected General Secretary as the colours of the revolution.

All the builders solemnly vowed before the Party and the people to bear in mind the great loving care and

trust shown by the General Secretary and build 10 000 flats in Pyongyang at the top level each year till 2025 which will mark the 80th founding anniversary of the WPK by giving full play to the indomitable fighting spirit and matchless power for breakthrough, thus becoming the first advancing group and the first vanguard who carry out the grandiose fighting programme advanced at the Party congress in the van.

There was a blasting, signalling the ground-breaking for building 10 000

flats in Pyongyang.

Following the blast that shook the earth in March vibrant with life, a large number of excavators started working all at once with the spirit of all the builders rising high in the vast construction site.

Kim Jong Un warmly encouraged the builders who launched into the responsible and honourable construction project for keeping the promise the WPK made with the people in the name of the dignified Party congress.

KCNA



Kim Jong Un makes speech at ground-breaking ceremony of house construction project in Pyongyang

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made a speech titled *Let Us Renovate Our Capital City Splendidly Once Again by Building 50 000 Flats* at the ground-breaking ceremony of the project for building 10 000 flats in Pyongyang on March 23. The following is the full text:

All the builders and service personnel who have turned out in the honourable project for building up the capital city,

Today we are honoured to set up another meaningful landmark in the history of building up our capital city.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party held early this year decided on building 50 000 flats in our capital city and, to this end, building 10 000 flats every year while pushing ahead with the construction of houses across the country in the five-year plan period.

The most worthwhile and glorious revolutionary task of the weighty and gigantic fighting tasks decided by the Party Congress will start to be undertaken full steam today.

Building 50 000 modern flats in Pyongyang, the capital city of our great country, is something our Party has long intended, made preparations for and aspired to do in order to provide the citizens of the capital city with more cultured and stabler living conditions.

The Party and the government acquainted themselves with the number of households that need houses and made an in-depth study of the measures for solving this problem. And they have regarded this project as their most important task.

Having accepted this colossal project willingly as an honourable revolutionary task which it must implement without fail however difficult the conditions and environment may be, the Party Central Committee reaffirmed its plan of architectural development and construction policy on the principle of applying the people-first principle more thoroughly.

It redefined the orientation and order of



construction, ensured that a large share of the total state budget for construction was allocated for the construction of houses and, on the basis of plans and preparation to this end, made the construction of 50 000 flats a policy at its Eighth Congress.

This large-scale operation for building flats unfolded by our Party and state is not something for pursuing any economic profits; it is an ennobling undertaking to turn the assets of the state and fruits of creative labour of the working masses thoroughly into their benefits.

If we build from today 50 000 flats until 2025 when we will greet the 80th founding anniversary of the Party—10 000 flats every year—we will have almost 70 000 flats built, including the over 16 000 flats now under construction, thus solving the housing problem of the citizens of the capital city once and for all.

Undertaking the project of building houses in the capital city in a bold way and on a large scale is of great significance also in demonstrating the unquenchable fighting spirit of our state and people that are advancing audaciously against manifold difficulties.

As you must all know, this project was decided after much thought.

To tell the truth, to undertake this large-scale project in the circumstances of today, when the challenges and difficulties are harsher than

ever before, is something beyond imagination.

Construction of 10 000 flats this year is to be conducted in the circumstances completely different from when we started building Ryomyong Street five years ago; worse still, we have to do in a short time the amount of work many times larger than that of those days.

Our Party, however, decided to push ahead with the project unconditionally as it is directly related with the living of the citizens of the capital city and as it is an important political undertaking of the first year of implementing the decisions of the Party Congress to the letter.

We have the proud dignity and pluck that we are conducting a gigantic and wonderful project in the most trying days; we also have the self-confidence, experience and assets for surely carrying it out.

If the characteristic multistoried and skyscraping apartment houses which we see in the architectural formation plan now are built in these Songsin and Songhwa areas by the end of this year, the potential of our state and the creative strength of our people will be displayed to the full once again.

In the course of this, our Juche-oriented architecture will make another leap of development and our construction aimed at creating a new life of our own style by our own efforts and with our own hands will gain a bigger momentum.

The advanced architectural technologies and construction methods such as green architecture and dry-building methods will be introduced in an aggressive and innovative way, the foundations of the industrial bases that produce building equipment and materials will be further expanded and strengthened, and our construction units and builders will become more powerful and skilful.

The grand construction of today will be of monumental significance in the history of building the capital city.

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The project of building 50 000 flats, which begins now, is a historic one of building modern, large-scale streets, expanding the urban areas of Pyongyang, the capital city, to the direction of east, west and north.

If 10 000 flats and distinctive public buildings are built every year in the areas of Songsin, Songhwa, Sopho, Kumchon and September 9 Street, respectively, the capital city of our state will witness a more magnificent change and they will become significant monuments, symbolic of the most arduous yet glorious third decade of the 21st century.

The citizens and their offspring who will live in the new streets we are building will remember down through the generations the builders of our era, who built the enormous architectural groups of world class by overcoming the worst trials, as heroic people.

Today's large-scale construction is, indeed, a great undertaking for writing an era of glory in history.

Comrades,

Construction is an ensemble of the mental standard of the relevant era and the strength of the relevant nation and a long step towards civilization and development.

Today, when we are advancing to achieve prosperity and development upholding our state-first principle, this project will constitute a major thrust area symbolic of the era of a fresh upsurge and massive transformation in socialist construction.

Through this project, we will renovate the appearance of the capital city once again and usher in an era of fresh dynamic advance which will develop socialist construction by stage with confidence.

When mapping out this project of a massive scale, the Party Central Committee paid its primary attention to forming the major forces which would play the main, powerful role in the project.

What our Party Central Committee believed first when deciding on this project was none other than the revolutionary armed forces that are boundlessly faithful to the Party and the people.

While performing its mission and responsibility of staunchly defending the country and the people, the People's Army has always played a big role also in creating the people's happiness.

Only when the People's Army which has performed heroic feats in numerous grand construction projects and in the theatres of rehabilitating damaged areas undertakes a major project, can a sure victory be achieved in the overall construction projects.

I know our People's Army better than anybody else.

I am convinced that the officers and men of the People's Army will fully prove themselves worthy of the expectations of the Party and the people with thoroughgoing implementation by giving full play to their militant temperament in this creative struggle of construction, too.



Also participating in the current grand construction are the major civilian construction units including the Capital City Construction Commission, High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, Revolutionary Site Construction Bureau and External Construction Bureau that have performed remarkable feats at major construction projects like that of building Ryomyong Street.

Success or failure in this grand construction depends on the commanding officials, service personnel and civilian builders who are in direct charge of it.

The construction policy and guidance of our Party and state are ultimately translated into reality by the creative enthusiasm and endeavour of every commanding official, and the Party places its belief first in the ardent patriotic spirit and skills of our builders.

The task facing the sector of designing is most important.

Construction itself is a highly creative undertaking, and buildings are now getting formative, artistic, multi-functional and intelligent. This adds to the importance of designing.

What our Party asks of the sector of designing is that a single dot or a line placed on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, soul and vibrant spirits of our times and embody the lofty ideals and standards of civilization that can proudly lead the world.

In accordance with the street formation plan and the designing plan which have already been decided and issued, the designers should draw up all the designs of the project on a perfect level to fully embody the Party's idea on architectural beauty, and hand them over to the construction sector as soon as possible.

All the construction units responsible for building operations should start construction work without delay and execute their daily, weekly and monthly plans without fail according to schedule to complete the frameworks of the buildings in their charge within the first half of this year in the main.

All the construction detachments and units should regard it as their main task to improve the quality of construction, and consistently hold fast to the principle of ensuring quality throughout the whole process of construction work.

When all the officials and builders always maintain the stance and attitude that their loyalty, patriotism and conscience will be verified by the Party, state, people, posterity and history, all structures can become excellent creations of our times both in name and reality.

The construction supervision sector should enhance its role so as to ensure that the construction policy of the Party and state is executed and the people's demands and interests and the stability of architecture are thoroughly met.

It is necessary to supply on a top priority and timely basis the materials and equipment needed for the construction of 10 000 flats.

Factories and enterprises assigned for



the production of cement, steel materials and various other building materials and equipment should fulfil their production quotas satisfactorily on schedule by giving fullest play to the revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity of the working class, thus ensuring the success of the construction of the flats in the capital city.

The rail and other transport sectors should also launch a vigorous campaign for increased transport to ensure prompt transportation of the materials needed by the grand construction sites in the capital city and by the production bases of steel and other building materials.

We should give precedence to political work and ideological offensive in all undertakings so as to give full play to the loyalty, patriotism and creative wisdom of the soldiers of the People's Army and other builders, and make all the construction sites seethe with a high spirit from the beginning to the end of the projects.

In this way, we can not only enlist the masses in the worthwhile struggle for construction, but also turn the present gigantic capital city construction sites just into fierce revolutionary battlefields and excellent schools that produce a new spirit of the times and train brave practitioners and stalwart socialist working people.

We should also attach utmost importance to taking good care of the health and life of the soldiers and other builders engaged in construction.

In keeping with the requirements of the state emergency epidemic prevention system, it is necessary to build epidemic prevention stations and facilities and establish a climate of observing the epidemic prevention regulations voluntarily and thoroughly throughout the construction sites. Utmost concern should be directed to preventing all kinds of accidents and disasters and making the builders engage in their work without feeling any inconvenience.

Supply service for the soldiers and other builders should not be left only to the units concerned, but the state supply system should be scrupulously organized so that the exact amount of supply for each builder is given to him.

Comrades,

Today we are breaking ground for this project, but some months later a new street for the people, a splendid architectural group we will all feel proud of, will be built in this area.

Nothing is more worthwhile and honourable and happier than to unhesitatingly dedicate our sweat and passion to building an ideal street which will be a dear cradle for nobody else but our people who are the best and greatest in the world.

For the future of our capital which will become more beautiful and magnificent,

For our parents, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters who will create and enjoy there a new civilization to their heart's content, and

For the brilliant implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress,

Let us all fight vigorously.



Kim Jong Un presents plan to create riverside terraced apartment house area near Pothong Gate



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, presented a plan to build an area of riverside terraced apartment houses near the Pothong Gate, and looked around the site.

He was accompanied by senior Party and government officials and the chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK.

He explained the plan to form a

modern terraced apartment house area along the picturesque banks of the Pothong River meandering through the central part of the capital city and arrange multi- and low-storey dwelling houses in a harmonious way so as to transform the area in a distinctive way.

He pointed to the need to preserve the specific features and charm of the city by working out proper designs for structures and landscaping in such a way

that the wonderful natural landscape of the country would be promoted, and said that the terraced apartment house area would wonderfully be built so that it can be a model of dwelling district in the country.

He said that the WPK Central Committee is going to directly push the construction of the riverside terraced apartment houses for 800 families apart from the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang, complete them

within this year and give them as gifts to working people including labour innovators and meritorious persons in all sectors and scientists, educators and writers who are devotedly serving the Party and the state.

As he looked at the formation plan of the new house area, he indicated the specific direction and tasks related to the construction plan.

KCNA

WPK General Secretary learns about trial products of new passenger buses



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the

DPRK, learned about trial products of new passenger buses.

Always being considerate of

public transport in the capital city, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un unfolded the far-

reaching plan for taking a decisive

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measure to improve public transport for Pyongyang citizens though he was busy guiding the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee, and made sure that detailed consultation was made on issues arising in the development of traffic network in the capital city.

In hearty response to the tasks set forth by Kim Jong Un, the officials and workers of the Pyongyang Municipal General Passenger

Service Enterprise and the Pyongyang Bus Factory developed a passenger bus and double-decker in a short time and reported it to the Party Central Committee.

Kim Jong Un saw the trial products of passenger buses at the office building of the Party Central Committee together with senior Party and government officials and chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK.

He got on the buses and learned about the details of their technical

specifications one by one. He said that it is admirable that Pyongyang Municipality set out to make buses by relying on its own technical force and production foundation and settle the problem of public transport means. Passenger buses that help beautify the city and are convenient for the people to use should be mass-produced, he said, noting that the Party would actively support it.

He emphasized that to ease the strain on passenger transport in the capital city and serve the

convenience for public transport of the citizens to the maximum is one of the fundamental issues for the administration of the capital city and it is of great significance in providing the people with better conditions for their social and cultural life.

Learning about the issues arising in the production of passenger buses, he indicated the production goal according to the year and took measures for attaining it.

KCNA

TEST-FIRE

Academy of Defence Science test-fires new type of tactical guided missiles

The DPRK Academy of Defence Science on Thursday test-fired a new type of tactical guided missiles which were newly developed.

The test was guided by Ri Pyong Chol, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials of the Department of Munitions Industry of the WPK Central Committee and leading officials in the defence science research sector.

The tactical guided missile is a weapon system whose warhead weight has been increased to 2.5 tons while using the core technology of already-developed tactical guided missile.

The two test-fired new-type tactical guided missiles accurately hit the target set in the waters 600 kilometres off the east coast of Korea.

Right after the test-fire, the Academy of Defence Science announced that the test-fire was very successful just as it had been confidently predicted, adding that the reliability of the improved version of solid fuel engine was confirmed through rounds of static firing tests of motor and their test-fire, and that the irregular orbit characteristics of low-altitude gliding leap type flight mode already applied to other guided missiles were also re-confirmed.

Ri Pyong Chol said that the test-fire is an important process in implementing the policy of national defence science set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK and that the development of the weapon system is of great significance in bolstering up military capabilities of the country



and deterring all sorts of military threats existing on the Korean peninsula.

He immediately reported on the successful result of the test-fire to the General Secretary of the WPK and conveyed the congratulations of the Party Central Committee to the defence science research sector.

KCNA

a field survey in detail and overfulfilled its tunnelling plan by 50 percent on a daily basis.

Afforestation in full swing

Tree planting is gaining momentum in the DPRK this spring.

According to Kim Jong Chol, staffer of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, the DPRK has newly created more than 1 million hectares of forests by planting billions of trees over the past five years.

20 percent every day.

The bureau has transported thousands of tons of more freight than planned so far in March.

New promising coalfield discovered

A coalfield with an estimated deposit of dozens of millions of tons has recently been found in the northern part of South Phyongan Province in the DPRK.

A research group from the geology institute of the State Academy of Sciences produced a scientific distribution chart of deep coal-beds in the course of intensive research into coal mines.

As a result, they discovered that there is a large coal deposit which is appropriate for development.

Nationwide

Power giant ramps up output

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex has been overfulfilling its daily production plan by 10 percent on average this March.

As it ensures a steady and high operational rate of the pulverizing system and rotary equipment, the complex has taken detailed steps to increase power output per generator.

Blasting offers prospect of increased cement output

The Manpho August 2 Cement Factory carried out a 100 000-cubic-metre blasting on March 17.

It completed a design to increase blasting efficiency in a short time after conducting

Railway bureau overfulfils daily plans

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau is carrying out its daily transport plans at 103 percent.

The Sunchon railway branch bureau is leading others, overfulfilling its quota by over

ANNIVERSARY

Kim Jong Un's visit to China boosts traditional bilateral friendship

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the People's Republic of China between March 25 and 28 2018 and met President Xi Jinping.

The news grabbed the world headlines as it was his first foreign and China tour.

The Chinese Party and state leaders welcomed the DPRK leader with the utmost sincerity.

Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and his entourage came out to the border town of Dandong, far away from the capital city, to welcome him and a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, the director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and others greeted him at Beijing Railway Station.

His motorcade passed through the streets of Beijing, escorted by a squadron of 21 motorcycles.

The top leaders of the two countries met at the Great Hall of the People for the first time and had an in-depth exchange of views on important issues.

Their meeting brimming with the feeling of friendship and comradeship clearly showed to the whole world the future of friendly relations between the two countries which would become brighter and more intimate.

The bilateral friendship has a long and valuable tradition

which was forged and developed by the older-generation leaders of the two countries.

The peoples of both countries became true friends in the joint struggle against imperialism and for achieving the cause of socialism.

It is the firm determination and will of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government to carry on the valuable tradition of the bilateral friendship and develop it onto a new high stage as required by the developing times.

Kim Jong Un's first visit to China was a historic occasion for laying the solid groundwork for handing down the tradition of bilateral friendship from generation to generation.

It helped strengthen the relations between the top leaders of the two countries and the two parties and build up the feeling of trust in each other.

The leaders of the two countries recently exchanged verbal messages to enhance strategic communication and comradeship with each other.

This year will mark the 60th anniversary of the conclusion of the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the DPRK and China. The fraternal and militant friendship between the two parties and peoples of the two countries will grow stronger in the face of the challenges and hardships of history.

By Om Ryong PT



Employees operate machines at the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

PAK KWANG HUN

DANCE

National dance undergoes constant development



A scene from Korean folk dance *Yangsando*.

A Korean traditional dance piece left the audience with a strong impression in the art performance given in celebration of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea last January.

With beautiful, delicate and soft movements performed in tune with lilting music, the all-male dance piece representing the pleasing sight of a sea of potatoes in Taehongdan fully demonstrated a new aspect of national dance and the charm of *janggo* dance with clear and nice turning steps.

In the DPRK, the best four dance pieces were created in the 1970s marking a new turning point in the national art of dance. The 13th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Pyongyang in 1989 was a showcase of the developed level of the Korean national dance.

In the 1980s, the alphabetic system of dance notation was created to contribute to the development of the country's art of dance.

"Korean dance puts the main stress on movements of arms

and naturally combines them with leg movements so that the whole body moves in a harmonious way. The unique appeal of today's Korean dance is the combination of traditional dance steps which are delicate, soft and beautiful with spiritual, vigorous and weighty movements," said Jon Yong Suk, 55, Merited Artiste and section chief of the National Folk Art Troupe.

The troupe spearheads the development of national art of dance.

It has renowned producers, musicians, singers and dancers, and many of them are winners of the titles of People's Artiste and Merited Artiste.

It created and staged dance *The Vast Expanse of Taehongdan* in the art performance in celebration of the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

"I love folk dance. Our Korean dance is plain, elegant and graceful. I am really proud of being a folk dancer," said Kim Ji Hwa, 25-year-old dancer of the National Folk Art Troupe who played the leading part in the dance piece.

By Min Chol PT

PROFILE

Teacher devotes herself to education of children



“There can be no satisfaction in education, and education should be updated constantly in keeping with developing reality.”

Jo Kwang Ok, headmistress of Undok Kindergarten in Phyongsong City

amusement room, rhythmic room, traffic safety education room, physical exercises room and wading pool.

"Our kindergarten has hosted hundreds of rounds of national demonstrations," said kindergarten teacher Ma Hyang Sim.

She added that all these successes are attributed to the unusual devotion of headmistress Jo Kwang Ok (pictured).

Jo has worked there as a kindergarten teacher since she was 26-year-old after graduating from Phyongsong Teachers Training College.

She was appointed as the

headmistress of newly-built Undok Kindergarten at the age of 31.

With the help of the city people's committee, she renovated educational conditions and environment of the kindergarten and paid much heed to improving teaching contents and methods as required by standards of modern educational development.

She collected lots of data related to the modernization of education and updated teaching aids in close collaboration with Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

She also encouraged the creativity of teachers to invent nearly 20 000 pieces of teaching aids and steadily introduced new teaching methods.

At present, teachers of the kindergarten are qualified to offer over four kinds of intelligent education, and won the title of October 8 model teacher at district, city and central levels.

There can be no satisfaction in education, and education should be updated constantly in keeping with developing reality, Jo Kwang Ok said.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Undok Kindergarten in Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province, is widely known for its up-to-date educational methods for children.

The kindergarten attracts the minds of children with the external view as its playground is covered with artificial turf with the background of its compound showing intelligent pictures representing seasons and animation pictures and other sporting facilities.

The three-storey kindergarten is furnished with multifunctional education rooms, general playroom, nature study room,

WELFARE

Health complex provides kind service for war veterans

The employees of the Undok Health Complex of the Taedonggang District Public Service Station in Pyongyang have been offering special service to war veterans for ten years.

The service facility consists of a bath, barber shop, beauty salon, massage room and laundry.

"Our good quality water and anion and far infrared sauna are a magnet for old people. So we decided to provide war veterans with special service," said Kim Jong Nyo, chief of the health complex.

They began to keep a special log and furnished an exclusive bathroom for the veterans to offer them free service.

"Our employees show them

great kindness. Bathkeepers sometimes give them a simple massage," said Kim.

Hairdressers and beauty artists provide them with free service and outreach service as well.

"We take it as our bounden duty to devote ourselves to war veterans," said beauty artist An Song Suk.

The visitors' book that appeared at the health complex at a time unknown continues to grow in volume as the veterans write down such words of thanks as "I am always thankful to the service workers for their sincere, kindred care" and "I have become a regular customer as I have grown fond of its employees".

By Ri Sung Ik PT

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Advanced treatment methods introduced into ophthalmology

The Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital has improved the operation method for children's congenital glaucoma.

The disease mainly occurs among children under 2 years and produces the mydriasis symptom to cause serious parosis.

In the past, operation on the eye for the illness was performed by way of cutting a related part of the eye and reducing intraocular pressure. But post-operative complications occurred as the method is based on incision.

The surgeons found out a highly-efficient operation method different from the previous one and carried out simulation operations repeatedly to perfect the surgical technique. Finally, they established a new advanced operation method for congenital glaucoma and successfully applied it to practice.

The method that has shortened the healing period and causes no complication has brought back eyesight to many children who were diagnosed as blind due to congenital eye diseases.

The hospital has also introduced a trabeculectomy



PT THE PYONGYANG TIMES
CHAE MYONG RIM
Medical workers of the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital test a child's eyesight.

using mitomycin to the treatment of the incurable disease of glaucoma. The method has a better post-operative effect than the previous method, relieves the pain of patients and remarkably lowers the relapse rate.

On the basis of successful 23-G vitreoretinal microsurgery requiring advanced technology, it has expanded the range of operation to treat various eye diseases accompanied by eyeball diminution or paropsis.

In addition, it injects a haemoendothelium growth factor repressor in the vitreous body in the treatment of retinal vein clausura, diabetic retinopathy and other medical diseases to boost efficiency.

By Pang Un Ju PT

RUSSIA

Nation works to ensure socio-political stability

Russia channels big efforts into protecting the security of the state and socio-political stability from various criminal acts like terrorism and extremism.

There was a council meeting of the Russian Federal Security Service in the presence of President Putin in late February.

At the meeting, the President said that some countries' enforcement of the so-called anti-Russia deterrence policy in the situation where terrorism, cross-border crimes, cybercrimes and other global challenges still persist constitutes a serious act of provocation geared to checking the country's development and creating internal instability. He stressed that protecting national sovereignty and interests from internal and

external threats, ensuring the security of residents and defending the rights of people make up constant primary tasks for the state leadership. He also referred to detailed tasks for the FSB including the issue of strengthening struggle against terrorism and extremism and reliably guaranteeing the security of the State Duma election slated for this year and ensuring the country's economic security and the safety of cyberspace.

In an enlarged council meeting of the Ministry of Interior in early March, he reviewed activities of internal security organs in 2020 and discussed tasks for this year. He also underlined the need to strengthen the struggle against crimes in the IT field, prevent illegal acts among residents, especially younger

generations, and ratchet up the struggle against extremism, economic crime, illegality and corruption and drug crime to a new height.

Last year, Russia achieved a series of successes in the combat against various kinds of crimes.

In 2020, Russia prevented 72 cases of terrorist crimes, which are 25 percent more than those of 2019, and members of internal security organs laid bare over 500 extremist crimes. According to the initiative of the Ministry of Interior, over 100 000 data sources of extremist character were blocked out and 7 500-odd data in the tendency of radicalism were cancelled.

And about 190 000 drug crimes were exposed, over 20 tons of drug that had been illegally circulated were

seized, activities of 87 criminal groups were terminated and about 10 000 members of organizational crime groups involved in murder, robbery, theft and others were arrested. Many successes were made in the defence of social security.

Meanwhile, efforts have been made to consolidate the material and technical foundations of law-enforcement organs including the Ministry of Interior and providing them with enough working conditions.

Russia additionally allocated 21.3 billion roubles to the Ministry of Interior in the 2021-2023 federal budget that was worked out recently and plans to improve legal and social protection levels for internal security officials.

By Song Jong Ho PT

WWD

Water resources need to be valued

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

The World Health Organization published statistics that half of the world population would suffer water shortage in 2025.

Water shortage poses a serious challenge to some countries due to rapid population growth and a rise in sea level and extreme

weather conditions resulting from climate change.

Worse still, water pollution gets more serious with each passing day largely because of economic activities of humankind accompanying environmental destruction.

Human existence is unthinkable without water.

Unfortunately, however, clean water resources are diminishing day by day and the quality of water in rivers and lakes fails to meet hygienic standards.

More and more countries are now striving to develop

advanced technologies including those of converting seawater into freshwater, extracting water from the air and minimizing the consumption of water on farms.

Positive efforts are being made to introduce sci-tech findings while focusing on information activities related to water saving.

The DPRK has legally stipulated the protection of water resources and taken a variety of measures to protect them and properly manage and use clean water resources.

March 22 is World Water

Day.

It is an annual observance focusing on the importance of freshwater.

A core focus of World Water Day is to raise awareness of the people living without access to safe water and take action to tackle the global water crisis. The UN intends to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

The theme for this year's WWD is "Valuing water".

By Min Chol PT

SPACE EXPLORATION

Nations step up space exploration programmes

Many countries are now directing efforts to the exploration of outer space.

South Africa launched a space rocket for trial on March 8.

In the test launch conducted by a state-run munitions company, the research group by far renewed the previous high-altitude flight record and measured the effective payloads needed for carrying the future space flying objects. It plans to develop a rocket capable of orbiting the earth at an altitude of 500km while carrying 200-500kg weights in the near future.

In 2009 the country started developing a hybrid rocket which can use liquid and solid fuels simultaneously as

propellants with the aerospace system research group of KwaZulu-Natal University as the mainstay.

Congratulating researchers on the successful test launch, the South African minister of higher education, science and innovation proudly said that it was a historic moment in the development of the country's space science and an epoch-making success that leads the development of rocket in the African continent.

China and Russia promote bilateral cooperation in the field of space science.

On March 9, the director of the Chinese state space administration and the general manager of the Russian state-run space-related

company Roscosmos held a videoconferencing signing ceremony and inked an MOU on cooperation in the establishment of an international moon science station on behalf of the governments of the two countries.

They said China and Russia aim to intensify cooperation in scientific research and push ahead with a programme for peaceful research into and use of outer space, adding they would positively work together to build an international moon science station.

The peaceful space programmes will gain momentum with the passage of time.

By Om Ryong PT

WHO uneasy about health crisis situation

The World Health Organization on March 17 expressed concern over the rapid increase in the number of people infected with COVID-19.

Over three million people were newly confirmed to have contracted the pandemic disease in a week between March 8 and 14, it said, adding it was a 10 percent increase over that the week before.

More than 80 percent of the newly infected and the dead during the last three weeks were in the Americas and Europe, especially Brazil, the US and France, it noted.

Briefly

Russia

President underscores need to combat wrongdoings

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that prosecutors should wage a positive struggle against illegalities as he pointed out the faults that were revealed last year at the enlarged council meeting of the supreme procurators' office on March 17.

Officials of the organs for ensuring law observance should make sure that laws are not broken in the course of implementing strategic national plans and strictly punish such violations, he noted.

Cuba

President stresses necessity to develop agroecology

Referring to the need to develop agroecology, Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, in a recent meeting with officials of the agricultural sector, said that it is required to shorten the period of drawing up and executing a policy on this.

It is important to make the most of science and technology in resolving knotty problems in agriculture, he said.

CIS

Foreign ministers reject foreign interference and pressure

The foreign ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States countries published a joint statement on March 19 to express their concern over the frequent unilateral pressure measures on other states against international law.

It is intolerable for individual states to put economic pressure on other countries or coerce them, the statement said.

Such steps are clear examples showing their double standards, it said, asserting any acts against international law should not be allowed.

The foreign ministers of Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed the joint statement.

Palestine

Israel's territorial seizure move censured

The spokesman for the Palestinian presidential office issued a statement on March 17 to call on the international community to check Israel's move to expand Jewish settlements, which jeopardizes "two states solution".

The statement came after the Israeli court recently decided to demolish 100 blocks of Palestinian dwellings in East al-Quds and its vicinity and confiscate dozens of others.

MARTIAL ART

International Taekwon-Do Federation 55 years on



DPRK players stand on the winner's rostrum with a national flag in their hands in Bulgaria in 2019.

March 22 this year marked the 55th anniversary of the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF).

The ITF, which has been faithful to the ideal of Taekwon-Do, has now developed into a world martial art organization involving tens of millions of Taekwon-Doists on the earth.

It was formed on March 22 1966 with an eye to increasing national Taekwon-Do associa-

tions in many countries and regions in the wake of the formation of national associations in nine countries including Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore in early 1966.

The first congress of the ITF elected Choe Hong Hui as its first president and approved its constitution, flag, recognition plaque and logo.

After its establishment, the federation worked hard to spread Taekwon-Do worldwide as it

arranged technical workshops and demonstrations around the world.

Choe Hong Hui brought out the 15-volume Taekwon-Do encyclopedia in 1985.

The first Taekwon-Do world championship took place in Montreal, Canada, in 1974 with pattern, sparring, forte and power breaking as their events under the sponsorship of the federation. Since then on, world championship

has been held on a regular basis, propelling the global development of Taekwon-Do techniques.

The federation elected Jang Ung, member of the International Olympic Committee, as its second president on September 22 2002 and added the veteran event and male and female self-defence events to the championship in 2004 so that they would be initiated from the 6th junior Taekwon-Do world championships.

The Taekwon-Do demonstration, which is run in many countries and regions, has raised its international position and popularity.

At present, the third ITF president is Ri Yong Son, who was executive director general of the federation and vice-chairman of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee.

The federation's major goal is to further enhance its status on the international arena while building up a close connection with the International Olympic Committee and other international organizations.

It now involves 128 national Taekwon-Do associations.

The DPRK organized Taekwon-Do demonstration teams on nearly 100 occasions over the past 30 years to dispatch them to different countries and regions, thereby powerfully propelling the worldwide dissemination of Taekwon-Do and the technical development of national Taekwon-Do associations.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



Successive presidents



Choe Hong Hui, the first president of the International Taekwon-Do Federation elected at its First Congress on March 22 1966.



Jang Ung, the second president of the ITF elected at its Special Congress on September 22 2002.



Ri Yong Son, the third president of the ITF elected at its 25th Congress on August 26 2015.

WORKSHOP

Technical workshop highlights 55th ITF anniversary celebrations



The Taekwon-Do Hall hosts a technical workshop on the occasion of the 55th founding anniversary of the ITF.

A three-day workshop on Taekwon-Do techniques was held at the Taekwon-Do Hall from March 22 to 24 to mark the 55th anniversary of the International Taekwon-Do Federation.

It drew the chairman of the ITF games committee, officials of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, players and coaches of the Taekwon-Do team and instructors

of the Taekwon-Do instructors' corps.

After the workshop was over, the participants visited the grave of Choe Hong Hui, former president of the ITF, in the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Sinmi-ri and the Taekwon-Do Holy House.

KCNA

OLYMPIC

DPRK Olympic Committee meets for 2021 session

The 2021 session of the DPRK Olympic Committee took place in Pyongyang on March 25.

It was attended by members of the committee and officials in the sports and relevant sectors.

The meeting which was held in the form of video-conference reviewed last year's work of the DPRK Olympic Committee and discussed the orientation of this year's work.

Kim Il Guk, chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee who is concurrently minister of Physical Culture and Sports, delivered a report, followed by other speakers.

They said that the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee specified tasks and ways in detail to make the DPRK rank among advanced sports nations.

Successes were made last year in the efforts to develop



The 2021 session of the DPRK Olympic Committee is held in Pyongyang on March 25.

professional sports techniques and put the techniques of sporting events on a scientific basis, and cooperation with international sports organizations was boosted, they said.

They stressed the need to continuously increase the number of medals obtained in international games and stoke up the enthusiasm for sports

across the country in the period of the new five-year plan.

The meeting discussed practical matters arising in laying foundations for developing professional sports techniques this year and briskly organizing and conducting mass sports activities.

