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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un meets s. Korean presidential envoy

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, met a south Korean presidential mission in Pyongyang on March 5.

The mission consisted of special envoy Jong Ui Yong, chief of the national security office of the Blue House; So Hun, director of the national intelligence service; Chon Hae Song, vice-minister of unification; Kim Sang Gyun, assistant director of the national intelligence service; and Yun Kon Yong, chief of the national administration situation office of the Blue House.

Present at the meeting were Kim Yong Chol, vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, and Kim Yo Jong, first deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un shook hands with the special envoy and each of his entourage and warmly welcomed their Pyongyang visit.

Special envoy Jong Ui Yong courteously conveyed south Korean President Moon Jae In's personal letter to the Supreme Leader.

Members of the mission expressed their gratitude to the Supreme Leader for sending a high-level delegation and other large-scale contingents to south Korea on the occasion of the 23rd Winter Olympics so as to help make it successful.

The Supreme Leader expressed appreciation in return. It is quite natural to rejoice in and join



the celebrations of the fellow countrymen who share the same bloodline, he said, adding that the recent Winter Olympics served as a very important occasion in demonstrating the spirit and prestige of the Korean nation at home and abroad and creating an atmosphere favourable to reconciliation, unity and dialogue between the north and south.

He shared candid views with the south Korean delegation on improving inter-Korean relations positively and ensuring peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

He repeatedly affirmed that it is the DPRK's consistent and principled stand and his own firm will to make concerted efforts to advance the inter-Korean relationship vigorously and open a new chapter for national reunification to win admiration of the world.

He was told by the special envoy about Moon Jae In's intention related to an inter-Korean summit and exchanged views about it before reaching the full consensus.

He gave crucial instructions to a relevant sector to take immediate practical measures in this regard.

He also shared views in depth on easing the acute military tension on the peninsula and promoting a wide range of dialogue, contact, cooperation and exchange between the north and south.

The talk proceeded in a fraternal and sincere atmosphere.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un posed for a photograph with the south Korean mission.

He hosted a dinner in honour of the south Korean guests in Pyongyang on the same day.

By PT staff reporter

SOLIDARITY

World TU federation supports Koreans' efforts

The World Federation of Trade Unions strongly urged the US to cancel its anachronistic anti-DPRK policy and respond to the call for striking a peace accord with the DPRK as early as possible, well aware of the trend of the times and reality, according to a solidarity resolution on the DPRK which was adopted on February 27 in Iran at a meeting of the

Presidential Council of the WFTU.

The resolution called for putting a full stop to the US-led joint military drills that are responsible for the volatile Korean peninsula situation, withdrawing US troops and nuclear war equipment from south Korea and stopping the sanctions and pressure campaign against the DPRK which it says

is illegal and illegitimate.

It expressed belief that the Korean nation would join efforts to improve inter-Korean relations and open up the road to independent reunification.

It sincerely called on its membership and friendly organizations to extend full solidarity to the Korean working people in their efforts to celebrate the 70th anniversary of their country as a grand festival of victors by launching a revolutionary general offensive to achieve fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country.

Compiled from KCNA

STATEMENT

US preconditioned negotiations rejected

"It is a consistent and principled stand of the DPRK to seek a diplomatic and peaceful solution of issues through dialogue and negotiations," the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman said on March 3.

Such a statement came as the US has negatively responded to the DPRK's approach to bilateral dialogue, saying it would not negotiate with north Korea

without proper conditions and it would wait and see if the latter is willing to abandon its nuclear and missile programme.

The DPRK seeks such dialogue through which relevant parties can discuss and settle the issues of mutual concern on an equal footing, the spokesman told KCNA.

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LEADING ARTICLE

People's demands vital to government's activities

Guided by the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism which is consistent with the people-first principle and built with the broad segments of the working people including workers, farmers and intellectuals as the socio-political foundation, the DPRK regards it as the criteria for its activities to champion and meet the demands and interests of the people.

The progressive nature, solidity, existence and development of a state hinge on how much it values the demands and interests of the people, the driving force of history.

As the masses of the people are the basis in forming a state, it should naturally set it as the criteria for its activities to attach importance to their demands and interests and work to put them into reality.

A state which sets up the broad masses of the people as masters of government and works to meet their demands and interests wins public support and trust and prospers for ever, but it falls forsaken by them if it fails to do so—this is the truth which has been confirmed by history.

The DPRK views it as the fundamental issue decisive of the success in consolidating the socialist state system and building socialism to champion and bring into practice the public demands and interests and works hard to do so.

It is the primary undertaking of the DPRK to set forth and implement the policies reflecting their opinion by strictly applying the politics of the Workers' Party of Korea of valuing, respecting and loving the people to state activities.

The DPRK prioritizes and absolutizes public demands and interests, ensures that all people take an active part in the exercise of sovereignty and state governance and enjoy a high level of political life with equal capacity and rights and legally guarantees their position as masters of government. It has also set it as the supreme principle of its activities to steadily improve the wellbeing of the people and enforced many popular policies comprehensively including free education and free medical care systems under the slogan "We serve the people!" to ensure that all of them learn and work to their heart's content and enjoy rich cultural and emotional life in good health, and

responsibly provides them with all necessary conditions and environment for their living.

And it has a policy of zero tolerance for encroachment on the interests of the people or for lording it over them by abusing power and practising bureaucracy, and intensifies legal control over all manner of practices against their demands and interests to ensure social stability and order and strictly protect their personal safety and security.

Therefore, the Korean people have sacrificed their all for the prosperity of the socialist country in both happy and grim years. Today they unsparingly shed their sweat and blood in the battlefields for anti-imperialist and anti-US showdown and the workplaces for the building of a powerful socialist country.

This is the unique looks of the DPRK, a genuine country of the people and a people-centred socialist state which regards the masses of the people as the most valuable and powerful beings in the world and sets it as the criterion for its activities to champion and meet their demands and interests.

Bright and rosy is the future of the DPRK which has set "The people are my God" idea, the lifelong motto of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, as the basic ideal of state-building and the starting point of the state activities and ensures the dignity and value of the people by administering the politics of love and trust.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

CELEBRATION

Women celebrate international women's day

March 8 International Women's Day was celebrated in the DPRK.

The 108th international holiday was highlighted by a national meeting at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on March 8.

The meeting was addressed by Choe Hwi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

He described the Korean women's movement as a Juche-oriented movement which was pioneered by President Kim Il Sung and which traversed an admirable road of development under the wise leadership of the President and Chairman Kim Jong Il, and highly praised them for having established the brilliant tradition of the Korean women's movement and performed undying exploits.

At present, the Korean women's movement of Juche is at the highest level of its development, he said, referring to the energetic guidance Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has provided to bolster up the work of the women's union in line with the requirements of the new era of the Juche revolution.

Saying that the movement has advanced along the road of victory as a revolutionary, militant movement for

decades under the wise leadership of the peerlessly great persons of Mt Paektu, he pointed to the course of heroic struggle of women who worked hard devoting their all to the victory of the revolution and prosperity of the country in every period of the revolution.

"Today, the Korean women are rendering distinguished services in the building of a powerful socialist country by carrying forward the tradition of heroic struggle and collective innovation, holding the Supreme Leader in high esteem. The current reality of our society forming a large harmonious socialist family is unthinkable apart from the noble virtues and infinite devotion of our women who find the true worth of their life in dedicating themselves to society and collective and in bringing up their children to be service personnel and builders of socialism," he said.

He called on all the women to give full play to their heroic spirit in the all-out, general

offensive to achieve fresh victories on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country in this significant year of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK.

The Korean women will continue to bolster up solidarity with the world's progressive women and their organizations aspiring after independence as they hold aloft the banner of independence, peace and friendship, he said, adding they will give positive encouragement to women of all countries in the just struggle for their dignity and rights and global peace and security.

Women's union officials and members got together at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on March 5 for a three-day sports and amusement game.

The event drew more than 300 players from Pyongyang and provinces and they played such games as volleyball, *yut* (four-stick) and leg-tied race.

By Jong Tang Song PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Women workers at the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory feel proud of having overfulfilled their production targets.

INSPECTION

Premier inspects local industrial establishments



KCNA

Premier Pak Pong Ju inspects the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, made a survey trip to industrial establishments in North Hamgyong Province including the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, Musan Mining Complex, Chongjin Steel Works and Puryong Ferroalloy Factory.

During his tour of the major players of the provincial metallurgical industry, he encouraged the officials and workers who are working to lead the way in building a powerful socialist country.

At consultative meetings, he stressed the need to boost the iron production by improving the Juche iron- and steel-making technologies and discussed how to put iron ore production of the Musan Mining Complex on a normal track.

He also looked round the Chongjin Theatre which is under construction and discussed how to complete the project as soon as possible at the highest level.

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ECONOMY

Industrial sectors see tangible achievements

Various economic sectors are now registering fresh achievements after fulfilling the February plans.

The metallurgical industry is making innovations in production.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex has increased pig iron production for over 40 days since it produced the first molten iron with locally available raw and other materials at the oxygen blast furnace in January. The Chongjin Steel Works is now pushing ahead with the reconstruction of the mixing ground for the revolving furnace, one of the Juche iron production processes. After developing various kinds of ferroalloy in recent years, the Puryong Ferroalloy Factory has succeeded in developing another ferroalloy with local resources 100 percent.

Unnyul, Jaeryong and other mines in the metallurgical industry also bring about an

upsurge in the production of iron ore by raising the rate of operation of equipment and introducing a new technology to make the most of the existing production conditions.

The Chongchongang Thermal Power Station has developed a technical and economic indices analysis program, providing a guarantee for improving technical indices of every process and far reducing the consumption of coal.

The Hochongang Power Station generates much electricity every day while ensuring highly efficient operation of equipment and rational distribution of load. The Sunchon Thermal Power Station produces more electricity than the same period of last year by operating generating equipment at full capacity.

The Kim Chaek, Chongjin, Soho and other fishery stations are increasing the catch of fish

by inventing various fishing implements and carrying on mobile fishing operations.

The Pyongyang Automation Appliances Factory and others under the Ministry of Electronics Industry concentrate on domestic production of equipment and raw materials and development of new products to increase the production of electronic equipment needed for different economic sectors and major projects. In particular, the Saenal Electrical Appliances Factory is increasing the production of motors and other parts needed for the manufacturing of new-type tractors, lorries and trolley buses.

Major construction projects are also being pushed forward.

The project for the establishment of C1 chemical industry is progressing apace in the Sunchon Chemical Complex including the assembly and concrete work of oxygen plant and the construction of pumping station of circulating water.

Builders of the Tanchon Power Station carried out the excavation of 92 000 cubic metres of earth and rock, concrete tamping of over 2 600 cubic metres and tunnelling of over 5 500 metres for working pits and 1 400-odd metres for main pits in two months alone.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



KCNA

Workers give finishing touches to the products at the Mangyongdae Aeguk Aluminum Window Sash Factory.

PRODUCTION

Brewery makes beer with wheat

The Taedonggang Brewery has recently unveiled wheat beer.

Also called "white beer", it is somewhat different from ordinary beer made from barley.

It is frothy and has a unique fragrance of yeast and tastes.

As yeast is not filtered, it is opaque, coming in dark and light colours.

Once you get a taste for wheat beer, its lingering tang will never get out of your head, said a beer lover.

In keeping with the world trend that demand for wheat beer is on the rise, the Taedonggang Brewery launched into its development late last year.

The technical personnel directed primary efforts to

selecting appropriate yeasts in order to improve the yeast culturing method and scientifically fixed the mixing ratio of wheat, barley and other raw materials in line with the features of aroma generation and fermentation degree, while finding out the optimum brewing conditions.

The wheat beer is mellow in flavour and light in colour.

It is now on sale at communal amenities in Pyongyang, favoured by many.

"Taedonggang beer has already become

a household name and it finds its way to world markets. Like



KIM YUN HYOK

Bottled wheat beer rolls off the production line at the Taedonggang Brewery.

FARMING

Efforts made to secure irrigation water

Efforts are being made throughout the country to secure enough irrigation water for farming.

North Hwanghae Province has finished the repair of all groundwater tapping facilities in a short time and secured over 1.7 times more water than planned by filling reservoirs with snow and rain water.

South Hwanghae Province has rounded off the construction project involving over 10 000 underground water facilities and the clearing of some 5 800-km-long waterways. Despite adverse weather conditions, Ongjin and Pongchon counties are pushing at the final stage the construction of two reservoirs which will supply water to a large area of fields.

Jongju City and Yomju, Ryongchon, Cholsan and other counties of North Phyongan Province have built a 10-odd-kilometre-long waterway to ensure a sufficient supply of

water to the places suffering from salt damage and water scarcity, expanded and cleared waterways to raise their water carrying capacity, and wound up the repair of pumping facilities for irrigation in a short time.

Cities and counties in South Phyongan Province, especially Phyongsong and Jungsan, Taedong, Phyongwon and Mundok counties, have stored enough water in scores of reservoirs by taking advantage of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong Waterway.

Over 19 000 wells, pools, tube-wells and other underground facilities have so far been expanded, repaired or rebuilt throughout the country, with a total of over 17 400 kilometres of waterways cleared. Over two times more pumping facilities have been repaired as compared to the same period of last year.

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PRODUCT

Multirole power protector developed

Scientists of the Physics Department of Kim Il Sung University have developed an advanced multirole three-phase power protector, which can monitor and protect equipment using three-phase power sources.

Troubles in the supply of three-phase power may cause grave consequences in the management and operation of equipment.

Research and development have been done worldwide to protect equipment or appliances from over- and low-voltage, single phase and phase change. Multirole three-phase power protectors are now available.

Korean researchers sought to develop a three-phase power protector to suit the world trend and local practical conditions and intensified research to raise the economic and technical effects to the maximum.

In the course of this, they developed a new technology for carrying out various protection functions by measuring voltage and phase simultaneously in the three-phase power line, a breakthrough in making the protector with low production cost. They went on to find out a way to correctly judge and automatically protect normal and abnormal voltages in the supply of three-phase power.

The new protector boasts visual effect in display, simplicity in operation and stability in performance.

The high-tech product has a wide range of input voltage and frequency operation and integrates various protection functions including that of over- and low-voltage, frequency, single phase and phase change. And any protection function can be set by the users.

white rice beer, porter and other beers, our wheat beer will soon enjoy popularity," said Han Hyong Chol, head of the quality control section.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

PROJECT

Provincial waterway project makes headway

The second-stage waterway project is being pushed ahead in South Hwanghae Province.

The project for building an 80-odd-km-long gravity-fed waterway is designed to irrigate tens of thousands of hectares of paddies and dry fields. It will help save dozens of pumping facilities and tens of thousands of kW for pumping electricity and produce tens of thousands of tons of more cereals. It will be also helpful to flood prevention in the Ryesong River basin and landscaping.

Various works of construction go as planned despite cold weather.

Lots of methods and technical innovation plans have been introduced to raise construction speed and quality.

Builders speeded up tunnelling remarkably by applying rational drilling and blasting methods to ten tunnelling sites which are

over a dozen kilometres long in total length. A variety of tunnelling methods helped raise the tunnelling speed two times more than the previous period even in different rock quality conditions.

Other efficient construction methods have also been introduced into structure

construction sites to increase the lifetime of concrete structures and save building materials. They included electricity-free concrete vibrating compactor, intake tower control room construction using precast floor and reinforcing bar-free inverted siphon making.



KIM JONG HUN

The second-stage waterway project in South Hwanghae Province progresses apace.

Builders increase the proportion of work done by machines by ensuring the full operation of hundreds of vehicles. They set up repair and maintenance bases at workplaces to ensure the normal operation of all vehicles and machines including dump cars, hydraulic shovels, excavators and bulldozers.

Preparation works are now underway to push the construction of hundreds of structures as temperatures rise.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

In brief

Prizes won at int'l circus fest

The gold elephant prize was awarded to the DPRK's stunts "Swinging Board and Horizontal Bar" and "Cable Walking" and the silver elephant prize to "Handstand Perching" at the 7th Gold Elephant Prize International Circus Festival, which was held in Spain between February 22 and 26.

The three pieces also won the popularity prize.

Friendship get-together

A friendly gathering with aged women was held at the Taedonggang Diplomatic Club on March 6.

It brought together Choe Il Hong, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged, relevant officials, senior citizens, women from foreign embassies and country offices of international organizations in Pyongyang and home-visiting overseas Korean women.

Speakers praised the government policy of protecting the aged and told about the pride of the old people who are dedicating their intelligence and passion to building a powerful socialist country.

The participants saw a video and photos showing the elderly enjoying the public affection and respect under the advantageous social system.



Vessels out for fishing

The Hanchon, Kamapho and Phyongwon fishery stations on the west coast have launched this year's first fishing.

At meetings fishermen expressed their resolve to make big hauls by creating a strong atmosphere of scientific fishing in this third year of implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development.

The 2018 socialist emulation programme was issued at the events.

Farm machines leave for fields



A meeting took place on Kwangbok Street in Pyongyang on March 6. Farms in Mangyongdae District have finished repair and maintenance of their tractors and trucks as part of spring preparations for farming.

After the meeting, 80hp Chollima-804 tractors and other vehicles left for farm fields.

That day, there was a show of medium and small-sized farm implements provided by local industrial establishments and residents.

production.

The farm also bought a highly active strain and maintained the activity of spores with the help of a spore activity preservation technology based on paraffin filming method to increase the mushroom yield.

It reduced the production costs of *Pleurotus eryngii* by using a new mushroom substrate nutrition additive, Kumgang 1, developed by the Central Mushroom Research Institute, instead of rice bran.

Unlike other mushrooms, it needs much rice bran and grain flour so it costs high to produce *Pleurotus eryngii*.

Rice bran is widely used as a nitrogen supplement. But when Kumgang 1 is used, dozens of kinds of mineral and rare earth elements which are contained in Kumgang medicinal stone, the main ingredient of the additive, provide favourable conditions for the absorption of nitrogen by the fungi and enhance their physiological and biochemical functions. As a result, it enables the farm to mass-produce tasty mushrooms with less costs.

The main products are *Pleurotus eryngii* and *Agaricus subfunereus* and they are supplied to the baby home, orphanage and residents of Nampho.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

Mushroom farm puts production on industrial basis

People began to use mushrooms as a foodstuff about 30 000 years ago as they are rich in protein and have unique tastes.

The Korean ancestors also grew them for food long ago.

Mushrooms are a must for such traditional Korean foods as *sinsollo* (a dish in cooking brazier), *chogyethang* (a vinegar-flavoured dish) and *jongol* (a meat stew).

A modern mushroom farm can be found in each

province.

The Nampho Municipal Mushroom Farm is one of them.

It is located in the suburbs of the city to suit the physiological features of the edible fungi which demand fresh air.

All production processes are automated from the grinding of raw materials to substrate moulding, sterilization, inoculation and cultivation and there are several blocks of indoor

and outdoor cultivation grounds.

The farm produces mushrooms on a normal footing even in adverse winter conditions.

It is crucial in mushroom production to provide proper light, temperature, humidity, oxygen and pH value. But it is difficult to do it in winter.

So the farm concentrated on establishing a power-saving production system that suits its specific conditions. It purchased several diesel generators while carefully staggering production hours to save fuel and supply enough power for production.

The technical personnel acclimatized spores of a good strain and introduced a new substrate nutrition additive to increase



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Mushroom growers gather a rich harvest at the Nampho Municipal Mushroom Farm.

By Yang Ryon Hui PT

MEDICAL SERVICE

Hospital makes medical appliances

The health workers of the composite traumatic surgery of the Hamhung Orthopaedic Hospital are making a good job of treatment of open fracture patients.

The secret of success is claimed to be their proactive efforts to develop advanced medical devices.

One of them is an articulate external fixation device which is widely used in the treatment of open fractures.

Previously, it usually took over a year to recover from such injuries and more time for large wounds or comminuted fractures.

A long period of confinement induces depression and consequent lack of exercise damages health and even causes disability.

To shorten the period of treatment and recovery was absolutely essential. The doctors of the surgery held a consultative

meeting in July last year.

They discussed new solutions, with the unanimous understanding that existing methods were impossible to shorten the time.

In the discussion, Kwak Jang Chol proposed improving the external fixation device by increasing its distance control ability and degree of freedom so as to simultaneously treat inflammations on lesions and reset fractured bones.

His suggestion was accepted as a most rational plan, and a research team was formed with Kwak as chief.

But it was difficult to develop the new device while going on with medical service.

After repeated failure, they managed to make the articulate external fixation device with 360 degrees of freedom which can adjust the nailing points at will.

The device proved efficient

when it was applied to treatment of patients with big wounds and various fractures.

It is simple in structure and convenient for surgeons to use, lightening the burden on patients during operations and halving the period of treatment and recovery as compared to previously.

Shortly afterwards, the developers completed an optimum operation method using the device by drawing on the achievements and experience they gained through clinical practice.

The medical appliance was highly appreciated at the 7th national medical appliances exhibition and the 17th national sci-tech achievement exhibition in the health sector and the operation method was praised at the 33rd national traumatic and orthopaedic symposium held in August last year.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

HEALTH

Academy develops effective health foods

The Academy of Health and Food Science has recently developed *Tagetes erecta lutein*, *Saussurea syringin*, blueberry ursolic acid and other efficient health foods by using natural medicinal materials.

Tagetes erecta lutein has a special efficacy in improving eyesight and curing and preventing macular degeneration and cataract.

A pigment differentially distributed in the yellow spot of omentum, lutein helps protect eyes by absorbing blue rays which are detrimental to eyes, and other physiological activators deal with the contraction and atonic troubles of musculus ciliaris in eyeballs, promote the resynthesis of rhodopsin and cure capillary circulation disorders to check amblyopia and relieve eye fatigue.

Tagetes erecta lutein which is made with extracts from *Tagetes erecta* and other natural foodstuffs can improve eyesight by 0.2 on average when those who get their eyes fatigued, reading books on screen and in print and driving and suffer from xerophthalmia and amblyopia take the health food for two or three months.

It is good for the treatment and prevention of macular degeneration with high risk of losing eyesight, cataract and retinal diseases including diabetic retinopathy and hypertensive retinopathy.

Saussurea syringin is very

effective in the treatment of acute and chronic glomerulonephritis and other symptoms caused by it.

Glomerulonephritis is known as a dangerous disease with high mortality as the contraction rate of the disease is comparatively high and the disease may cause disability when it develops into chronic one.

The product proves effective in the prevention and treatment of acute and chronic glomerulonephritis since it removes abnormal symptoms of immunocompetence and promotes the filtering function of glomeruli renis to lower protein contents in urine and increase the amount of urine. It is also effective in lowering hypertension caused by glomerulonephritis.

A clinical test showed that the health food reduced lumbago, edema, number of red cells in urine and the protein content in urine more than 90 percent, and the patients witnessed the rise of urine amount after ten days of its application and return to normalcy in 20 days. It is very effective for the cases who are suffering from hypertension caused by glomerulonephritis.

Blueberry ursolic acid is a harmonious mixture of natural physiological activators like ursolic acid good for anti-inflammation, antibiosis, antioxidation and immunoenhancement. It is specially efficacious for preventing the generation of

hydrogen sulfide, a substance causing mouth odour, repressing the multiplication of germs such as bacteria of dental caries and parodontitis, and curing mucitis.

According to a clinical result, 1-2 pills of the blueberry ursolic acid were enough to remove mouth odour for about three hours, and the application of the pills twice a day for ten days cleared away mouth odour caused by parodontitis and remarkably reduced the formation of dental plaque. Indisposition in the throat also disappeared, as well as the reduction of the outbreak of such upper respiratory diseases as cold and sore throat.

Blueberry ursolic acid is two times more effective in removing mouth odour than Rio which is dosed to prevent dental plaque and caries and remove mouth odour.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



Health foods made from medicinal herbs by the Academy of Health and Food Science.

PROFILE

Putting success down to faith and conscience

Recently there was the 15th award ceremony of February 16 Science and Technology Prize at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang.

People lavished praise on the prize winners and asked them about what the secret of success was. A scientist answered: "Perspiration and result are in direct proportion to each other. For scientists faith is more important. Firm faith is the source of unlimited energy."

He was Ryang Ji Song (pictured), a 48-year-old researcher at the IT Institute of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

He had already shown his brilliance in his childhood. His father was a renowned PhD in mathematics. Under his influence Ryang cultivated a dream of becoming a world-renowned mathematician.

After graduating from senior middle school, he enrolled at the Basics Department (Department of Applied Mathematics at present) of Kim Chaek University of Technology. Under the guidance of authoritative professors he delved into the world of applied mathematics widening his horizons of knowledge.

"Knowledge and common sense are two different things. Scientific research which is not based on correct notion and knowledge is like building a castle on sand," his father told him.

After building a solid groundwork of basic science in a short time, Ryang completed a PhD thesis during his university years to the surprise of his peers. After graduation he obtained his doctorate in mathematics in his twenties.

"Perspiration is not a companion of indolence. It is not sweat that drips in a moment, but the wheel of a cart which struggles up a high pass."

This is his motto he found during his 20-odd-year-long scientific pursuit.

It is his creed that even though



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

there is ageing in the activities of human body, there should not be ageing in passion and efforts of a scientist.

Therefore, whenever university officials asked him to work as the dean of his own department and director of an institute, he declined them all.

As he was a fiery enthusiast with a resolute scientific faith, and a man with upright personality traits who put his heart and soul into scientific pursuit, he finally established a new principle and method for developing and introducing a complete information preservation and transformation system based on compressed expression of objects with finite structure, a focus of worldwide attention in mathematics.

He is not only a talented scientist. He is a good educator who has trained dozens of doctors including Choe Song Chol, the first student PhD in the country.

"Read a book again and again, though you are a genius. Only then, can you taste the knowledge in it," he often told his students.

Thanks to his exact demands and self-sacrificing efforts, his students became passionate scientists and full-fledged talents who play pivotal role in the campaign to break through the cutting edge at the forefront.

In high recognition of his faithful and pure-hearted scientific research and education the government presented him with a house on Mirae Scientists Street, awarded a February 16 Science and Technology Prize, the top honour for Korean scientists, and put him forward as a top scientist of 2017.

The researcher's stance as a pioneer in the country's mathematics still remains unchanged even today.

Today he devotes his time and energy to the education of younger generations and development of advanced technology in his major subject.

By Jong Tang Song PT

FINE ART

Festival highlights sketch development

The 7th national sketch festival was recently held in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star at the Pyongyang International House of Culture.

The ten-odd-day festival exhibited more than 500 pieces of sketches and drew thousands of visitors.

Overflowing with yearning

What drew special attention of visitors were those pictures reflecting the Korean people's growing yearning for Chairman Kim Jong Il.

"Thought of General Kim Jong Il", "First Snow on the Road to the Frontline" and "Lake Chon on Mt Paektu", in particular, wonderfully portrayed their immense reverence for the Chairman who had dedicated all his life to the country and people to lay the eternal foundation for the building of a thriving nation.

An eye-catcher was pencil drawing "Yearning" by Hwang Yong Sik, teacher at Sinuiju Art School.

A woman fruit farmer portrayed in a limited space

sheds tears of yearning as she is so eager to show the Chairman their unprecedentedly bumper crop of fruits. The simple yet lifelike work impressively represents the Koreans' sincere and ardent loyalty to their great leader.

Reflection of stirring reality

By dint of original drawing techniques many participants truthfully depicted the Koreans' patriotism, wonderful structures built up in the DPRK which is advancing by leaps and bounds full of youthful vigour, and their worthwhile life.

Highly appreciated works included "Lights in Ryomyong Street", "Laughter of Happiness", "Pacesetters of the Times" and "Migok Plain Bustling with General Offensive".

These works were created by an ordinary teacher and worker and other amateurs.

The drawings done with original master strokes brimming over with vigour, passion and will were almost on a par with those done

by professionals. They are moderate yet strikingly novel as they fully reflect the deep speculation about life, diligent quest and profound thoughts and feelings.

The fine works of art lovers showcased the high level of cultural attainments and artistic talents of ordinary people.



Young people look at the pictures on display in the 7th national sketch festival.

PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Good prospects

The festival was made more conspicuous by young talents.

Among the incredible pencil drawings were "Where Shall I Go?" and "When I Grow Up" drawn by Jo Ryong Gwon, a boy at Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju, and "My Dream" by Jon Wi Phyeong at Changgwang Kindergarten in Pyongyang. Primary and junior and senior middle schoolers also flaunted their artistic talents in their works by giving a true-to-life portrayal of their life with novel ideas, witty delineation and unique techniques. They included "Joy of First School Attendance",

"Cheerful Sledging", "I'll Fly in the Sky, Too", "New Scenes on Masik Pass" and "Skiing Camping".

Pencil drawing "Flower in the Sky" by Kim Ok Hyang at Namsan Senior Middle School in Sunan District, Pyongyang, made a deep impression on the jury and other viewers. In her picture she depicted a beaming woman with polished skills and original idea mirroring her dream to become a jet pilot.

Experts admired the young painters' accurate capturing of features of subjects and great power of depiction.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

URBAN SERVICE

Bike-sharing adds beauty to metropolitan city

People riding brightly-coloured bikes along Kwangbok Street present an unusual scene in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

Small yet cosy stations with blue roofs are seen in several places of the street, with lines of cute bicycles arranged and people bustling especially at rush hours.

They are part of service centres run by the Pyongyang bike-sharing company.

This year the company has

started the bike rental service.

An online service management system, the bike-sharing system is expected to be one of the favoured public traffic service systems.

Customers need to buy cards to hire bikes at any of the stations.

They can pass the cards through card readers at any stations, input passwords to unlock the bikes and use them. They pay fees when they return them to any of the stations.

Bike-sharing is an environment-friendly and energy-saving service that suits the local conditions as it helps reduce urban pollution by vehicles and save fuel.

The stations generate electricity needed for service activities by utilizing solar energy.

"Bike-sharing is widely adopted by many countries as part of global efforts to reduce pollution," said Myong Si Man, director of the company.

"Our system helps not only satisfy the growing demand for traffic means but also promote public health. We plan to widen the coverage of bike-sharing service to other parts of the city and upgrade the method of service."

Riding bike is good for health and some elders in the district share bikes just for an exercise, he added.

Stylish Ryomyong-brand bikes are helpful to ensuring clean environment of Pyongyang and providing convenience for passengers. It now adds a special touch of beauty to the city.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Bike-sharing is a new sight in Kwangbok Street of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Honours given to martial artists

A meeting took place on March 6 at the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee to award Party and state commendations to those who acquitted themselves well at the 20th Taekwon-Do world championships.

A decree of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly was read out, and a wrist watch bearing the name of Chairman Kim Jong Il was awarded to Jang Kyong Ok, coach at the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee team, and Kim Jong Il Youth Honour Prize to Ri Song Hun at the North Hwanghae Provincial

Taekwon-Do team, Kim Nam Su at the Jagang Provincial Taekwon-Do team and O Ji Hyang at the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee team.

Pak Mi Hyang at the Pyongyang Municipal Taekwon-Do team, Kim Hyang Sim at the North Phyongan Provincial Taekwon-Do team and other martial artists were honoured with the titles of People's Athlete and Merited Athlete.

Many others received the Order of the National Flag 1st Class and other decorations.

Compiled from KCNA

New terminology app unveiled

The National Terminology Coordination Committee has unveiled a new terminology app.

Mirror 2.0 contains the largest number of entries among dictionaries published so far in the country, over 700 000 technical terms in all, divided into more than 40 branches of sciences. Every term has its entry and gives general definition and detailed explanation. And nonstandard terms are guided to corresponding standard ones to show which one

is standard or nonstandard.

Mirror 2.0 has a regular and instant upgrading function so that it can show newly added terms and current usage immediately.

Users can search all, standard and nonstandard terms, synonyms and branches of science separately.

The app is available on both Windows and Android operating systems.

By Pang Un Ju PT

COMMENT

DPRK's 'cyberattack threat': a smear campaign

The US and its lackeys are making much ado about the DPRK's "cyberattack threat".

On February 20, the American CNBC said that a north Korean organization, known as "APT37", has improved hacking technology for large-scale cyber terrorism, quoting reports of US cyber security enterprises. Referring to non-existent hacking entities including four subordinate organizations, it added that they are engaged in information gathering, network demolition, financial theft and other illegal activities.

Japan also insisted that cyberattacks against the country including the hacking of its major virtual currency

exchange might be done by "Unit 180" under north Korea's cyber headquarters in charge of securing funds for its nuclear and missile programme.

The problem is why they are playing up the cyberattack by the DPRK.

It is an old trick of the US and its followers to make an anti-DPRK confrontation racket while pointing an accusing finger at it whenever hacking incidents happen.

Underlying such move is their sinister intention to tighten pressure on the DPRK by branding it as a "cyber-terrorist", not content with finding fault with its nukes and "human rights issue".

However, they will fail in their scheme to fan up the atmosphere for sanctions and pressure against the DPRK.

It is not long after the US and its vassal forces experienced a hot agony of international shame after the disclosure of hacking of the Sony Pictures and the "ransomware" attack. They had blamed the DPRK for the hacking.

The US is now secretly preparing a large-scale cyberattack on the DPRK by investing billions of dollars.

The US and its followers are well advised to stop such mean acts before suffering another international disgrace.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

FROM PAGE 1

When it comes to the decades-long DPRK-US negotiations, he said, the DPRK has never sat face to face with the US with preconditions nor will it do the same in the future.

The US approach revealed after the DPRK announced its willingness to come to

the negotiating table cannot but make the latter believe the former does not want the resumption of bilateral negotiations, he noted.

The DPRK is willing to pursue a negotiated settlement of the issues, but it will not beg for dialogue nor try to avoid any military option hyped by the US, he said, adding "we

have just the full capability and willingness to respond to any option of the US".

It is entirely up to the US whether peace will settle on the Korean peninsula as desired by the Korean and world peoples or an undesirable situation will be triggered by the vicious cycle of confrontation, he warned.

COMMENT

Rough action produces rougher reaction

The US is keen on anti-DPRK sanctions.

On February 23, the US took an additional sanctions measure against 28 ships, 27 shipping companies and an individual, 56 in all, allegedly to check the DPRK's shipping which it views as a source of money for its nuclear and missile programme. And it also issued a "notice to international shipping" warning that individuals or shipping companies that deal with the DPRK would be targets of US sanctions.

The 9th of its kind after Trump took office, the measure can be claimed to be the harshest sanctions, which are tantamount to a sea blockade.

Referring to them, the Treasury Secretary, the spokesman for East Asian and Pacific affairs of the State Department and other high-ranking US officials said that the sanctions are aimed at totally isolating north Korea. Even Trump argued that the US has imposed the toughest sanctions on a special state and if they do not work, it will go over to "very rough phase II".

The US' additional sanctions are a revelation of its ill intention to mar the DPRK's

image, block the move for inter-Korean rapprochement and save its face by forcing the ruffraff to join the anti-DPRK sanctions and pressure campaign.

It has already been clarified that the DPRK regards the campaign as an intolerable infringement on its rights to sovereignty, existence and development and a declaration of war against it.

It is not an empty talk that a strong countermeasure will be taken if the US and its following forces infringe on the DPRK's sovereignty even a little arguing for a "sea blockade" and "cutting a source of money".

Trump blusters that if sanctions do not work, the US should go over to rough phase II and that as it is a very rough action, it will make the whole world unhappy. But the Trump administration should be aware that the US' rough action would meet a rougher one and it would not be the world but the US which would be unhappy.

It is as clear as day that Trump would bring a terrible disaster to the US as he acts rashly without considering what will happen later.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

SYRIA

Fighting for sovereignty

On March 8 1963 Syrian people and patriotic soldiers raised a revolution and established a new government under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party and have ever since striven to safeguard national sovereignty.

Syria has put up unyielding resistance to the blatant intervention, military pressure and economic sanctions by the West including the US and worked hard to bolster up unity and cooperation with Arab countries.

With big efforts channelled into economic development, it has increased agricultural production while boosting such industries as oil processing and petrochemistry.

The country is now facing serious political and economic setbacks due to the anti-government forces and terrorists.

The US and other Western countries are scheming to overthrow the legitimate Syrian government through the "anti-terror war".

But the government is adamant in its stand to uphold the territorial integrity and sovereignty.

President Bashar al-Assad told a meeting that there is no other choice than to emerge victorious, adding that though

victory costs much, the Syrian army and people are fighting bravely against big challenges.

The government forces in collaboration with the militia have wiped out terrorists in different areas and are making further achievements as they retake many places.

They have liberated a total of 78 000 square kilometres of areas including Aleppo, Palmyra and Latakia.

And many oil and gas fields have come back into the hands of the government.

It has recently recaptured 70 cities and villages in Hama and Idlib from terrorists.

The Syrian president in a diplomatic meeting said that the Syrian army won the war on terrorism, thus saving the country from the crisis of territorial division.

He asserted that the war on terrorism by the army was a combat not only with terrorists but with the hostile forces that tried to divide Syria with the help of the terrorist groups.

The Syrian government will emerge victorious in its efforts to protect national sovereignty, territorial integrity and peace.

By Ri Myong Hyok PT

Victorious Stalingrad battle remembered

The Russian embassy in Pyongyang held a press briefing on March 6 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad.

The briefing drew journalists from DPRK media organizations and the staff members of the

Russian embassy.

Prior to the gathering, the participants looked round the photos showing the battle and Russia's modern military hardware.

Russian ambassador Alexandr Matsegora told about the battle,

which made a turning point in Russia's Great Patriotic War and dealt a fatal blow to the Nazi German aggressors.

He answered the questions about the significance of the battle and his country's stand towards anti-Russia sanctions by the US and Western countries.

The participants watched a Russian film *Battle of Sevastopol*.

By Han Jong Chol PT

HUMAN RIGHTS

Abuses against women get more serious

Sexual discrimination is still a social headache worldwide.

An American online dictionary service provider recently said last year's most searched keyword is "feminism", a 70 percent increase as against the figure in 2016.

Reportedly the word "feminism" has become a buzzword since American women launched demonstrations in Washington DC last year, prompting the alleged "MeToo" campaign around the world.

This suggests that sexism is very serious in the US and other capitalist countries and there is an increasing awareness of feminism around the world.

American women are said to be most vulnerable to sexual

harassment. Most of working women are subjected to sexual violence and misconduct. There are very few openings for women and even the employed are complaining about harsh discrimination.

This is not a story of the US alone.

More recently, a woman who worked for BBC in charge of Chinese edition resigned by herself in protest at what she saw as sexual disparity in wage compared to a man of her level. This has highlighted the severity of sexism and misogyny in the United Kingdom.

According to the UK's central department of statistics, about two million people had

experienced domestic violence in England and Wales for a year until March last year, and 1.2 million of them were women.

In Italy, 114 women lost their lives due to domestic violence between January and October last year.

Many women are taking to streets in protest against sexism around the world.

Massive anti-Trump rallies were launched on January 20 across the US including Washington DC, New York and San Francisco.

Nearly 2 000 Turkish women turned out in Istanbul on November 25 last year to mark the world day of no violence against women. They protested against a noticeable growth in violence against women at home.

Feminism seems to be a wishful thinking in the capitalist countries.

By Song Jong Ho PT

SOCCKER

April 25 edges out Hwaeppul

There was the opening match of Group I (East Asian region) of the 2018 AFC Cup finals between April 25 and Hwaeppul of the DPRK on March 7 at April 25's home May Day Stadium,

drawing great interest of local soccer fans.

The group also includes Hang Yuen FC of Chinese Taipei and Benfica Macao of Chinese Macao, aside from the DPRK's



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

April 25 edges out Hwaeppul 1-0 in Group I match of the 2018 AFC Cup finals.

two teams.

The defending champion on home front for several years on, April 25 won the men's football tournament of the National Championships and topped the total rankings last year.

Hwaeppul secured a berth for the group-round matches by defeating Mongolia's Erchim 4-0 and 3-0 in the preliminary legs in February.

The first match between April 25 and Hwaeppul began with the former's kickoff.

It was fierce from the beginning as they are strong rivals and have a good grasp of each other.

There were good scoring chances in the goal areas, but they failed to lead to a goal, with the first half ending goalless.

April 25 increased attack speed in the second half, threatening the opponent with breaks on the right and left sides. In the 84th minutes its captain, No. 10 An Il Bom, shot a volley home to open the scoring.

Hwaeppul mounted an all-out offensive to make up for the loss, but in vain. It lost the match to April 25 0-1.

By Jong Tang Song PT

NATIONAL ICH

Janggi

It is commonplace in the DPRK to see people playing *janggi*, or Korean chess, surrounded by many spectators.

Arguments among the players and kibitzers are often so heated passers-by stop to see the games. The battle of wits helps relieve fatigue and develop intelligence.

Some old records say the game dates back to the period

of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392), but experts believe it appeared earlier.

Samguksagi (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) records that "Paekje King Kungaeru was very fond of *janggi* and *paduk* (go)". Kungaeru was the 21st Paekje king who ruled the country between 455 and 475. Such record suggests Korean chess already existed in the fifth century.



KCNA

Old men play *janggi*, or Korean chess, at the Pyongyang Old People's Home.

It was initially used by generals for studying tactics and building their command capacity, but later it became a popular pastime. Hence it was named *janggi* meaning a "game of generals".

In the past, it was used as a means of evaluating their military wisdom and ability and it was a trend for men to learn it along with martial arts. And there are many old records about families with girls of marriageable age that tested the chess skills of eligible men to choose sons-in-law.

There are innumerable adages and anecdotes related to Korean chess.

Korean ancestors developed the board game in conformity with their sentiments and likings while making up for defects and correcting mistakes. In the course of this, they made different rules, established corresponding systems and created lots of fundamental moves that serve as principles in applying *janggi* techniques.

A national cultural heritage element, *janggi* is played anywhere—at home, in parks or even on trains.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

WRESTLING

Wrestlers bring home gold medals

Pak Yong Mi and Kang Kum Song snatched gold medals at the 2018 Asian Wrestling Championships.



KCNA

Pak Yong Mi (left) and Kang Kum Song, gold medallists at the 2018 Asian Wrestling Championships.

The event that opened on February 27 in Kyrgyzstan has brought together over 300 wrestlers from more than 20 countries and regions including the DPRK, Mongolia, India and Kazakhstan.

Pak Yong Mi overpowered all her opponents to claim the women's 53kg title.

Kang Kum Song in the men's 57kg category defeated the south Korean in the quarterfinals and the Japanese in the semifinals, advancing to

the final.

He outrivalled the Uzbek in the final match on March 3, claiming the 57kg title.

Meanwhile, Ri Se Ung finished runner-up in the men's Greco-Roman 60kg category.

Compiled from KCNA

ZOO

Animals in the zoo on the increase

The Central Zoo in Pyongyang has managed to breed some critically endangered animals.

A couple of Asian elephants, which are known as the largest among the animals on land, have recently procreated.

They were donated by the Laotian government in July 2009 and were 5 years old at the time. The female gave birth to a young three months ago. The newborn female weighed 90 kg at birth and now tips the scales at 175 kg. And it is very

healthy.

Earlier, a pair of white tigers bore a female cub. The mother tiger is an offspring of those presented by the general manager of China's Heilongjiang National Economic Development Corp to Chairman Kim Jong Il in June 2004.

Ara ararauna, a species of parrot, has also laid an egg.

It was sent by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in January 2014.

By Pang Un Ju PT



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A newborn elephant plays with its mother at the Central Zoo.