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Kim Jong Un sends congratulations to Putin

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, sent a congratulatory message to Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 20.

Extending sincere congratulations upon his reelection as president of the Russian Federation,

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un was hopeful that the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation with long history would be bolstered up as intended and desired by the peoples of the two countries. And he wished the Russian leader greater success in his work to build a strong Russia.

ECONOMY

Leading industrial sectors boost production

The metallurgical and electric-power industries are going full steam ahead.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex has doubled the production of Juche iron over the same period of last year.

While giving definite priority to the supply of raw materials and fuel needed for the normal operation of oxygen blast furnace, it introduced rational working methods that rely on locally-available raw materials, including the sprue runner tamping material making method which uses lignite as a binder, thus fulfilling daily plans without fail.

It channelled big efforts into improving the quality of rolled steel by applying advanced technologies. It has introduced a technology, which was only applied to heavy rail production, into the production of rolled steel of all sizes.

The Chollima Steel Complex has introduced a new melting method conducive to reducing thermal loss and melting time

into the UHP electric arc furnace so as to cut power consumption per ton of steel and boost output.

The Chongjin Steel Materials Factory overfulfils daily assignments in March by establishing a continuous ingot-steelmaking process capable of saving much fuel and electricity and increasing production and by carrying out the manufacture and installation of a high-calibre induction furnace.

Successes are also being made in the electric-power industry sector.

Sodusu Power Station Unit 2 has made strenuous efforts to increase production with self-reliance and science and technology as motive power despite unfavourable conditions as compared to the past, generating millions of kWh of more electricity.

It works to organize production and tap all internal reserves to finish the general overhaul of generator in a short time, so as to raise the efficiency of hydraulic turbine and increase production

markedly.

The Wiwon Power Station boosts power generation by dint of science and technology.

Its technicians and workers have applied many technical innovation plans to save much manpower and put equipment management on a scientific footing, thereby raising power generation at 108 percent over the same period of last year.

A digital water level measuring device helps increase production ability 1.2 times more under the same water volume condition.

Similar achievements have been made at the Wonsan Youth Power Station.

Workers and technicians pooled their wisdom and efforts to introduce technical ideas into production to carry out the first quarterly plan at 100.2 percent till March 14.

The Chongchongang Thermal Power Station is generating more power than planned in March.

By Song Yong Sok PT



The Chollima Steel Complex increases steel production.

KCNA

EXPEDITION

'Journey for learning' goes on through generations



KCNA

Schoolchildren get together before starting an expedition of the 1 000-ri Journey for Learning.

Schoolchildren from across the country are going on an expedition to mark the 95th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung's 1 000-ri Journey for Learning.

The journey the President had taken at the age of 11 was a patriotic and revolutionary trip through which he had a good understanding of his homeland and cultivated the lofty ambition to defeat the Japanese imperialists by the Koreans' own efforts and win back national independence.

The expedition consisting of exemplary schoolchildren is to travel from Phophyong to Mangyongdae, the President's birthplace in Pyongyang, along the route taken by him.

A meeting was held in Phophyong on March 16.

Kim Kyong Jun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, and other speakers said the march for learning marks an important occasion for demonstrating the faith and will of the schoolchildren across the country to add brilliance to the undying exploits of the peerlessly great men associated with the historic journey and steadily carry on the march of the Juche revolution.

They called on all the study tourists to learn after the President's lofty aim of revolution, burning hatred for enemies and ardent love for the country and people through the expedition. After the meeting the marchers left, flying the flag of the expedition and red flags.

They arrived at Kanggye on March 19 via Wolthan, Hwaphyong, Huksu and Janggang.

They laid a basket of flowers at the statues of the President and Chairman Kim Jong Il in Kanggye and paid their respects to them.

An event took place on March 20 at the Kanggye Post Office Revolutionary Site to send a telegraphic message to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un over their arrival at Kanggye.

The message was read out at the meeting.

In the message, the study tourists said that through the expedition they keenly realized the exploits of the President who had embarked on the road of loving the country, nation and people with extraordinary readiness and will in his early years.

They were resolved to safely arrive at Mangyongdae by giving full play to the spirit of collectivism with immense yearning for the Supreme Leader no matter how hard the journey is.

All the marchers hardened their will to venerate the great leaders and fully prepare themselves to be pillars of a prosperous Korea who are knowledgeable, morally impeccable and healthy to support the Supreme Leader.

At the end of the meeting, they looked round the Kanggye Post Office and Kanggye Inn revolutionary sites and Jagang Provincial Revolutionary Museum.

The study tour goes on.

Compiled from KCNA

LEADING ARTICLE

Nation speeds up towards its 70th anniversary

Korean service personnel and people are on a revolutionary general offensive to make this significant year of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK (September 9) a year of resounding victory to be etched in their national history.

They are going to celebrate their national founding anniversary as a great auspicious event and a grand festival of victors.

After the founding of Juche Korea and in the course of its development, the Koreans grew to be a dignified people who shape their destiny independently as the genuine masters of the state and society for the first time in the history of Korea, once a colony of Japan, came to flex its muscles as a world-recognized political and ideological power of single-hearted unity and an invincible military power. The DPRK has built up its power and developed its potentials to emerge victorious in the face of all challenges and tempests of history and has become the beacon of hope to the world's people aspiring after independence, justice and socialism. That is why the Korean people are filled with pride and are redoubling their efforts to proudly celebrate the September event with unprecedented labour achievements.

The DPRK's 70th anniversary is also an occasion for them to

demonstrate their revolutionary will to add eternal brilliance to the Juche-oriented idea of socialist country building and exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The DPRK is a crystallization of the idea and leadership exploits of the great leaders. They built a socialist state with invincible might by fully applying the immortal Juche idea to state building and activities. The DPRK is people-centred socialism that esteems the people as Heaven, an independent state with a strong Juche character and national identity and a fortress of socialism that protects the independent life of the people from the imperialists' aggressive manoeuvres. In a word, the DPRK is unique socialism where the people-first principle has thoroughly been applied to all aspects of state building and activities.

People-centred socialism, a country serving the people, enjoys their absolute support and trust. The strong attachment of the Korean service members and people to Juche-oriented socialism and their spirit of safeguarding it are the fundamental guarantee of the solidity of their socialist system and social stability, the inexhaustible source of invincible might of socialist

Korea and the powerful driving force behind the victorious advance of the Korean revolution and the building of a thriving country. Therefore, the anniversary will be marked as a grand political festival that demonstrates the might of people-centred socialism.

They will also make the anniversary an occasion to show off their revolutionary spirit as they proudly hit the targets for the building of a powerful socialist country with the spirit of self-reliance and self-development as the dynamic force.

The 70-year history of the DPRK was the course which started, advanced and won victories on the strength of self-development. When Korea was liberated from Japanese military rule in August 1945, there remained only centuries-old penury and decrepit infrastructure left by colonial semi-feudal society. Still worse, the DPRK was ravaged by the three-year Korean war in the 1950s. But the country built a socialist state, independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in defence, in its own fighting and creating method and by relying on its strength, technology and resources, not looking for others' help. They carried out postwar rehabilitation in 3-4 years

though the US insisted that the DPRK would be unable to rise up again in a hundred years and accomplished the historic task of socialist industrialization in a matter of 14 years. It is now opening up a broad avenue for the building of a socialist power in high spirits even in the teeth of unprecedentedly vicious and persistent sanctions and blockade which might get others to collapse. These successes are all attributable to holding up the banner of self-reliance and self-development.

Self-reliance and self-development are the symbol and dignity of Juche Korea.

The DPRK's strength of self-development gets greater as it encounters worse hardship and more intense anti-socialist offensive of the imperialists. Hostile forces are making last-ditch attempts to stifle the DPRK, scared by the great speed of its advance, but it is getting stronger by dint of self-development, while making the greatest possible achievements under the worst conditions.

The Korean people will redouble efforts to achieve fresh victories on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country, thereby celebrating the 70th anniversary of the DPRK with splendour.

Kim Myong Suk

Kimilsungia festival to be held

The 20th Kimilsungia Festival is to be held in Pyongyang to mark the Day of the Sun (April 15), one of the greatest national holidays.

It is an annual international flower show that highlights the fervent loyalty of the Korean people and the world's progressives who immensely revere President Kim Il Sung as the eternal Sun of Juche and great sage of the revolution.

The festival that will run at the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Exhibition House in mid-April will draw ministries, national agencies, military organs, people from all walks of life, schoolchildren, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, other overseas Koreans' organizations and foreigners.

Similar events will be held in every province during the festival.

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DPRK photo show held in Mongolia

A photo show opened on March 9 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Mongolia.

The event was visited by members of the State Great Hural of Mongolia, government officials, the DPRK ambassador and his embassy staff members and foreign diplomatic envoys.

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INSPECTION

Premier visits various units

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, inspected various units in South Hwanghae Province.

He looked round the Haeju Tractor-drawn Farm Machine Factory and Ohyon Cooperative

Farm in Yonan County to encourage workers and farmers.

Earlier, he visited the Haeju Mushroom Farm, the Paechon Catfish Farm project and other units to check production and construction and discussed the issue of developing a new power source in Ryongdang.

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Premier Pak Pong Ju inspects the Haeju Mushroom Farm in South Hwanghae Province.

COOPERATION

DPRK, Russia agree to promote cooperation

Alexandr Galushka, chairman of the Russian side to the DPRK-Russia Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy and Science and Technology who is also minister of Development of Far East, visited Pyongyang, leading a Russian government economic delegation, to participate in the 8th session of the bilateral committee.

The delegation visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill to pay tribute to them.

Vice-Premier Ro Tu Chol who is also chairman of the State Planning Commission, met with the Russian guests on March 21.

The 8th session of the committee took place on March 21 at the People's Palace of Culture.

It was attended by Kim Yong Jae, chairman of the DPRK side to the intergovernmental committee and minister of External Economic



KCNA

The DPRK-Russia Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy and Science and Technology is in its 8th session in Pyongyang.

Relations, and other relevant DPRK officials, the Russian delegation and DPRK-based Russian ambassador Alexandr Matsegora.

Both sides discussed matters of bolstering up bilateral cooperation in trade, economy and science and technology.

That day, the DPRK side hosted a reception in honour of the Russian guests at the

Pyongyang Koryo Hotel.

A protocol was signed at the People's Palace of Culture on the same day.

It was inked by Kim Yong Jae and Alexandr Galushka.

The Russian delegation also laid bouquets at the Liberation Tower and visited the Jongback Church.

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CABLE

Sci-tech integrated with production

The Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 has made notable achievements in production by integrating science and technology with production.

It turns out different sizes of electric wires for different purposes by relying on local raw materials such as copper that is widely available in the country.

It produces cables insulated by paper, rubber and polyethylene. It has established an integrated production control system.

For technical upgrading and modernization the factory focused on the projects that are urgent and can rapidly prove effective while making the most of the existing production foundation and steadily carried them out one by one. As a result, major production processes have been modernized, including those for production of materials

and cables for communication and power and heating wires.

The factory has developed oil for elongating copper to make emulsion which can be used for a long time and is cost-effective and not harmful to production environment as compared to the imported one. It has also set up a protective polyethylene production line to improve the quality of coating.

Thanks to the introduction of an eccentric measuring device using X-rays into the continuous rubber assimilation equipment, the factory ensures even thickness of coating of products.

It has applied various technical innovation plans and ideas, such as the treatment of electrolytic copper by a new chemical reagent, production of high-purity aluminium from

low-purity one, and copper-tape winding on an overall annealed wire machine for communication cables.

In particular, the application of a new cable production method, in which polyethylene involving silane cross-linking reagent and cross-linking reagent is extruded into the core wire before wet cross-linking treatment, has helped reduce costs of equipment and energy, avoid waste and speed up production.

The technical staff have addressed problems arising in the establishment of an enamel coating solution production line which depends on waste plastic.

The factory has set up a new workshop to produce a variety of extension cords for electronics.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A variety of cables are turned out at the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326.

BEARING

Factory upgrades production lines

Technicians of the Ryongsong Bearing Factory have recently set up a new production process based on slag ash fusion to improve the quality of products and relieve the shortage of raw materials. The process makes it possible to produce even large-diameter workpieces and recycle scrap bearings and steel products which had been thrown away.

Heating furnaces by half gasification in different production lines are energy-saving and environment-friendly ones. The furnaces consume one third of fuel as compared to the past, shorten the heating time of products by half and ensure the heating temperature irrespective of the quality of fuel. In particular, the dust and gas generated in the course of combustion are purified

through the dust collection system, reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emission and filtering the air of the workplace.

A technology based on the carbonitriding of normal steel is one of the innovative technologies. The technology, which raises the surface intensity of workpieces by way of increasing the carbon content of steel, helps produce various sizes of bearings with soft iron and steel.

The technicians also have developed well over a dozen kinds of grinding wheels and solved many scientific and technological problems arising in production and modernization.

The factory pays close attention to training technicians

in a far-sighted way in order to build up its own technical force while stepping up revitalization of production and upgrading. The number of workers involved in the in-service system is on the rise, and advanced technologies are disseminated regularly at the sci-tech learning space. Not only technicians but also workers are active in working out innovation plans and solving technological problems arising in boosting production and refashioning equipment.

The factory's new technologies and products were highly appreciated at the 34th national sci-tech festival and other events.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

LIGHT INDUSTRY

Commodities mass-produced



KCNA

A worker monitors a production line at the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory.

The light industry sector which takes the lion's share in improving the people's living standards is achieving good results in its efforts to produce iconic products and commodities.

The Songyo, Pyongyang children's and Aeguk knitwear factories are working to refashion the latch needle plain fabric circular knitting machine, dryer and dyeing machine into labour- and power-saving ones so as to produce new quality products as much as they wish while reducing the costs.

Technicians and workers developed original elastic and convenient underwear and have buckled down to producing materials for swimsuits and thermal knitwear with locally available materials.

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory also developed trainers in the form of leather shoes while the Pyongyang Leather Shoes Factory unveiled over 40 kinds of children's and adults' leather shoes with laces, Velcro or rubber strings this year.

Designers of the Pyongyang

Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill introduced dozens of designs for quilts and patterns that suit the modernity and the tastes of the locals.

Dozens of new products of the Sonhung Foodstuff Factory are winning growing popularity, including *Schizandra chinensis* fruit and rice *makkolli* (traditional Korean liquor), aronia fruit bread and bread filled with peanut butter.

The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory established a plastic goods production process based on low-pressure polyethylene to increase the output of new-type quality products.

The Sinuiju Bag Factory worked hard from the beginning of the year to fulfil its first quarterly plan at 130 percent as of March 15.

The success is attributed to the running of machines according to standard regulations of operation, maximization of cutting efficiency and well-knit scheduling of processes.

By Song Yong Sok PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees check products at the Ryongsong Bearing Factory.

AFFORESTATION

Numerous saplings supplied over three years

Tangible success has been made in the past three years since the whole Party, the entire army and all the people launched into a forest restoration campaign after Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection in November 2014.

The nursery, in which the production of saplings is put on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis, annually grew more than 26 million saplings including

Pinus strobus, Changsong larch and *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

As it spread hundreds of tons of substrate and manure on cultivation fields each year, it produced hundreds of thousands of square metres of sun screen and nonwoven fibre fabric to use them for growing saplings and sending them to the nurseries across the country.

True to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to plant trees in all seasons, it completed

the cultivation methods for tens of kinds of big potted saplings (6 to 15 years old) and summer planting method till 2016 and the method for 1 to 4-year-old small potted saplings and summer solution in 2017.

On the basis of deep research into good foreign species, it acclimatized more than 70 species and established their propagation methods till late 2017.

Compiled from KCNA



Workers tend young trees at the Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

FISH FARMING

New technologies applied to catfish farming

The Environmental Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences has developed a technology to establish a large-capacity water recycling process for catfish farming.

The water recycling process that is widely being applied to fish farming in different countries helps reduce water consumption remarkably and economize on a great deal of energy.

Such process in the country was a small-scale one. So the institute worked on a high-calibre one and completed everything with its own efforts and technology from the planning to design, making and installation of equipment, test run and normal operation. In particular, it manufactured various devices such as a liquid disinfectant generator consuming small quantities of salt and electricity, an efficient pressure filter and a PLC control panel, while making the filter medium with locally available materials.

The process mainly consists of sedimentation, pressure filtration, oxidation and

sterilization, and purification by microorganisms.

It ensures that all quality indexes of waste water discharged from fish ponds conform to the quality standard of farming water and the water recycling rate is 80 percent. And as 20 percent of used water is sent to the earthworm breeding ground, no water is released into water area and its environment is unaffected.

The technology can be applied to not only fish farming but to waste water treatment process for environmental protection.

The technology of producing feed additives in the liquid fermentation process was developed by the microbiological institute of the State Academy of Sciences. It produces a variety of feed additives through the automatic control of the fermentation tank for the biosynthesis of various enzymes, growth stimulants, vitamins, amino acids and the like.

The pH, dissolved oxygen and airflow in the culture tank are controlled automatically, ensuring a high yield of various additives including the red enzyme that is good for the

growth and breeding of fish and the enhancement of their immunity and the combined enzyme agent that raises the digestibility by breaking up protein, starch and cellulose in the feed as well as the stability of production.

The new water recycling process and the technology of producing feed additives in the liquid fermentation process have proved effective in the Pyongyang Catfish Farm and many others, contributing greatly to putting fish farming on Juche, scientific, intensive and industrial basis.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



The Pyongyang Catfish Farm boosts production by applying new technologies.

SHOW

Railway sector displays sci-tech results

The 33rd sci-tech festival of the Ministry of Railways opened on March 20.

Divided into the panels of machine, construction, operation of electronic information and electricity, the three-day event was held in the form of presentation and show and exchange of new technologies. Presented were over 100 pieces of information the scientists, technicians, members of the three-revolution teams, lecturers, researchers and field officials in the railway transport sector have obtained in the course of research and increased transport drive.

Standouts were "Metro car No. 1" and "Laying prestressed concrete sleepers on sharply curved lines", "Production line of bearing metal for locomotives and freight

cars by continuous electric slag ash fusion", "General measurement, management and analysis system of Sobaeksu railway testing vehicle", "Train dispatcher's daily report making support system" and "High-pressure insulating tape production based on powdered mica paper". These were appreciated as helpful to modernizing railway facilities and equipment and informatizing management and operation.

The event marked an important occasion in widely propagating research findings, true to the Party's idea of attaching importance to science and technology, so as to make a substantial contribution to the building of an economic giant.

Compiled from KCNA

SOCKS

Functional socks developed

The Kukse Joint Venture Company noted for "Hoarfrost"-brand hosiery is turning out new products.

The company inaugurated almost a decade ago has worked to produce a variety of hosiery to meet the tastes and demand of the locals.

These days it is channelling efforts into the development of functional, fatigue-relieving socks.

Among them are hemp and nano silver socks.

It is a current trend to make different functional products with the plant that has good effects on human body.

Hemp socks on world markets are often a mix of hemp and cotton threads, because the production of hemp fibre and thread requires much labour and advanced technology as well.

The company's socks are made of hemp thread 100 percent.

The product presenting the

original creamy colour of the thread is very good for health for the plant's pharmacological actions.

Even if you wear them for a long time, they keep your feet dry, and they do not restrict your movement, but are convenient. They prevent foot smell and athlete's foot and stop stomachache.

The same is true of nano silver socks that are made by treating with reagent.

These socks are on sale at different communal amenities in Pyongyang including Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 and the Ryomyong Tourists Souvenir Shop, winning growing popularity.

The company staffed with highly skilled workers is capable of producing hundreds of thousands of pairs of socks annually while accepting orders and doing bonded processing.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

EDUCATION

Schools gear up for new academic year

Schools throughout the country are preparing for new school year as nationwide efforts are being made to bring about a fresh turn in education in this year that marks the 70th anniversary of the DPRK.

The Education Commission is scrupulously carrying on organizational and political work with focus placed on raising the quality of education and improving educational environment of schools at all levels.

Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and other institutions have unified education by sharing

experiences and established their own databases. Technical colleges worked out various teaching plans on a high scientific and technological level based on new curricula.

The teachers in the general education sector are giving final touches to the teaching plans and teaching aids by channelling efforts into improving their qualifications.

An undertaking to modernize educational conditions and environment is in full swing.

With full consciousness that they are directly responsible for education, the educational workers and teachers in

Pyongyang and North Hwanghae Province are redoubling their efforts to upgrade educational facilities and tools and materials for experiment and practical training, turn all classrooms into multifunctional ones and introduce IT into the whole process of experiment and practical training.

Recently, Phyongsong University of Medicine, Kuchon and Subok senior middle schools in Sariwon and Sunchon and many other schools have renewed their educational conditions and environment, with similar activities conducted on a nationwide scale.



Students at Pyongyang Teachers Training College work hard to improve their teaching abilities.

The Educational Books Publishing House has published dozens of kinds of textbooks and reference books for technical senior middle school students, while the Educational Books Printing Plant has finished the production of textbooks for the new school year.

By Pang Un PT

CUISINE

Restaurant famous for serving exotic dishes

The Western cuisine restaurant is on the food alley in downtown Pyongyang.

It offers more than 50 kinds of foreign dishes including hamburger, salad, sandwich, pizza, spaghetti and other Western dishes.

The eatery serves curry and omelette as staples.

It is especially noted for pork dishes which come in over ten kinds including steamed calf and hard-boiled ribs. These are prepared by chef Yang Yong Sik.

The fare is varied and each dish has unique flavour as well.

People can relish slices of raw seafood including tuna, sea bream, squid and jellyfish.

Diners praise its

cooks as amazingly good as they are able to make the true flavour of foreign dishes stand out.

It also serves black and green teas and other drinks.

What is noteworthy is that a variety of dishes ordered by clients are prepared before their eyes.

Cooks flaunt their culinary skills as they make thick pancake, roasted duck, potato crepe and pizza.

"We will make our dish richer and more diverse to cater for our clients," said manager Kim Jong Su.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Diners relish exotic dishes at the Western Cuisine Restaurant on the food alley in Pyongyang.

PROFILE

Surgeon rises to fame as pharmacist

The medical science and technology centre at Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University is widely known for its iconic medicines.

Selenium pill, starfish nutrition pill, *Ganoderma lucidum* diabetes capsule and many other medicines are familiar with local people.

New medicines

are also quick to be introduced into the clinical practice for their marvellous effects, and they are popular with the customers.

Such success is unthinkable apart from Rim Chang Ho (pictured), director of the centre.

He majored in surgery at the then Pyongyang University of Medicine decades ago.

While performing many operations, he was gradually interested in pharmacy and became assured that surgery is not enough to save human lives. And he felt the importance of proper medicines that suit the patients' constitution.

Clinical medicine and pharmacy were two different things, but it was a trend to combine these two studies.

He thrust himself into the pharmacological field.

Quiet and mild in character, he immersed himself in research. He delved into the world of pharmacy, the so-called "chemical industry".

He scientifically verified the medicinal effect of selenium, an essential microelement which is indispensable in the process of metabolism, and developed a selenium yeast tablet. The medicine was appreciated as helping remove endemic diseases and promote health.

Without resting on his laurels, he went on to develop brain nutrition tablet, *Ganoderma lucidum* diabetes capsule and dozens of other medicines.

His stubborn yet indomitable spirit was fully displayed as he turned a small office to a high-tech product developer.

By displaying unyielding organizational ability and drive he built up a powerful technical force and led them to an innovation-driven group.

He channelled primary efforts into establishing a production cycle driven by science and technology that integrates



research with development and production with sale.

Research findings were immediately applied to production, resulting in dozens of medicines, including oxaliplatin of 3G anticancer injection, cerebrolysin capsule for invigorating cerebral metabolism, *Salvia mileriorrhiza Bge moschus* cerebral apoplexy injection, baked alum lady vaginitis tablet, yellow snake nutrition tablet and Salo cream.

His research was expanded beyond medicines to medical appliances and equipment. He also conducted joint research with relevant units.

In the course of this, he developed an anion generator and brain activating eyeglasses which enhance athletes' game adaptation ability and are good for relieving physical fatigue. Last year, he made an electrical eye physiological testing machine, diagnosing equipment which is indispensable in the ophthalmic field, after years of joint research with scientists at Kim Chaek University of Technology, thus laying a technical foundation for manufacturing the cutting-edge medical equipment.

Now the centre boasts a pool of competent researchers and the production base that satisfies the GMP standards.

Rim Chang Ho has doctorate and February 16 Science and Technology Prize under his belt. And he was nominated in 2017 as one of the country's top scientists and technicians.

When asked about the secret of his success, he attributes it to the love for humans, the mind to make a contribution to the country's medical development. "Affections are the source of inspiration," he says.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

RIDING

Spring livens up horse riding

As weather warms up, riding is being reanimated at the Mirim Riding Club these days.

Lots of people including enthusiasts go to the club to enjoy riding.

All eyes shine with delight and optimism.

Jang Il Ryong, a 30-year-old regular visitor from the Korean Computer Centre, caressed his favourite before mounting it and he began to ride around the indoor training ground for a warm-up.

"Horse riding is an ideal exercise that produces great kinetic effect with little physical burden. It relieves fatigue and emboldens me. The delight of riding is so great that other sports aren't anywhere close to it. Now I'm going outdoors to have a race with my friends," he said.

At the outdoor training ground spectators were rooting for young

men running neck and neck.

Among the riders there were young kids.

A six-year-old was especially eye-catching as she was on a large Orlov.

Kim Jin A from Pothonggang Kindergarten in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, brought along carrots to feed them to her horse and rode it with dexterity.

"She asked me so importunately I took her to the club several times and I found that she is bold and motor-minded," said her mother as she recorded the girl with a camcorder.

Other parents were beaming as they satisfactorily saw their children trot along the course holding the reins tightly.

There is also a photo studio at the club.

"The studio provides original services with unusual clothing and the like. I've had a picture

taken on horseback, clad in armour and taking a spear, and felt like warrior of the Koguryo Kingdom noted for the spirit of attaching importance to military affairs. It's my first visit, but I'll be here often to gear up for amateurs' contest this autumn," said Kim Su Jin, worker at the Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium.

On the outdoor training ground members of the equestrian association and amateurs were preparing for the upcoming spring amateur race.

According to Ri Tong Jun, secretary-general of the association, the first ever autumn amateur race last year further fired the locals' zeal for riding and this year's spring event will show various high equestrian skills.

By Pang Un Ju PT



Amateur riders compete at the Mirim Riding Club.

PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

TOURISM

Shop attracts tourists with unique services

At the entrance to landmark Ryomyong Street in Pyongyang, three flower-shaped buildings catch the eyes of visitors.

They remind them of a full-blown flower. They house several business institutions including the Ryomyong tourist souvenir shop.

The shop takes the second and third floors and sells local and foreign tourists souvenirs while serving traditional Korean foods.

There are a spacious dining room on the second floor and a dining room, snack bar and a souvenir counter on the third floor.

The shop serves traditional foods rich with national flavour.

They include chocolate-coloured glutinous millet pancakes, hard-boiled sandfish

from the East Sea of Korea, tasty dried vegetable beanpaste soup boiled with pork and shellfish, mouth-watering raised and steamed rice cakes, nice-scented tea made of barley and parched maize, and strawberry cream.

As all of them are natural and green ones made of local agricultural produce, fruits and seafoods by traditional Korean cuisine, the shop is winning growing popularity with customers.

Most popular are such health promoting foods as steamed young hen, salad, tea and wrapped-up kimchi made of famous Kaesong Koryo insam, which are served together with insam liquor.

The shop also promotes exchange of culinary skills with

other countries.

The souvenir counter on the third floor sells Kaesong Koryo insam products including canned red insam and insam tea, oak handicrafts, nano socks good for health and others. Among them are the Korean costume including women's *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) and men's *paji* (trousers) and *jogori*. Tourists often pose for photographs wearing the Korean traditional costume at the wedding table arranged on the second floor.

Visitors can go up to the rooftop and get the sights of the imposing and splendid street.

Tourists say that they are attracted by the distinctive and rich national flavour and kind service.

"Thousands of foreigners have so far visited our shop since its inauguration in May last year. We plan to diversify our services to attract more tourists," said shop manager Jang Thae Won.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

METEOROLOGY

Weather-ready, climate-smart

March 23 is World Meteorological Day.

The World Meteorological Organization has set "Weather-ready, climate-smart" as this year's theme for WMD.

Today, ever-worsening climate change cries out for more public awareness and engagement.

Scientists in well over a hundred countries are engaged in meteorological observation and research, and a report on climate change is released on a regular basis.

The DPRK is also seriously affected by global warming.

A severe drought in 100 years hit the country in 2014, and last year witnessed abnormal weather conditions. Little rain fell from spring to early summer and dry weather continued, with heavy rain measured in several areas south of the country's central part. Hailstorms, some of them 30 mm in diameter, were observed in many parts in autumn.

Cold waves came in winter with mercury falling sharply very often.

Weather service is being conducted under the concern of the state to ensure social security and protect the people's lives and assets from the above-mentioned meteorological disasters.

An automatic meteorological observation device has been put in place to form a nationwide automatic survey network as part of the effort to upgrade meteorological observation. And a real-time observation is available thanks to the automatic survey network.

Efforts are also being made to steadily raise the correctness of weather forecasts by applying scientific methods and to introduce IT into the whole process of weather service.

"Everyone is concerned about weather and climate. They conduct business activities in a rational way by relying on the weather forecasts. Weather service plays a role in pushing economic development," said Pang Sun Nyo, an official of the State Hydro-Meteorological Administration.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

EVENT

World Water Day marked

An event was held at Pyongyang's Grand People's Study House on March 21 to mark World Water Day.

It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Urban Management, the Grand People's Study House and other relevant units, as well as representatives from the UNICEF country office and other international organizations.

Speakers said the theme of this year's World Water Day was set as "Nature for Water" to

explore nature-based solutions to the water challenges in the 21st century, and referred to the importance of water and last year's achievements made in the DPRK.

They stressed the need to work together to support efforts to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

Toward the end of the event, the participants saw a video "Value Water".

By Song Jong Ho PT



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

World Water Day Workshop 2018 runs at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang.

S. KOREA

Going against the trend of times

Badly unhappy about the thaw in inter-Korean relations, the Liberty Korea Party and other conservative groups of south Korea are making every vicious attempt to blow the lid off.

The LKP's representative Hong Jun Phyoo spoke ill of the current situation favourable for dialogue, saying "they should not be fooled by the 'camouflaged peace offensive'" and "it is a peace gesture made by the north and south while talking only about nuclear suspension rather than nuclear abandonment". Its floor leader and spokesman insisted that they cannot but doubt of the attitude and sincerity of the north and they should not give up the principle of sanctions against the north.

This is a desperate bid of

those who have been driven out of the trend towards national reconciliation, unity, peace and reunification.

The DPRK's principled stand and sincere bid to reunify the country by the concerted efforts of the nation and to safeguard peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world are winning full support from all the fellow countrymen and international community.

However, the south Korean conservative groups including the LKP are challenging the trend.

The south Korean conservatives had totally denied the north-south joint declarations and committed anti-national and anti-reunification crimes while describing the June 15

reunification era as the "lost decade" and scuttled the inter-Korean authority-level talks, which were held thanks to the DPRK's proactive effort in June 2013 after a long hiatus.

It is quite obvious that when the north-south relationship improves, the crime of conservatives who brought the dark clouds of war to the peninsula by pursuing confrontation and turning their back to national reconciliation, unity and reunification will stand out in bold relief and public criticism and rejection will grow markedly.

That is why they are running amuck to keep north-south relations in rupture by resorting to every conceivable means.

The conservatives who do not hesitate to satisfy their political greed are steeped in confrontation with the fellow countrymen.

Today, south Korean people from all walks of life are calling for addressing the conservatives' evil legacies, not satisfied with the punishment of the Park Geun Hye regime.

The trend of the times can never be checked, no matter how desperately they try.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



South Koreans demand the detention of Lee Myung Bak for his crimes.

DISPUTE

Attempted assassination of Russian agent sparks diplomatic row

An attempted assassination occurred recently in Britain against a former Russian reconnaissance officer and his daughter. He had been convicted by the Russian prosecution of spying for a British secret agency.

He and his daughter were found unconscious poisoned by toxic chemicals in Salisbury 140 kilometres from London, and they reportedly remain in a critical condition.

Relevant British agencies claimed that combat nerve gas of the same kind developed in Russia was used in the attack. Authorities have jumped to the conclusion that it is the work of Russia and launched an anti-Russia campaign together with the US and other allies, invoking the chemical weapons convention and other international agreements.

Prime Minister May charged that Russia used illegal force in Britain.

On March 14 the British government announced that it

expels 23 Russian diplomats and suspends high-level contacts between the two countries.

Russian President Putin took up the issue the following day as he met with the executive members of Russia's Security Council.

Foreign Minister Lavrov told a journalist that Russia has nothing to do with the case, dismissing all allegations against Russia.

The Russian government rejected allegations of Russia's involvement, asserting that the British side has not yet put forth any evidence of Russia's role in the case.

In response to Britain's measure, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared on March 17 the expulsion of 23 British diplomatic personnel in Moscow in a week, shutdown of the British Consulate General in St Petersburg and ban on the activities of a British consultancy. And it warned that any further unfriendly step by Britain will encounter a tougher reaction.

Meanwhile, the US and other Western countries are unanimously accusing Russia of the poison attack.

In a statement on March 14, the White House expressed full support to Britain's allegations that "Russia is to blame for the reckless nerve gas attack on a British citizen and his daughter" and its decision to kick out Russian diplomats.

On the same day, NATO voiced concern in a statement saying that it is the first attack to be committed in an ally's territory since its foundation.

Next day, the US, Britain, France and Germany issued a joint statement that the Russian government violated international law and conventions.

Observers highlight the fact that the attempted poison gas assassination and the subsequent diplomatic row have come as a new Cold War is ever brewing between Russia and the US.

By Han Jong Chol PT

JAPAN

Seized with uneasiness

Much upset by the dialogue atmosphere in the Korean peninsula, Japan's Abe clan is in an ill humour.

The special adviser to the prime minister, the chief Cabinet secretary and defence minister stirred up anti-DPRK sanctions and pressure, clamouring for scaling up pressure and insisting the sanctions are taking effect.

They even referred to the need not to be deceived by "Pyongyang's smiling diplomacy" and called for staying alert to its intention.

This shows that Japan is very uneasy over the changed peninsula situation.

The peninsula issue is an internal matter of the Korean nation and Japan has no justification to meddle in it.

Moreover, Japan is a shameless country that has not yet made an apology and reparation to the Koreans though it inflicted immeasurable misfortune and sufferings on them in the past. Therefore, it is unqualified for talking about the peninsula issue.

Japan is nothing but a tributary state of the US which is fully obsessed with pro-US

subservience and which tries to fish in troubled waters with US backing.

That is why the world people have long likened it to a US-bred parrot and an invertebrate creature devoid of independence.

Whenever the US adopted a sanctions resolution against the DPRK, Japan gave a hearty welcome to it and behaved impudently.

Soon after the US announced its "independent sanctions" last February, Japan extended full support to the measure and clamoured for keeping a watch on the DPRK's vessels.

Japan's detestable behaviour of toeing the US policy hostile towards the DPRK is aimed at revising its constitution and realizing the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere".

But it is a forlorn hope.

The Korean people are not the weak nation of the past, and Japan can never reverse the trend of the times however desperately it may try.

By Song Jong Ho PT

SOLIDARITY

Full support extended to Venezuela

According to media reports, the 15th ALBA summit was held in Caracas, Venezuela, on March 5 with heads of the member nations including the presidents of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Cuba in attendance.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said the US administration has initiated an economic war in collusion with the anti-government forces of Venezuela, imposed sanctions on senior government officials, prevented his country from conducting normal trade and financial activities and aggravated political and economic crises.

The US administration is trying to prevent the regional countries from taking the road to integration and development while interfering in internal affairs of regional countries and escalating economic sanctions and blockade in a planned way, he said, calling on regional organizations and countries to fight together against the US.

The summit denounced the US and its vassal forces for banning Maduro from attending the summit of the Organization of American States, and extended support and solidarity to the Venezuelan government.

Raul Castro, president of the Council of State of Cuba, scathingly

condemned the unilateral and interventionist attacks on the Venezuelan government and urged the US administration to stop economic aggression and other moves to cause instability in Venezuela at once.

The Dominican prime minister stated that the ALBA-TCP member states would never tolerate any aggression of the US and its following forces against the Venezuelan government, and the Bolivian president censured the US government's constant threat of aggression against Venezuela and said that Latin America and the Caribbean states should never be reduced to the "quiet backyard" of the US again.

The Nicaraguan president decried the US' interventionist schemes to infringe on Venezuela's rights to sovereignty and self-determination, saying the Venezuelan people have rights to shape their destiny by themselves.

All the participating nations unanimously agreed that unilateral sanctions against the Venezuelan government are an act of aggression violating the UN Charter and international law, and called for remaining alert to the US' Monroe Doctrine and military threat.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

SOCCER

Wolmido beats Sobaeksu 2-0 in premier league

2017-18 DPRK Premier League is going on amid the keen interest of soccer experts and fans. The venues in Pyongyang are crowded with supporters and spectators.

Most recently there was a game between Sobaeksu and Wolmido at Kim Il Sung Stadium.

Sobaeksu is known for good operation, fine teamwork, decent ball control and fitness, while Wolmido boasts a speedy fitness growth of its players, most of whom are comparatively younger, strong defence and piercing counterattack.

Last season Sobaeksu got the better of the latter with one win and one goalless draw.

This season's game started

with Sobaeksu's kick-off.

Not long after the start Sobaeksu's striker No. 15 broke through the defence by a well-organized two-to-three combination and slammed a strike which failed as the ball hit the crossbar.

Sobaeksu speeded up and launched fierce attacks but it allowed the opponent to open the scoring.

In the 17th minute Wolmido stole the ball in its area and switched to an offensive in which a striker weaved his way past a defender and lashed home a shot.

The first half ended 1-0 in favour of Wolmido.

The second half got fiercer from the beginning as supporters

cheered with enthusiasm for their own teams.

Sobaeksu fought back but failed to neutralize the opponent's defence.

It changed tactics and attempted to score from cross from wings, heading and midfield shot.

While holding firm in lock defence, Wolmido succeeded in scoring the second goal 8 minutes from time.

Its No. 7, who snatched a pass from a midfielder of Sobaeksu, dashed forward and dribbled past the goalie to shoot the ball into the empty net.

With no further goal, Wolmido beat Sobaeksu 2-0.

"The game makes me feel that both teams are well aware of each other's strengths and weaknesses, given that they clashed several times in previous tournaments, and that they have employed new tactics," a supporter from Pothonggang District said. "With the development of individual techniques and introduction of new tactics, it is now hard to guess the results of contemporary games and so will be this event."

By Ri Sung Ik PT



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A match is played between Sobaeksu and Wolmido as part of the 2017-18 DPRK Premier League.

RELIC

Shadow-casting rock under good protection

When they encountered snow or rain, primitive men used to find a shelter under such rocks whose upper parts resemble a roof or cap visor. They had also relaxed in the shadow cast by the rocks, hence the name—shadow-casting rocks.

There is a historic site of such rock in Ungsang-dong, Rason, northeast Korea. This rock, 9 metres long, 3 metres wide and occupying over 80 square metres, is one of the largest shadow-casting rocks in the world. The discovery of the rare rock is the first

of its kind in the northern part of Korea.

The rock whose upper part consists of curiously shaped rocks is located on a sunny hillside on the shore facing the East Sea of Korea. Pieces of earthenware and stone tools that suggest part of the primitive lifestyle were unearthed there.

The relic is kept under good protection thanks to the state policy on preservation of cultural heritage. It is listed as relic No. 1804.

By Yang Ryon Hui PT



Shadow-casting rock in Ungsang-dong in Sonbong area, Rason.

PROFILE

Dark horse



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The 2017 Asian Weightlifting Championships opened in Turkmenistan in April last year, drawing well over a hundred weightlifters from 29 countries and regions including Vietnam, Thailand, China and Indonesia. The DPRK's Sin Chol Bom (pictured) challenged for 62kg category.

He won the senior 56 kg event at the 2013 Asian cup and inter-club championships and came second in the 62 kg category at the 2015 Asian championships.

But the DPRK contingent arrived in Turkmenistan on April 22, the day of performance for Sin.

In general competitors are to arrive in a host country three to four days before the game to acclimatize themselves.

Especially, acclimatization can be claimed to be crucial for weightlifters as the sport requires the maintenance of weight and enough warm-up and the result of the game is greatly affected by mental state.

As Sin had to perform in the afternoon of the day of his arrival, he was excluded from the list of favourites and the Chinese title-holder of the 2015 championships remained the only favourite.

Experts guessed that the odds were heavily against Sin even if he participated in the game.

But the Korean was so confident he applied for his first weight and

made light work of it.

He closely followed the Chinese opponent and succeeded in all applied weights in snatch.

At his final turn of jerk, Sin applied for 168 kg, 8 kg heavier than the pacesetter's and lifted the barbell up to win the game.

A foreign media outlet said: "Sin Chol Bom's participation was thought to be impossible and no one thought that he would win. He showed off his perfect physical and mental preparedness and overpowered all his opponents."

On the winner's rostrum the strong man shed tears as he looked up to the national flag amid the playing of the national anthem.

He started weightlifting at Hangu District Juvenile Sports School in Nampho.

He originally dreamt of becoming a football star. But he turned to weightlifting thanks to Choe Song Guk, weightlifting instructor at the sports school.

"Physical ability can be developed through training and practice, but I believe speed is a kind of natural gift. Sin excelled in speed and it appealed to me," Choe recalled.

A year and half later Sin snatched his first gold medal in the 33 kg category of the national competition of juvenile sports schools in April 2005 to distinguish himself.

After being singled out for the April 25 Sports Club, he honed his skills under the guidance of coach Ri Chol Nam. Training was tough. After learning basic movements, he buckled down to polishing up his techniques. He was always drenched in sweat.

As he trained assiduously he has retained the domestic title at different weight categories since 2007.

He won the 62 kg category at the 29th Summer Universiad to draw the attention of the world's experts.

He was awarded Kim Jong Il Youth Honour Prize, the top honour for Korean young people, in November last year and nominated as one of the country's top ten sportspersons in 2017.

By Jong Tang Song PT