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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un presides over WPK politburo meeting

A meeting of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was convened on April 9 under the guidance of 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.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, as well as members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

Also present there were the vice-premiers of the Cabinet as observers.

Upon the authorization of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed "Execution of the state budget for Juche 106(2017) and planning of the state budget for Juche 107(2018)", a motion to



be submitted to the upcoming 6th Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly.

Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, delivered a report in this regard.

The Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee examined and ratified next year's state budget and

adopted in unison a decision on submitting it to the 6th Session of the 13th SPA.

The Supreme Leader then made a report on the current development of the Korean peninsula situation.

Referring to the north-south summit meeting and talks slated for April 27 at the "House of Peace" on the south side at Panmunjom, he made

an in-depth analysis and appraisal of the direction of the improvement of immediate inter-Korean relations and the prospect of the DPRK-US negotiations, and set forth the Party's strategic and tactical issues, especially the future policy and approach towards international relations.

And he also minutely pointed to the recent work of each member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and stressed enhancement of responsibility and role of the leading officials of the revolution.

He called upon all sectors and units across the country to steadily uphold the revolutionary banner of self-reliance and devote

every ounce of their technical force and economic potential into carrying out the tasks for this year, the third year into the implementation of the five-year strategy for development of the national economy, so as to make a breakthrough in reactivation on the whole economic front.

Compiled from KCNA

SESSION

SPA session reviews Cabinet's work and sets forth its tasks for 2018

The Sixth Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on April 11.

It was attended by deputies to the SPA with observers comprising officials from Party, military and government organs, the Cabinet, social organizations, ministries, national agencies, institutions, factories, enterprises, cooperative farms and educational and scientific research institutes.

Seen on the platform were Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Choe Ryong Hae, vice-chairman of the DPRK State

Affairs Commission and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Pak Pong Ju, vice-chairman of the SAC and premier of the Cabinet, who are all members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

The platform was also taken by senior Party and government officials, the chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, members of the SPA Presidium and senior military officials.

The speaker and deputy speakers took the chair.

The session discussed agenda items "On the work

of the Cabinet in Juche 106(2017) for implementing the five-year strategy for the development of the national economy and its tasks for Juche 107(2018)", "On the results of the implementation of the state budget of the DPRK for Juche 106(2017) and the state budget for Juche 107(2018)" and "Organizational matter".

Premier Pak Pong Ju delivered a report on the first item.

According to him, the Cabinet last year organized and carried out the undertaking to put the overall national economy on a higher level by concentrating national efforts on expanding and consolidating the foundation of power generation, perfecting the Juche iron production

system and achieving the independence of the chemical industry, while focusing on the revitalization of production by realizing domestic production of equipment and raw and other materials on the principle of self-sufficiency, in accordance with the WPK's five-year strategy for the development of the national economy.

He referred to the fulfilment of the annual plan in terms of total industrial output value by many industrial establishments and the achievements in the fields of science, education, public health and sports.

He also reviewed serious mistakes in the Cabinet work last year, and stressed that the Cabinet would hit the targets

for the third year into the implementation of the five-year strategy in this year of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK by taking it as the key tasks to bolster up the independence and Juche character of the national economy and to improve the people's livelihood, as required by the revolutionary counter strategy set forth at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee.

Delivering a report on the second item, Finance Minister Ki Kwang Ho stated that the state budget for 2017 was successfully implemented as all the service personnel

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LEADING ARTICLE

Great life devoted to people's well-being

April 15, the birthday of President Kim Il Sung, is coming near at hand, arousing infinite yearning for him in the minds of the Korean people.

The President was more of a benevolent father for them than a leader.

"The people are my God" was his lifetime motto.

The President said in his reminiscences *With the Century*: "The people are my God' has been my constant view and motto. The principle of Juche, which calls for drawing on the strength of the masses who are the masters of the revolution and construction, is my political creed. This has been the axiom that has led me to devote my whole life to the people."

The President started the revolution by going among the people.

In the course of it he found the truth that the masses of the people are the masters of the revolution and only when they are educated and

mobilized, can the revolution emerge victorious, which is one of the starting points of the Juche idea.

He shared life and death with the people during the bloody anti-Japanese war, saying that the Commander is also a son of the people and that as fish cannot live without water, the anti-Japanese guerrilla army cannot exist without the people, and achieved the historic cause of national liberation.

Over the decades of his leadership of the revolution and construction he always formulated lines and policies with the demands and interests of the people as the absolute standard and led the revolution and construction to brilliant successes by mobilizing the inexhaustible energy and wisdom of the masses of the people.

Therefore, his policies always won absolute support from them.

After Korea's liberation various democratic reforms

were implemented in the DPRK including the law on agrarian reform and the law on nationalization of industry, traffic and transport, posts and telecommunications and banks, with the result that the long-cherished desire of the peasants for their own land was fulfilled and workers became masters of factories.

His noble view on the people brought about such events as the enforcement of popular policies like the universal free medical care system at state expense during the grim Fatherland Liberation War.

The well-known Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-ri method, the revolutionary idea and method on the leadership of the masses of the people, were also established in the early 1960s by the President who went among the farmers of Chongsan-ri and shared lodging and board with them to gather their wish and will.

The people's demand and interests were the criteria for all his thinking and practice

and sharing sweets and bitters with them was his constant principle of leadership.

The President regarded it as his pleasure to be among the people all his life, living an honest and frugal life without keeping his distance from them.

While on his inspection tour he unceremoniously shook oily hands of workers, chatted with farmers and took full account of the people's thoughts.

The benevolent image of the President, who took paternal care of the soldiers and was so pleased to see children in new school uniform supplied by the state he took photos of them, is still engraved on the memory of the people.

His field guidance tour covered the whole country.

Like the sun that burns itself to give life and vigour to all things, he visited every nook and cranny without rest till the last moment of his life and devoted his all to the people's happiness.

His fervent love, warm

human feelings and noble personality traits helped the whole society form a large harmonious family and unfolded a world-startling scene of single-minded unity on this land.

The integral whole, which the leader and people forged with a sense of kinship and cemented rock firm during the protracted struggle, has become an everlasting tie which can by no means be destroyed.

The noble history of "The people are my God" still goes on.

The lofty traits of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, who takes paternal care of the people, giving top priority to their interests and convenience and making it absolute to serve them, are identical to those of the President.

Such history of loving the people will continue along with the prosperity of socialist Korea.

Kim Ju Hyok

Session: SPA holds an annual session to approve budget

FROM PAGE 1

and people fully tapped the potentials of the independent economy with the great spirit of self-reliance and self-development as the dynamic force and on the strength of science and technology, true to the WPK's Juche-oriented revolutionary line.

This year's state budgetary revenue and expenditure are expected to grow by 3.2 percent and 5.1 percent respectively over last year, while investment in boosting the independence and Juche character of the national economy and enriching the people's life will be increased by 4.9 percent so as to give a strong impetus to the people's endeavours to build a socialist economic giant, he noted.

The state will disburse 15.9 percent of total expenditure for increasing the self-reliant defence capability, he said, adding that large sums of educational aid and stipend will also be sent to the children of Korean residents in Japan so as to promote the development of democratic national education by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

Speakers on the first and second agenda items said that the Cabinet's work and implementation of the state



The Sixth Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK is held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

budget for last year have been reviewed correctly, definite tasks of the Cabinet have been set for this year to make a breakthrough in the revitalization of all economic sectors and units and the state budget has also been compiled correctly. They also analysed and reviewed the successes and shortcomings in their work last year and proposed measures to resolve urgent issues.

The meeting adopted SPA decision "On approving the

work report of the DPRK Cabinet and the results of the implementation of the state budget for Juche 106(2017)" and SPA ordinance "On the DPRK state budget for Juche 107(2018)".

In the discussion of the third item, Hwang Pyong So was recalled from the vice-chairmanship of the State Affairs Commission and Kim Ki Nam, Ri Man Gon and Kim Won Hong from its membership at the proposal of Chairman

Kim Jong Un.

Under the assignment of Kim Jong Un who is also chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, the vacancies for the SAC membership were filled by Kim Jong Gak, Pak Kwang Ho, Thae Jong Su and Jong Kyong Thack.

Pak Thae Song was recalled from the membership of the SPA Presidium as his duty has been changed under the assignment of the WPK Central Committee, while Jong Yong

Guk was elected as secretary general of the SPA Presidium and Kim Su Gil, Pak Chol Min and Kim Chang Yop as its members.

Pak Thae Dok was recalled from the Legislation Committee of the SPA for the change of his duty under the assignment of the WPK Central Committee, and Ryang Jong Hun and Kim Myong Gil were elected to fill vacancies.

Compiled from KCNA

ANNIVERSARY

Nation celebrates anniv of Kim Jong Un's election to top Party and state posts

The Korean service personnel and people celebrated the 6th anniversary of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's election to the top posts of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state.

The celebrations were highlighted by the national meeting which was held on April 11 at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang.

It was attended by deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, officials of the Party Central Committee, military organs, ministries and national agencies, officers and men of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces, the faculties and students of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kang Pan Sok Revolutionary School, and officials and labour innovators of institutions and industrial establishments in Pyongyang.

The platform was taken by Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Choe Ryong Hae, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, and Premier Pak Pong Ju, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission,

all of whom are members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Also seen at the platform were Party and government officials, the chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party, leading officials of military organs, exemplary military officers and civilian officials and persons of meritorious deeds.

Choe Ryong Hae delivered a report titled "Let us exalt the dignity and power of socialist Korea following the leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un".

He said that the past six years are characterized by eye-opening events in which the general strength of socialist Korea has reached the highest stage of its development in national history under the outstanding and extraordinary guidance of the Supreme Leader. "He led the Party, state and army at the forefront cherishing the noble aspiration to build the country into an invincible great power admired by the world with the exploits President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il performed for a socialist state building as the eternal basis," he noted.

At the turn of the new century of

the Juche era he clearly indicated the way to build up national strength by declaring the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the eternal guiding ideology of the Party and state and by providing a far-reaching strategy of the Korean revolution and great blueprint for building a powerful nation, he said. He called on all people and servicemen to keep in mind the great honour of having acclaimed the peerlessly

great man as the leader of the Party and state, defend the leader politically, ideologically and at the cost of their lives and remain faithful to him single-mindedly in any adversity.

A central photo exhibition took place on the theme of "Winning a great victory to be etched in the 5 000-year history of the nation" on the same occasion.

Workers and farmers held meetings to celebrate

the anniversary on April 10 respectively at the Central Hall of Workers and on the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm, Sadong District of Pyongyang.

Students and other young people had dances across the country and officials of the women's union and its members in the plaza of the Monument to Party Founding on April 11.

By Kim Yong Chan PT



A national meeting is held in Pyongyang in celebration of the 6th anniversary of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's election to the top posts of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state.

CELEBRATION

Cultural events held in celebration of Day of the Sun

Events have taken place in Pyongyang to celebrate the Day of the Sun, one of the greatest national holidays in the DPRK.

The 20th Kimilsungia Festival opened on April 12 at the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Exhibition House.

The theme of the current festival is "Kimilsungia grows redder as it longs for our President". On show are tens of thousands of potted Kimilsungias presented by military organs, ministries and national agencies, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and other overseas Korean organizations, people

from all walks of life, students and schoolchildren and foreigners including the Indonesian embassy in Pyongyang.

Kimilsungia exhibitions are also in progress in local areas.

The 31st April Spring Friendship Art Festival opened on April 11 at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre, with performances given at theatres in Pyongyang.

The performers put on stage a variety of numbers to praise the undying exploits and greatness of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who made great contributions to the

Korean revolution and the cause of global independence and show the traditional customs, folk art and way of life in different countries.

Russian, Mongolian and other performing artists and overseas Koreans fully represented the yearning and profound reverence of the progressive people for the peerlessly great men of the DPRK, adding colours to the holiday mood.

A national industrial design exhibition is going on at the national industrial design exhibition hall on the theme of "Heyday in the development of

Juche-based industrial design".

On display are over 800 pieces of designs, models and products. They include the design of tramcars for the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, those related to the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory, those of Korean-style metro cars and trademark designs of the products of the Ryongaksan Soap Factory, which were inspected by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

A week-long film show opened at the Pyongyang International Cinema House.

The Korean Stamp Exhibition

intensively displayed Korean stamps to celebrate the national holiday.

The Mangyongdae Prize national martial art championships are running in Pyongyang as part of the Day of the Sun celebrations, drawing over 500 male and female players selected from some 20 units including Tackwon-Do clubs.

The Day of the Sun Mangyongdae Prize Games are also under way in Pyongyang, Nampho, Phyongsong, Sariwon and elsewhere.

By Song Yong Sok PT



A national industrial design show runs at the National Industrial Design Exhibition Hall.



The 31st April Spring Friendship Art Festival opens at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

MACHINE BUILDING

Technical innovations bring production boom

The Ryongsong Machine Complex has made innovations in the production of custom-built equipment.

Its technical personnel are pushing the production of dozens of kinds of equipment to be supplied to major construction projects, industrial establishments, coal and other mines through the collective technical innovation drive.

The Songun Foundry overfulfils its daily production plan by concentrating on the supply of workpieces for thermal power generating facilities. It has developed a new casting device of high practical use to raise the actual completion rate of workpieces and improve their quality. It ensures the continuity of casting work and saves much raw and other materials and manpower by applying a mould of new material.

Machine workshop No. 1 normalizes the production of large toothed wheels conducive to increasing the ability of crushers at mines. The pressure angle of toothed wheels has rationally been altered to improve the durability and capacity of crushers.

The machine-tool workshop has made a large gear to be used in thermal power plants to unload fuels and entered into continuous production. It has introduced a rational processing method to save 20 percent of molten iron and reduce the processing time by one fifth and manpower by half as compared to the past.

The Songun compressor workshop has developed a tester to evaluate the quality and durability of major parts of heating equipment. According to the results of its introduction, the tester has been confirmed to

be effective in shortening the period of manufacture, removing additional modification and reducing manpower and time in assembly. It has also established a grinding process for major parts of compressors to raise the precision of processing and increase their mechanical life.

A sci-tech achievement show held at the complex last February presented lots of new technologies which contribute to reenergizing production and upgrading equipment. Among them, over 60 technical innovation plans are practical ones which will prove effective in production.

The complex overfulfilled the first quarterly economic plan by 3.7 percent. It is working hard to increase productivity and build up its own technical force.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Ryongsong Machine Complex processes facilities needed by industrial sectors in time.

FISH FARMING

Institute successful in research on intensive fish farming

Researchers at the central fish farming institute of the Academy of Fisheries are concentrating on rearing fish with strong viability that grow fast while consuming less fodder.

They have set their sights on ensuring the intensive farming of loach and tilapia in parallel, while pushing a project for breeding good species of freshwater fish.

With primary efforts given to utilizing natural feed, they go on with the study to develop a new vegetable feed for fish.

They concentrate big efforts on raising the effectiveness of vegetable feed based on "Aeguk" grass and *Evodia daniellii* seed cake. In particular, they deepened research into the problems arising in removing

the bitterness of *Evodia daniellii* seed cake, by-product from oil production process, so that fish can eat it better laying a technological foundation for ensuring high fattening rate of fish with *Evodia daniellii* seed cake as the feed. They are now working on the research to introduce it into production. They also pay attention to increasing the protein content of feed in order to develop a technology of breeding mandarin fish whose feed problem remains unsettled. At the same time, they press on with a research to make out a rational prescription for improving the taste of catfish.

Close attention is being paid to protecting and increasing fish resources. After making a

deep research into anadromous sweetfish resources in the Chongchon River, researchers made painstaking efforts to raise the fish in freshwater ponds or cage nets until fry grow into mother fish. In the course of this, they succeeded in incubating the spawn from mother fish in ponds and cage nets and confirmed that the fish can be raised in freshwater. They deepen research into multiplying *Hucho ishikawai* resources.

Besides, they, in close collaboration with different fish farms, push ahead

SOCKS

Hosiery factory updates products



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Various kinds of socks are mass-produced at the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

The Pyongyang Hosiery Factory turns out a variety of socks and stockings.

The factory pays primary attention to helping the employees raise the level of technical knowledge and skills in order to develop new products.

A design and new products show is arranged on a weekly basis and highly appreciated presentations are introduced to production.

And sci-tech diffusion is carried on regularly.

The employees improve expertise with the help of the sci-tech diffusion system which contains a large amount of data on the trend of the industry and on fibre as well. In the course of this they solve technical

problems arising in production while devising novel plans to develop new products.

In recent years the factory developed socks for various sports such as football, tennis, table tennis and basketball as well as stockings for children to wear when playing roller skate.

The articles suit the characteristic features of the sports.

Football stockings are particularly convenient. The reticular calf passes air well to free wearers from the uncomfortable tight feeling they experienced before. The instep is rubbery and the inner sole is done in pile to produce cushioning effect and lighten the burden on players.

This year alone, the factory has unveiled dozens of new products including silk socks good for health and laced ones for children.

Its products win favour with customers for a wide variety of patterns, colours and forms.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

with various research projects to shorten the period of growth of catfish and reduce feed unit, prevent and cure diseases which may break out in catfish farming, and further improve the cage-net fish farming technology.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



RI SONG IK

The Pyongyang Catfish Farm applies advanced methods in catfish breeding.

MUSIC

Pyongyang hosts int'l vocal contest

The First Pyongyang International Vocal Competition ran at the Moranbong Theatre between April 5 and 12.

The participants showed off their high characteristic artistry to the delight of local people and music lovers of the world, adding more to the festive mood in Pyongyang celebrating the Day of the Sun.

A closing ceremony took place on April 12.

It was attended by Pak Chun Nam, minister of Culture and also chairman of the competition organizing committee, relevant officials, creative and performing artists from national art troupes, lecturers and students from art educational institutions, Pyongyang citizens, prize winners, foreign artistes, international jury members and honorary guests.

Invited there were DPRK-based diplomatic envoys and representatives of international organizations and embassy staff members of different countries.

At the ceremony excellent artistes were awarded cups, medals and diplomas as well as prizes.

The first place went to the DPRK's Kim Kyong Ju, the second to Mongolian

Bayarsaikhan Batjargal and Kazakh Li Stanislav and the third to the DPRK's So Un Hyang and Ryu Kum Chol and Armenian Martirosyan Marianna.

Mongolian Baasansuren Enkhnarant and Kazakh Kapachinskikh Kirill obtained technical and acting prizes.

The closing address was delivered by Pak Chun Nam.

Referring to the successful competition held amid great expectation and interest within and without, he warmly congratulated winners for having been highly appreciated by wonderfully rendering Korean and world famous songs including the theme songs of the five "Sea of Blood"-style revolutionary operas.

During the competition, he said, all the participants gave full play to their virtuosity and exchanged their vocal experience to deepen friendship by transcending the differences in nationality and language.

He hoped that local and foreign artistes would make greater success in the future contest.

The ceremony was followed by a performance by the winners.

On the same day, there was the "Pyongyang international seminar-2018 on the times and musical art" at the People's Palace of Culture.

It was attended by the Minister of Culture, officials and creative and performing artists in the cultural and art sector, lecturers and researchers at art institutions, international jury members, honorary guests

and members of art troupes and delegations to the 31st April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

A congratulatory remark was followed by speeches.

Speakers made an indepth demonstration of the scientific accuracy and validity of the Juche-oriented idea and theory on musical art put forward by Chairman Kim Jong Il and spoke about the correlation between

words and melody in vocal piece and experience made in the course of creating Korean-style operas that raised musical interpretation onto a higher level.

Pointing to the remarkable importance of full embodiment of the national identity in musical creation, they said that vocalists could be popular when they represent their national sentiments and modern aesthetic sense in their artistic interpretation based on correct aesthetic views.

The seminar adopted a letter to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Compiled from KCNA



The First Pyongyang International Vocal Competition takes place at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang.

HEALTH

Event calls for universal health coverage



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A World Health Day event takes place at the Grand People's Study House.

An event took place at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang on April 9 to observe World Health Day 2018.

It was attended by officials from ministries, national agencies and the sectors of public health and media, and members of the missions of international organizations including the resident WHO representative and the resident UN coordinator and UNDP representative.

The World Health Organization set "Universal Health Coverage; everyone-everywhere" as the theme for this year that marks its 70th founding anniversary.

Addressing the meeting, Pak Jong Min, department director of the Ministry of Public Health, said that the 69th WHO South East Asia

Regional Assembly held in September 2016 issued a report on status of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Health, in which the DPRK was highly appreciated as a role model for the region. He added that the DPRK would continue to promote the advantages of universal free medical service under the socialist health system so as to make progress in improving medical services.

Resident WHO representative Thushara Fernando said that WHO, together with other UN partners, shall continue to work with the Ministry of Public Health in their endeavour for the sake of prosperity and good health of people in the DPRK by further consolidating and strengthening Universal Health Coverage

EXHIBITION

Sweets sculpture show adds mood to holiday celebration

The third sweets sculpture exhibition ran at the Chongnyu Restaurant in Pyongyang between April 10 and 12 in celebration of the Day of the Sun.

Divided into the sectors of foodstuff factories and external and public welfare services, the show drew 150 technicians and cooks selected from scores of units.

They presented more than 1 690 candy sculptures and 577 cake ones representing the happy life of the Korean people enjoying socialist civilization, leading characters in children's favourite

animations and natural scenery including plants and animals.

The sculptures were literally wonderful works of art as they incorporated novel ideas and artistic skills.

The Okryu Restaurant that was awarded the top prize at last year's event came up with dozens of candy works including those representing sturgeon, lily and chick and a cake work depicting a harmonious garden.

"Sturgeon" and "Gold carp" were so lifelike they seemed to swim in water, and "Crystal flower", "Chrysanthemum" and "Lily and chick" created

by cook Pak Kum Hyang were very trim and graceful.

Candy crowd-pullers included those representing the heroes of animations "The Boy General", "Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang" and "Greedy Pig".

Candy sculpture "Korean tiger" produced with sugary syrup and *oktang* sugar by the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory was highly appreciated for the elaborate portrayal of the staunch spirit and bravery of the animal.

There was a demonstration show by excellent creators.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

throughout the country.

The universal medical service and the district doctor system which are in force in the country were introduced at the meeting.

The participants looked round posters and photos showing the prevention of noninfectious diseases and the universal medical service.

They visited the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital.

Hygienic education campaigns were launched in every province to mark World Health Day.

That day, Thushara Fernando arranged a reception.

By Pang Un Ju PT



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The third sweets sculpture exhibition is held at the Chongnyu Restaurant in celebration of the Day of the Sun.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

Institute updates traditional musical instruments

The National Institute of Musical Instruments is doing a good job of the improvement of national musical instruments.

It directs primary efforts to sustaining the advantages of the musical instruments while making them congruous to the feelings and emotions of the locals.

Researchers and workers made painstaking endeavours and quest to unveil a *kayagum*, nineteen-stringed Korean harp, with markedly improved sound range and volume, a small-sized *haegum*, four-stringed Korean fiddle, with lightened fine tuner and a *komungo*, six-stringed Korean lute, which has been upgraded in line with the

present aesthetic sense.

They also developed *thungso*, Korean bamboo flute, from the original pentatonic-scale form into seven-scale one to make it possible to play modern music with it. They established the theory of manufacture of instruments belonging to the *haegum* group at a high level while producing several valuable research findings.

Most recently, they completed a technique of preventing timber degeneration in the making of bows of the strings, thereby opening up a bright prospect for manufacturing world-level bows with locally-available materials.

They succeeded in developing

the modulators for *kayagum* and increasing the adhesion of its strings with epoxy, with the result that a stride forward has been taken in making sound volume even in all musical ranges and producing better reverberation and in raising economic efficiency. They also changed the peg-based string-tightening mechanism into a gear type for *oungum*, four-stringed Korean instrument. The new products are popular with professionals as they produce clearer, softer and more graceful sound.

The exhibits of the institute were the focus of attention in the past musical instrument shows.

At present, researchers are working on the quality of sound, bow, string and materials of national musical instruments.

"We will positively introduce advanced science and technology to manufacture good quality, world-level instruments in large numbers so as to make a tangible contribution to the development of the country's musical art and the people's cultural and emotional life," said director Ju Chol Nam.



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees of the National Institute of Musical Instruments are engrossed in the research into traditional musical instruments.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

RESEARCH

Research achievements help economic growth

The Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences has made achievements in high-tech research projects.

It has rounded off two technical preparations including the methanol synthesizing process with an annual capacity of hundreds of thousands of tons by pushing ahead with the technical preparations for establishing the C1 chemical industry. Their completion has opened a bright prospect for producing a great deal of raw materials for consumer goods such as vinalon and synthetic leather. The branch has developed various kinds of catalysts which are used in synthesizing methanol, ethylene and propylene.

Researchers have unveiled an ion exchange film for industrial salt production, improving the salt production method. The ion exchange film is excellent in terms of such technical indices as tensile strength, resistance of film and ion exchange capacity.

The application of the exchange film to production will be able to reduce the area of crystallization ponds to one tenth and lower the production cost per square metre to one third as compared to the previous ion exchange film.

A technology of producing petrol and diesel oil from coal is one of the valuable inventions made by the branch researchers. The method based on coal gasification makes it possible to extract well over a thousand kilograms of petrol and diesel oil from 10 tons of coal by using new catalysts developed by the branch.

The branch has also updated the technology of manufacturing natural graphite electrodes for UHP electric arc furnace by relying on locally-available raw materials. Scientists set up a preliminary heat treatment process of natural graphite and settled the optimal mixing ratio and technical indices of the moulding process, thus improving such electrode

indices as specific resistance and compression strength. As a result, the consumption of electrode per ton of steel has been decreased by half as compared to previous years and helped further raise the quality of steel.

The development of new adhesive and sole materials contributes to the development of the shoe industry. New raw materials, catalysts and solvents are used to make the adhesive which has higher technical indices in adhesive intensity and initial adhesive intensity than the previous one. The new sole materials have excellent physical properties in wear and cold resistance and flexibility and help reduce the weight of shoes remarkably.

The branch is focusing on research projects aimed at reenergizing the national economy and improving the people's livelihood.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

PROFILE

Pioneer of Korean integrated MIS

Kim Song Chol (pictured), PhD, Prof and head of the economic informatics lab of the Department of Economics at Kim Il Sung University, is credited with pioneering the development of an integrated management information system that suits the socialist planned economy.

The enterprise resource planning all production processes and business activities at industrial establishments by computer.

ERP is believed to require a great deal of time and fund to develop.

"We did not want to introduce the ERP tailored to market economies in its entirety. We made up our mind to develop a standardized MIS, which is needed for improving the country's industrial structure in line with the requirements of the IT age and putting all economic sectors on IT basis," recalled Kim Song Chol.

The system was of great significance also in ensuring the unified business management and control by the state.

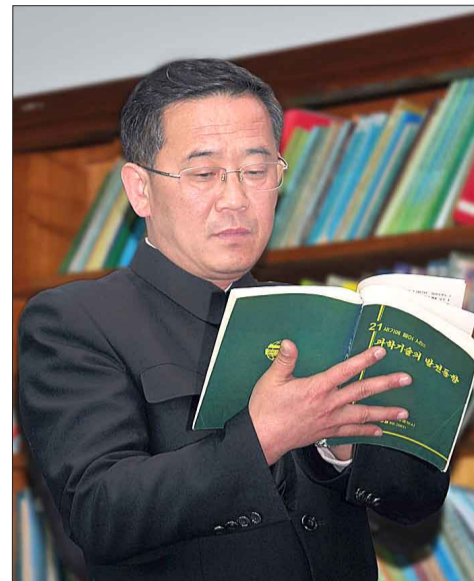
Kim went to industrial establishments to find out factors that affect production processes and business management and grasp their economic principles and, on the basis of this, worked on the master plan for the MIS. Members of his development team also made an indepth analysis of numerous documents on the management of labour, production, fluid assets, power and everything at many factories and enterprises.

Each factory worked out well over a thousand documents a year, and some argued that it was impossible to standardize such extensive business activities.

But the developers pooled their intelligence and passion to make rational designs and write thousands of subroutines.

After years of research they brought out an integrated MIS and introduced it into a factory, but they found there were many faults in labour management and accounting applications.

They did not yield to the failure, but redoubled their efforts to analyse the cause. In the course of the analysis they realized they failed to find out all the factors acting on labour management. So they went out to factories again to discover all other factors with the help of the employees and rounded off the design for labour management functions.



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

They finally completed an integrated management information system in January 2012. The chief developer, however, was not yet content with the system.

Therefore, he set a higher goal in keeping with the information technology that continues to develop rapidly on a worldwide scale, and provided role models for his team members. Years later, they came up with an upgraded version of the previous system in terms of information integration, business standardization, app optimization and flexibility.

On his inspection tour of the Pyongyang Mushroom Farm in April 2017, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un highly praised the farm's MIS and manufacturing management system that helps arrange production and conduct business activities based on real-time monitoring of necessary information.

This system has proved effective in production and business management at more than 40 factories including the Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople, Pyongyang Sports Goods Factory and Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory.

Busy as he is with education and research, Kim Song Chol has written many textbooks and reference books about economic informatics, such as Theory of Informatization of Business Management and Dictionary of Commerce. He also obtained dozens of certificates of registration and introduction of sci-tech hits, certificates of registration of programs and original plans and patents.

For such achievements, he was awarded the February 16 Science and Technology Prize, top honour for DPRK scientists.

He is still devoting himself to the training of talents and the projects to put the national economy on a scientific and IT basis.

By Pang Un Ju PT

MEMORANDUM

Memorandum praises great leaders' devotion to overall national unity

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country of the DPRK released a memorandum on April 5 to mark the 25th anniversary of **Ten-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country**.

The following are excerpts:

President Kim Il Sung was a peerless patriot who provided a programme of great national unity.

He put forward a unique idea of overall national unity and consistently applied it to practice throughout his revolutionary leadership to build a powerful driving force for national reunification.

The three principles and five-point policy of national reunification and the ten-point programme of the unity are the embodiment of the President's Juche-oriented idea and line of great national unity which call on

the fellow countrymen who love their country and nation to firmly unite by giving top priority to the interests common to the nation while transcending the differences in ideology, ideal, political creed, ism, class and social stratum.

In particular, the **Ten-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country** President Kim Il Sung published on April 6 1993 is a library for great national unity that intensively embodies the idea of this unity and practical experience.

From the very day of Korea's division by outside forces, he set forth the unity as the great foundation for reunification and worked heart and soul to rally all the compatriots behind the banner of love for the country and nationals.

Chairman Kim Jong Il was a great man of the century who

made history for national unity under the By-Our-Nation-Itself banner.

He was a peerlessly great sage who embodied the President's idea of the unity creditably.

He advanced more dynamically the cause of the unity, true to the President's intention and behests, and brought about a turning point for it with his far-sighted plan for reunification, boundlessly broad magnanimity and warm compatriotism.

The June 15 2000 Joint Declaration whose kernel is the By-Our-Nation-Itself idea was a great banner of unity in the new century embodying the Three Charters for National Reunification.

Under this banner, the "June 15 reunification era" was ushered in, in which the Koreans worked to achieve independent reunification by dint of national unity and cooperation, and they

were able to press on with a grand march toward reunification along the path indicated by the three charters and the inter-Korean declaration.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has opened up a new era of great national unity and a broad avenue to independent reunification.

The reunification cause associated with the careers of the great leaders has come to a fresh turning point under the outstanding and seasoned guidance of the Supreme Leader.

His idea of overall national unity reflects his firm faith and will to treasure and keep alive the programme and tradition of the unity and patriotism provided through the protracted struggle for national independence and reunification.

It also embodies the infinitely broad magnanimity and fervent love for the nation of the leader

who has every intention of going together along the road of reunification and patriotism by joining hands and minds with anyone who retains national conscience even though he or she took the road of anti-reunification in the past.

The Supreme Leader is bringing about a dramatic turn in inter-Korean relations with his noble intention of great national unity and broadminded decision.

The rosy future of unity and reunification lies in supporting his idea and intention.

The Korean nationals in the north, south and abroad, who have acclaimed him as the lodestar of reunification and centre of the unity, will crush the challenges of anti-reunification forces within and without and build a prosperous and powerful reunified country on this land by dint of overall national unity.

COMMENT

'America First' sparks conflict with allies

"America First" has set the US on a collision course with its close allies.

The US administration recently announced a new decision to raise its tariffs on imported goods, including its ally Japan in the hit list.

Japan expressed strong dissatisfaction with it and local media are also denouncing it as a disgraceful behaviour that does not exclude even allies and a strong blast that causes a great upheaval in its economy and demanding the US refrain from breaking the international order of free trade.

This notwithstanding, the US tries in every way to net more profits from Japan.

According to experts' analysis, the US imposing high tariffs on Japan is largely designed to gain concessions from it to sell latest military hardware and make it cover all the expenses for the US military bases in Japan.

South Korea is also a scapegoat for "America First."

MBC reported on April 2 that the US president claimed his country is not paid properly for its military presence in south Korea, arguing it is as absurd as an assaulter or a thief forces the victim to pay money for what they did.

According to the south Korea-US "mutual defence treaty" concluded in 1953, the US sets up military bases in any place it wants at will and uses them free of charge. It receives preferential

treatment worth \$2 billion from south Korea including the free offer of over 70 million pyongs of land, reduction and exemption from all kinds of public rates and taxes and exemption from road and port charges. And the US forces in south Korea enjoy inviolable rights and extraterritoriality free from any punishment, while committing all kinds of crimes against the local people such as violence, robbery, murder and rape.

Besides, the US receives \$800 million annually from south

Korea as the GIs' upkeep, the sum totalling no less than \$14 billion from 1989 to 2015.

However, the US seeks to rake in more profits.

Facts prove "America First" is an inverted version of US hegemonism and greediness.

As the saying goes, "All covet, all lost."

A clash of interests between the US and its allies is unavoidable as long as the US seeks its own interests.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Feud grows in s. Korean political party

Internal conflict is sharpening in the "righteous future party" of south Korea over the administration of the party and nomination of candidates in the run-up to the local elections.

Regarding the upcoming elections as a good chance for extending their factional influence, An Chol Su, Ryu Sung Min and neutralists are squabbling with each other in their attempts to win over their acquaintances. In particular, the Ryu faction is fiercely reacting to pro-An's moves to whip up remnants of the forces that gave rise to deep-rooted evils, while admitting defectors from the Liberty Korea Party in the RFP. Whereas pro-Ans argue that An should lead the election measure committee

for his popularity, other factions oppose that, insisting he lacks ability to spearhead the campaign.

Though they know well enough that there is a slim chance for success, pro-Ryus urge An to run for Seoul mayor, while pro-Ans retort that co-representative Ryu should also stand for election. And middle-roaders maintain that the party will gain popularity if both An and Ryu run for election.

Meanwhile, Ryu argues for solidarity with the LKP in the elections, saying disunited conservatism is bound to fail.

But pro-Ans are obstinately opposed to the argument, averring that the LKP is a rival they should outdo without fail.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

JAPAN

Grumbling of political dwarf

Japanese foreign minister Kono has come under fire at home and abroad by letting loose a stream of invective to pour cold water over the shift in the Korean peninsula situation. He told a recent lecture that "north Korea's 'charm offensive' should not be responded to in haste" and "there is no need to hurry up, or else you will be used and manipulated by north Korea".

His is another grumbling of the political dwarf of Japan.

The world has seen a dramatic change in the situation of Northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula due to the proactive efforts of the DPRK.

The long-frozen inter-Korean relationship has embarked on the road of détente and a historic event took place in an effort to boost the DPRK-China friendship onto a new high stage.

With such a change drawing the focus of attention, the world politics and media comment in unison that the DPRK takes centre stage.

But only Japan runs against it, making itself a politically lone "island".

Even Japanese media openly expresses dissatisfaction with Japan's approach.

Asahi Shimbun said that the public worry that the government "might be isolated from the fiery diplomacy in Northeast Asia centring on north Korea" and that "it remains a solitary

country despite the rapid change in regional situation".

Japan's diplomacy is still based on unprincipled flattery of the US master and consistent with base and unilateral pursuit of its own interests regardless of the demands and interests of neighbouring nations.

Last year alone the Japanese prime minister visited the US to meet the new president before anyone else but was cold shouldered, and the authorities insisted on including documents related to its sinful past in the Memory of the World Register, triggering denunciation from the international community.

Japan still keeps pursuing the anti-DPRK hardline policy despite the rapid change in the Korean peninsula situation while toeing the US line and avails itself of the opportunity to turn Japanese society to the right and become a military power.

After all, its political backwardness and shortsightedness that remain unchanged till today has mercilessly driven the island country out of the mainstream trend of the world.

Regret always comes too late.

Foreign minister Kono still argues "there's no hurry", but the regional situation has already taken a turn for the better, throwing off Japan.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

SOCCER

AFC Cup preliminaries held in Pyongyang

Preliminary matches for the 2018 AFC Cup finals are now going on in several countries and regions.

There were five matches out of 12 as of April 10 in Group I (East Asian region) comprising the DPRK's April 25 and Hwaepul, China's Benfica Macau and Hang Yuen FC of Chinese Taipei.

Hwaepul and Hang Yuen FC had three and April 25 and Benfica Macau two matches.

The last match of the first-round preliminaries took place between April 25 and Benfica Macau at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang on April 11.

April 25 won both matches, beating Hwaepul 1-0 at its home game and Hang Yuen FC 5-1 at away match, while Benfica Macau defeated Hwaepul and Hang Yuen FC 3-2 in all away matches.

After seeing three matches played in Pyongyang, Hong

Chol Myong, a football fan living in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, said: "I saw all four games and I could have a good grasp of the capacity of the Group teams. Each team has merits and demerits, but I think April 25 and Benfica Macau are dominant in both physical and technical terms. I believe now as there are still two matches left the winner of this game will lead the Group."

The match started with April 25's kick-off and saw a seesaw battle from the beginning.

Two minutes into the game April 25's forward thrust into the goal area and netted a goal, but it was disallowed for offside.

April 25 continued to threaten the goal area of the opponents with correct pass, skilled dribbling and side breaks based on its tactics. In the 13th minute No. 18, Kim Yu Song, shot a volley home, opening the

scoring.

With the tempo rising, April 25's forward No. 22 Ri Hyong Jin kicked a long-distance shot into the goal in the 20th minute.

The Korean players continued attack in the second half, scoring three more goals in the 54th, 64th and 68th minutes.

No. 18 Kim Yu Song took the ball away from Benfica Macau players who were all out for an offensive to make up for the loss and dribbled the ball even past the goalkeeper, marking his hat-trick in the 77th minute. He netted another goal with a long-distance shot in the 79th minute to increase his tally to four in a match.

A few minutes before the end of the game April 25 added another goal with two- to three-person combination to beat the opponent 8-0.

The head coach of Benfica Macau said that before the start of the match he thought his team would also win as they did against Hwaepul and Hang Yuen FC, but was totally defeated with a wide margin. He thought his players worked hard, but it was not played according to his tactics. On the contrary, April 25 was far better than he had thought in speed, physical fitness, decision-making and shooting in the goal area, he added.

Earlier, on April 10, Hwaepul trounced Hang Yuen FC 6-1.

By Jong Tang Song PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the 2018 AFC Cup preliminary match between the DPRK's Hwaepul and Hang Yuen FC of Chinese Taipei.

FOOD

Chonggak kimchi

Kimchi, widely known as one of the world's five health foods, is much favoured by all, men and women, old and young, in all four seasons.

The traditional Korean non-staple food has dozens of its varieties which are largely divided according to seasons.

One of them is *chonggak kimchi*, which is taken in early spring and has a unique taste and flavour.

An old record, Forestry Economy, says *chonggak kimchi* is a kind of very salty winter radish kimchi (a kind of kimchi which is made by adding salt or bean paste to

radish, cucumber, garlic and other vegetables and maturing them very salty without water) made by salting radishes with leaves that were not fully grown after the first frost and spicing them with garlic juice before maturing.

In late autumn young radishes which were not fully grown on the fields are harvested with their leaves to be salted. They are matured together with pepper and its leaves and stems in pots. In spring its taste can match that of pickles made of whole cabbage, pickled sliced radishes seasoned with pepper and wrapped-up kimchi.

Winter comes earlier in the mountainous areas of Korea than in the lower plains, so radish and other vegetables do not grow well there. It is more so in the northern highlands. *Chonggak kimchi* has long been made mostly in these areas, especially Ryanggang and North and South Hamgyong provinces, by harvesting young radishes before they are fully grown.

As it is tasty, easy to obtain materials and simple to make, the cuisine has widely been spread to the whole country.

The traditional recipe for *chonggak kimchi* follows:

Radishes with leaves are

MARATHON

Marathon race graces Day of the Sun celebrations



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ri Kang Bom breasts the tape to win the 29th Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon.

The 29th Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon took place at Kim Il Sung Stadium in Pyongyang on April 8.

Amid the growing interest around the world, the event drew runners from the DPRK, China, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, as well as hundreds of amateurs from different countries and regions.

Professionals competed in full marathon and half marathon, while amateurs in full marathon, half marathon, 10-kilometre run and mini run (5km).

With the pistol going off to signal the start of the competition after an opening ceremony, both pros and amateurs left the stadium amid the enthusiastic cheers of spectators and ran the whole course in high spirits. Pyongyang citizens and schoolchildren encouraged the marathoners while giving

warm applause throughout the track covering Pipha, Yongung, Changjon and Mirae Scientists streets.

DPRK runners Ri Kang Bom and Kim Hye Song came first in the men's and women's professional events, Ri Yong Nam and Kim Hye Gyong finished runners-up, and Jon Kum Il and Jo Un Ok were placed third.

In the amateur event, Britain's Tibbs Hugh Samuel and Denmark's Andersen Stine Laura took the first place, followed by Sven Thelin from Sweden and Tai Hsiheng from Chinese Taipei. Kelly Daniel Patrick of the UK and Dideriksen Line Rejkjaer of Denmark finished third.

At the closing ceremony, trophies, medals, diplomas and certificates were awarded to excellent professional and amateur runners.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

well washed and salted. Salted anchovies are boiled in the same amount of water before sifting them.

Wash out the salted radishes in water in a short time and drain them off. Mix them with powdered red pepper, sliced spring onion, crushed garlic and ginger and the soup of salted anchovies.

Put them into a jar and press them down with hands before covering it with a lid to mature.

Chonggak kimchi can also be made with small red radishes harvested in spring instead of the young autumn

radishes and it also tastes good.

The method of making *chonggak kimchi* with red radishes is the same with that of making it in autumn.

The fully fermented *chonggak kimchi* tastes unique, simple, cool and refreshing.

Its taste is admired by all in spring.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



PANG UN SIM

Chonggak kimchi, traditional Korean food.