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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspects various sectors in North Phyongan Province

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, made an inspection tour of various units in North Phyongan Province and a KPA unit.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected Sindo County in North Phyongan Province.

Sindo County in the northwestern tip of the country is deeply associated with the outstanding leadership of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. They planned to develop a nameless deserted land exposed to the ebb tide into a production base of raw materials for chemical fibre for the wellbeing of the people, wisely led the grand nature-harnessing project to create thousands of hectares of reed fields by building a 40-odd-km embankment to connect several islands, and named it Pidan (silk) Island.

The Supreme Leader made his way to Plot 14 of Reed Branch Farm No. 1 of the Sindo County Integrated Reed Farm, which was visited by the President and the Chairman.

In order to reenergize the production of chemical fibre from reed, he said, it is needed to spruce up the county as befits a large reed production base, increase the per-hectare yield by putting reed cultivation on a scientific and modern basis, and supply enough raw materials for fibre to factories by solving the transportation problem.

The development of the county into a Juche-based production base of raw materials for chemical fibre and increased production of reed are



an important undertaking to enhance the independence of the country's chemical industry, he said. And he called on the county officials to do reed farming well to keep up the record production and continue to gather rich harvest, promising he would render positive support.

The second leg of his inspection tour was the mechanized workteam of Reed Branch Farm No. 1.

That day he acquainted himself with the situation of the county

comprehensively and in detail and, on the basis of it, specified important tasks facing the county.

Kim Jong Un also inspected KPA Unit 1524.

He was saluted by the unit's commanding officers, who guided him around the education room, barracks, wash-cum-bath room, soybean store, greenhouse and other places.

At the education room Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un acquainted himself with the education

of the service personnel, and stressed the need to further strengthen the education in political, ideological and faith terms so that they could defend their posts impregably and stand guard with a high sense of class consciousness.

Inquiring about the unit's soybean farming at the store, he said the unit should boost the per-hectare yield by applying the pacesetters' success and experience proactively.

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Custom-built equipment is machined at the Taean Heavy Machine Complex.

KIM JIN MYONG

ECONOMY

Industrial sectors exceed first half year plans

The national economic plans for the first half of the year have been fulfilled in various economic sectors of the country.

The Chongchongang and Sunchon thermal power stations carried out their power production assignments for the first half of the year by mounting the mass technical innovation drive to reduce the loss of electric power and increase electricity

generation to the maximum. Hydroelectric plants such as the Sodusu, Wiwon, Suphung, Kanggye Youth, Hochongang and Jangjingang power stations operated their generators at full capacity and raised the efficiency of hydraulic turbines to overfulfil their assignments.

The Ryongdae, Joyang and Ryongnim coal mines increased

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REMEMBRANCE

President Kim Il Sung remembered as great leader of people

Twenty-four years have passed since President Kim Il Sung passed away, but his image as the father of the nation is still engraved upon the hearts of the people.

The President was the father of the people who dedicated his all to the dignity of the country, happiness of the people and prosperity of all generations to come all his life.

As they live in the present stirring time when their dreams and ideals come true one after another, the Korean people remember his sacred footprints marked everywhere across the country and picture his benevolent image.

“The people are my God” was the lifetime motto of the President.

Starting the revolution by going among the people, he gave top priority to the interests of the people throughout his revolutionary activities and solved all problems arising in state activities in line with their aspirations and demands.

He was so grieved by the sufferings of the oppressed people in poverty that he put his heart and soul into providing them with affluent life in the period of building a new Korea immediately after Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule.

Under his leadership the law on agrarian reform reflecting the centuries-old desire of the peasants for farming their own lands and the law on the nationalization of industries



PYON CHAN U

People visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to show respects for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

were proclaimed soon after liberation, making the ordinary people masters of land, factories and the country.

During the grim Fatherland Liberation War, the universal free medical care system was in force at state expense, producing a legend of love for the people unprecedented in the history of war.

Many impressive stories are told about the field inspection tour of the President who always found himself on the long journey for improving the people's livelihood.

One day in July 1961 he visited the then maize processing factory in Changsong County.

He stopped in front of a riced maize storage tank, took a handful of riced maize and

looked at it for a while. He then asked an official if people liked it.

Hearing his answer that they liked it, he told him again to see it carefully. He then pointed out the defects in the processing of riced maize—unevenness in size and large proportion of powder.

Saying that he himself studied how to make riced maize, cooked it several times and talked with many farmers about it, he noted that the loyalty of officials to the Party, working class and people should be expressed in the details of life and that it found expression in how they worked to make people live better than others.

It was an ordinary day of his life and such a day continued to

form his sacred life.

The people's demands and interests were the standards of all his thinking and practice and sharing good and bad with them was his constant principle of leadership.

As he regarded the people's wellbeing as the greatest pleasure that cannot be compared with anything, he inspected over 20 600 units till the last moment of his life and devoted some 2 530 Sundays and holidays to improving their livelihood.

Recalling his whole life spent with the people, the President said that the 80 years of his life was, in a word, that of struggle for the people as their son and his mind was always filled with the love for the people.

His warm love for the people,

human feelings and noble personality traits enabled the whole Korean society to form a harmonious whole like a large family and unfolded a scene of single-minded unity on this land.

Indeed, absolute trust in and devotion to the people were the secret of his uninterrupted victories in the revolution and construction in the face of unprecedented trials and ordeals.

The life of the President will go down in the history of politics as the sacred one of the people's leader who took “The people are my God” as his motto and put it into reality for the first time in history.

Jo Yong Hak

Inspection: Supreme Leader gives field guidance to North Phyongan Province

FROM PAGE 1

In addition to soybean farming, he added, attention should also be paid to providing such remote combat units with soybean-processing facilities to feed the soldiers diverse soybean foods.

It is needed to plant crops and vegetables of high-yielding varieties around the barracks and to introduce them till benefitting from them, he said as he looked round the greenhouse.

He had a photograph taken with the unit's personnel.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory, along with his wife Ri Sol Ju.

He looked round the rooms dedicated to education with revolutionary relics and the cosmetics' history.

He looked round different workshops, show room, exhibition hall and other places for hours to acquaint himself with the production and modernization project of the

factory.

The factory should not rest on its laurels but continue to work towards a higher goal, he said, adding it should refrain from praising their own wares as its Pomhyanggi-brand products enjoy popularity and they are sought after, and steadily intensify the research to improve the quality of the products and increase their kinds in response to the customers' tastes, ages and constitutional features, while comparing its products with other local and world-famous ones.

He stressed the need to set up a scientific quality control system to precisely guarantee the safety, quality and specific effects of the products, to strictly observe the requirements of the system, and to diversify the forms of package.

He appreciated the products show room and the exhibition hall of Pomhyanggi cosmetics, saying they are originally arranged, and directed the construction in Pyongyang of a shop dedicated to the factory's Pomhyanggi products.

He had a photo session with the factory's officials and employees.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un

visited the Sinuiju Textile Mill.

He looked round the rooms dedicated to education with revolutionary relics and the mill's history.

He made the rounds of the mill to acquaint himself with its production and management.

He specified tasks and ways to refurbish the mill in line with the requirements of the current times.

They should put the production processes on a scientific and modern basis and shake up the production buildings and the compound and vicinity by next year that marks the 60th anniversary of the mill, he stated.

He promised that the Party would ensure a hostel as good as those at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill is built for the employees of the mill. And he designated the site of the hostel and took a measure for mobilizing a strong construction force.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Factory.

The Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Factory is a Juche-oriented chemical

industrial base that produces fibre, paper and other materials on the basis of a rich supply of reed from Pidan Island.

After looking round the room dedicated to education with revolutionary relics, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un familiarized himself with the production at the paper workshop.

The country cannot afford making paper from wood, he said, adding that it is needed to boost the production of reed on Pidan Island and set up a modern papermaking process based on the reed.

As he checked the factory's renovation project, he gave important instructions on propping up the factory.

He specified tasks and ways to modernize the factory and to mass-produce paper with the reed as the main raw material.

He was accompanied by An Jong Su, Hwang Pyong So, Han Kwang Sang and other senior officials of the WPK Central Committee during inspections.

By PT Staff Reporter

Economy: Industrial sectors exceed first half year plans

FROM PAGE 1

the coal extraction rate with continuous drilling and the Kaechon, Sinri, Ryongmun, Munchon and Samchon coal mines gave priority to tunnelling to hit their targets ahead of schedule.

The Wonsan Rolling Stock Complex exceeded its target by 25 percent on all indices of the production and repair of freight cars and the production of parts of railway vehicles, and the Jongju and Kowon locomotive corps carried more freight than planned. Railway branches of Hyesan, Wonsan and Nampho transported over 1.3 times more freight than planned to the major construction projects including the Samjiyon County reconstruction and Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone development.

The Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326, Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory, Pyongyang Bearing Factory and Anju Insulating Materials Factory finished their assignments at 135, 152.6, 103.1 and 123 percent respectively and the Anju Pump Factory overfulfilled

its production plan by 12.8 percent. The production targets were also hit by the Jangsan electrical appliances, Sinuiju mining machine, Jonchon rock-drill and Hoeryong coal-mining machine factories and many other units.

The plan for the total industrial output value of the Ministry of Mining Industry was overfulfilled by 20 percent.

The Munphyong Smeltery hit its target by establishing a production process based on the rotating roasting furnace, and the Sijung and Unpha mines exceeded their production goals by 54 and 39 percent by organizing stagger production carefully. The Taedonggang Battery Factory also finished its production assignment ahead of schedule.

The Pyongyang Automation Appliances Factory supplied quality products made with local materials to major construction projects and the Saenal Electrical Appliances Factory carried out its production plan by 1.4 times by introducing technical innovation plans.

All units under the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, including the Pyongyang Optical Fibre Cable Factory, Wonsan Communication Cable Factory

and Wonsan Communication Machine Repair Factory and Anju and Pyongyang disabled soldiers' communication machine factories overfulfilled their plans by 26 percent.

The workers in the light industry sector also made innovations in the production of consumer goods.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill and other silk mills increased production every month, resulting in a 113 and 100 percent fulfilment of the plans for silk thread and blanket production of the Bureau of Sericulture and Silk Industry. All units under the Pyongyang Municipal Foodstuff Complex hit their production targets. The Wonsan Hosiery Factory overfulfilled its annual plan for the total industrial output value by 30 percent and the Aeguk and Sinuiju disabled soldiers' knitwear factories carried out their plans for the first half of the year 122 percent and 100 percent respectively.

Factories under the ministries of consumer goods industry and local industry are stepping up the production of consumer goods in high spirits after carrying out their production plans for the first half of the year.

By Song Yong Sok PT



KIM JIN MYONG

The Sangwon Limestone Mine has hit the production target for the first half of the year ahead of schedule.

FISH FARMING

Institute develops new breeding methods

The Central Fish Culture Institute intensifies research to make fish farming science-based.

The researchers of the institute have solved a series of scientific and technical problems arising in increasing fish resources in every water area including river, lake, reservoir, pond and tideland and making effective use of them.

They undertook research projects to establish artificial spawning and fish breeding methods of more than 200 species of fish including catfish and breed a new variety of goldfish. In particular, they completed an artificial spawning technology of major species for fish farming including silver

carp, *Aristichthys nobilis*, grass fish and Ryongjong fish by solving technical problems that arise in spawning, hatching and fry growing of freshwater fish on the basis of their scientific research hits including artificial spawning stimulant injection.

They solved the feed problem, the most important issue in fish culture, by culturing microorganisms with animal excrement and sewage and making vegetable assorted feed from *Aeguk* (patriotism) grass and *Tanbaekcho* (protein-rich grass) to raise the proportion of natural feed.

They also developed a vaccine while intensifying research and medical treatment of various viral and bacterial diseases.

On the basis of achievements so far made in scientific research, the institute has set a goal of conducting research into an artificial spawning and breeding technology of mandarin fish, which is called the "king of freshwater fish".

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



HAM YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Researchers at the Central Fish Culture Institute works to establish new breeding methods.

new products

Germ-killing lamp

The Pyongyang Lighting Appliances Factory produces practical bactericidal lamps.

A bactericidal lamp is used for many purposes such as sterilization of air, water and surfaces of objects and storage of foods.

A glass tube is a key issue in the production of bactericidal lamps.

Previously used ordinary and molybdenum glass tubes were not very effective as they had sterilizing wavelength transmission factors of only 30 and 60 percent respectively.

The factory's technical staff recently developed a sealing technology essential for making quartz glass tubes which are increasingly used worldwide.

An analysis confirmed that the ice-blue light emitting lamp has a sterilizing wavelength transmission factor of 90-95 percent.

The factory produces 10, 15, 20, 30 and 40 watt bactericidal lamp models and their lifetime is usually 5 000 to 7 000 hours.



HAM YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Bactericidal lamps developed by the Pyongyang Lighting Appliances Factory.

A 30W bactericidal lamp can disinfect and deodorize an object with a surface area of 10 square metres in 15-20 minutes and purify 20 cubic metres of air in 30-40 minutes.

"A bactericidal lamp is a must-have in foodstuff factories, medical and public catering facilities as well as at homes. I think it will be the most sought-after in the near future," said Kim Kum Ryong, a workshop manager of the factory.

The lamps have already been introduced into the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, the Academy of Agricultural Science and many other units.

Power-free water pump

The pumping equipment made by the lecturers and students of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering is drawing much interest of energy and environmental experts.

Pumping equipment is mostly powered by electricity or fuel. Wind-driven and head-based pumping facilities are limited by their low lift and limited serviceable life. The new pump, however, needs no electricity and fuel and is capable of working for decades if there is no mechanical breakdown. Designed to be installed in any place where water flows, it can be used to irrigate fields on hillsides or hills.

Its operating principle is as follows: As it drives the wheel, water finds its way into the pipes coiled around both sides of the water wheel. Air goes into the pipes when they intake a certain amount of water and their inlets are exposed. The repetition of

such a process produces pressure in the pipes wound helically towards the central axis. Periodic lifting is conducted as the incompressible water compresses air and the compressed air pushes the water out of overflow.

Developers resolved the problem of geometric curve and quality of water-wheel turbine in keeping with specific conditions before making a light and firm body, making it possible for the wheel to work even at a maximum depth of 35 centimetres. At streams or waterways whose water flow is slow or subtle, the speed of water flow can be ensured by way of narrowing down the point at which the water flows out, and several or dozens of water pumps can be installed according to needs to increase the amount of irrigation.

The new pump can pump dozens of cubic metres each day with its average lift of 15 metres, which shows that it is far better than the existing power-free pumping equipment in terms of the amount and height of water being pumped. In particular, it is designed to raise its lift as occasion arises.

It is now applied by many farms and forest management units.

"The new power-free water pump is a typical example which helps people have a realistic understanding of sustainable profit and clean energy use," said Hwang Jong Gyun, head of a department at Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

MEDICINE

New process for producing diosgenin set up

The Korea Rungna 888 General Trading Corporation has established a production technology of diosgenin.

A natural steroid compound which is found in the root of yam, diosgenin is used as an essential raw material not only for the synthesis of hundreds of kinds of steroid hormone medicines such as prednisolone, hydrocortisone and progesterone, but also for

livestock farming, fish culture and cosmetics industry. It has a wide range of applications and is known as “gold” for medicine and “key of life” for its importance.

The research group of the corporation has long engaged in the development of diosgenin. This time it invented a new method that surpassed the production process based on the traditional method of hydrolysis

and on the basis of it conducted research to creatively establish a technical process.

In the course of it, the developers established a new production method and process which reduces several of the 10 traditional production processes and increases the purity of diosgenin up to over 98 percent without passing through the technology and refining process to decrease the sulfuric acid consumption to a tenth.

HPLC, FT-IR and MS analyses of its product in several analysis institutions of the DPRK and other countries confirmed its purity is over 98 percent.

The continuous diosgenin production technology attracts the interest of experts as an ideal one—labour-saving, material-saving and environment-friendly—which ensures any production level with less investment.



KCNA

A woman checks the new diosgenin production process.

By Jong Tang Song PT

HEALTH

Garlic used in health food for protecting liver

Garlic silymarin capsules developed by the Jinung Trading Company of Kim Il Sung University are now popular with clients.

This high-tech product based on the bioengineering technology is made by extracting useful components from garlic, silymarin and other substances without adding chemicals.

A medicine on the WHO's essential liver drug list, silymarin protects the liver cell membrane, prevents oxidation and inflammation and helps secrete bile.

Kim Chol Song, PhD, and other developers have worked to develop a highly curative liver-protecting medicine that shortens the treatment period more than silymarin.

They paid special attention to garlic with anti-inflammatory and many other properties, found a solution for the rational mixing ratio of garlic and silymarin, and established a production method conducive to maximizing the actual extraction rate of medicinal elements.

Pharmacological study and clinical tests show that the new development has a curative effect 1.5-2 times higher than

a few existing anti-hepatitis drugs while using 50 times less silymarin.

This health food inhibits the action of substances detrimental to liver, recovers damaged liver and has protective and regenerative effects that vitamins C and E cannot produce.

It activates the anti-oxidizing enzymes in the cells of liver and intestines to prevent liver damage and the formation of surplus fatty acid and cholesterol in them and enhance their restoring functions.

It is used to retard ageing and maintain good health as

it contains substances which help purify blood, remove cholesterol or neutral fat accumulated in blood vessels and protect liver from the attack by microorganisms, as well as anti-oxidizing substances that retard ageing by protecting cells from diverse oxidants in human body and the low-molecular peptide that lowers blood pressure.

Listed as a national patent last April, the product won popularity at the 21st Pyongyang Spring International Trade Fair.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Garlic silymarin capsules newly developed by the Jinung Trading Company.

R&D

Cable detector evaluated as effective

The South Phyongan Provincial Posts and Telecommunications Management Bureau has developed a new type of underground cable detector.

The device makes it possible to conduct the troubleshooting and routine management of communication lines and electric cables in a scientific manner by correctly checking diverse underground cables.

Previously, the fault point was found by digging a certain area of ground where cables are buried. Conventional fault finders were available, but they could be applied only when trackmen found the point to connect the wire transmitting device. In this case, the testing work was possible only when the connection point was taken out of the earth as the place of cable cut and accurate buried spot could not be settled on the spot.

The newly-developed wireless underground cable detector helps the trackmen

find out the place where cables are cut and ground fault in a few minutes when they know the approximate fault section.

The portable detector consists of a transmitter and receiver, and the job can be done alone.

As the operation is simple, it is easy to detect bad places, as well as the position and direction of tracks. The detector is capable of scanning the cables buried several metres deep under the ground and there is no confusion in detection as no metals other than cables are detected.

Power consumption is one tenth of the existing fault finders and it is operational for decades if there is no physical breakdown.

The “eyes” looking into underground won high appraisal at different festivals and public presentations including the 33rd national sci-tech festival.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

COSMETICS

Stem cell technology applied to cosmetics

Everyone wants to live long in good health, always full of youthful vigour.

As stem cell, source of regenerative medicine, was discovered, it has become possible to realize such desire of humanity.

Researcher Pak Kyong Chol and other members of the research group of the stem cell institute under the Bioengineering Branch have developed cosmetics with new functions by introducing stem cell technology, which restores cells to regenerate damaged internal organs or tissues.

Ageing is most clearly seen on facial skin, because if the skin gets old, its stem cells cannot make enough cells and the number of cells grows smaller, causing wrinkles and pigmentation. And metabolic troubles caused by lack of cells lower elasticity, shine and moisturizing capacity of the skin.

Stem cell remains dormant in normal conditions, but is active only when the cell dies of ageing or wound.

So it needs to be woken up from dormancy by way of artificially injecting cell regenerating factors and stimulating it in order to activate it.

The researchers processed

over a dozen cell growth factors and nutritional physiological active materials, which promote division and proliferation of various stem and full-grown cells of skin tissue, to make functional cosmetics.

“Tanbi (good rain)”—brand cosmetics have been proved to be effective in removing and preventing wrinkles and make skin soft and elastic as they are regenerative cosmetics which, unlike the precious ones, activate stem cells inside the skin and regenerate skin tissue like that of young people.

They also produce highly whitening effect by controlling melanin pigment synthesis and remove freckle and black spot and make skin clear by encouraging the fall-off of pigment cell. In addition, they help build up moisturizing capacity by strengthening synthesis of hyaluronic acid, collagen and other materials in the skin and have the effect of preventing ultraviolet rays.

They win favour with a wide range of consumers.

They were in great demand at the recent 21st Pyongyang Spring International Trade Fair.

By Pang Un Ju PT

EDUCATION

New teaching methods applied to training program

Pyongyang Teachers Training College, a "pedigree farm" of teachers for kindergartens and primary schools, is now striving to upgrade the teaching methods on the basis of modern pedagogy and educational technology.

It has introduced a new teaching method, virtual reality (VR) teaching experience system, and produced good results in education.

The VR system is a teaching method to make teachers experience the psychology of primary school pupils and acquire the techniques to control their psychology according to the circumstances in order to train their various practical abilities.

Generally, primary schoolers lack concentration, are mischievous and live in their mentality rather than listening to teachers. So many teachers face difficulties in their education.

In the past the college failed to improve the practical ability of

students as it gave stereotyped lessons in which a few imaginary situations were fixed and students changed their positions as "teacher" and "pupil" in turn.

But now they are cultivating their practical abilities to deal with various circumstances while virtually experiencing the same situation as to teach pupils at school by using the system.

The system was registered as a good product in the 2017 national exhibition of IT achievements and is now widely introduced into teachers training colleges.

The college has also invented a teaching method based on two-way communication means and teaches a variety of teaching methods, including the method of online two-way teaching along with affiliated primary school, teaching aids utilization method in different environments of primary school and kindergarten, method of combining teaching and edification in primary school education and method of

combination of school education with family education.

The two-way teaching method proves highly effective as it not only facilitates information exchange and question-and-answer sessions between teacher and pupil but also automatically assesses the pupils' understanding in real time by using the computer network built in the multi-functional classroom.

The introduction of new teaching methods enabled the college to fire the students with enthusiasm for learning and intensify education more than ever before, closely combine education with reality and make the students understand the content of teaching materials theoretically in connection with the basic and adjacent subjects.

The new teaching methods whose contents are practical, general and up-to-date prove their worth in teaching practice.

By Pang Un Ju PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Students practise new teaching methods at Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

EVENT

Disabled persons stage a performance in Hamhung

Art group members of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled gave a music and dance performance at the Hamhung Grand Theatre between June 23 and 29 on the occasion of the Day of Persons with Disabilities.

It was seen by officials, working people, youth and students, and disabled persons and their families in South Hamgyong Province.

Starting with song and dance *Glory to General Kim Jong Un*, the performers staged a variety of numbers including mixed chorus *Ode to Motherland*, female vocal solo *Thanks to the Party*, poem recitation *We Will Only Live in Its Embrace*, piano solo *My Hope-filled Motherland*, folk dance *Ongheya* and magic *The Secret of the Box*.

The performance represented a worthwhile life of the disabled

who are giving full play to their talents thanks to the policy of protecting disabled persons and the most advantageous socialist system.

Whenever the performers displayed high skills as good as professional artistes in vocal

music, instrumental music and dance, the audience gave warm applause.

The performance ended with song and dance *My Great Country*.

Compiled from KCNA



KCNA

Disabled persons present a music and dance performance at the Hamhung Grand Theatre.

ACROBATICS

Handstand performer aims to break new ground

An acrobatic star is winning popularity among the locals for his gifted talent and perfect play.

He is Han Kuk Ryong (pictured), an aerial acrobat at the National Acrobatic Troupe.

The 25-year-old acquitted himself well at the Idol-2016 world acrobatic art festival, the 1st Minsk International Circus Festival and the 7th Gold Elephant Prize International Circus Festival.

He made his international debut in September 2016 in Russia.

The Idol-2016 festival drew many world-famous acrobatic pieces.

However, Han's physical stunt "Handstand Perching" held spellbound the jury and spectators with special skills and original artistic depiction.

Balancing himself upside down on 50-centimetre-long sticks which he piled up in seven tiers, he flawlessly performed forward and backward horizontal balancing, 360-degree spinning on one hand and other stunts. Though he was a novice, he lifted a bronze trophy at the festival.

He renewed the composition and degree of difficulty of his piece with an original idea and distinctive stunts to cut a brilliant figure at the Minsk festival a year later.

The climax of his piece was to perform different stunts on a swaying iron pole at a height of eight metres. The audience burst into cheers and applause each time he performed a stunt on the pole which swung at an angle of nearly 90 degrees at maximum without putting on safety belt.

His thrilling performance

By Jong Sun Bok PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

brought him the gold prize, the top honour of the festival, and mass evaluation prize.

He also stole the show at the 7th Gold Elephant Prize International Circus Festival held in Spain last February by performing elegant and vigorous feats.

As they showcased the development aspect of the Korean acrobatic art which is expanding its dominative position to a wider scope beyond aerial stunt, he won the silver elephant prize and popularity prize.

Having taken up acrobatics at the age of twelve, he got fame by playing on thousands of occasions over the past 13 years.

A gifted acrobat with unusual spirit of inquiry, he always seeks something new and innovative.

Though he rose up as a world-class acrobat in such a short span of time, he is working hard with an ambitious goal to break fresh ground in handstand stunts.

PRESENTATION

Show focuses on anti-epizootic solutions

A sci-tech presentation in the anti-epizootic sector was given together with a medicine show at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang on July 3-4 under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

Introduced at the presentation drawing officials from the anti-epizootic sector in Pyongyang and local areas were over 200 achievements

and experiences gained in the course of intensifying research for putting the anti-epizootic work, diagnosis of animal diseases and production of medicines for animals on a high scientific and technological basis.

The exhibition put on display more than 600 medicines in some 200 kinds, drawing the interest of participants.

Compiled from KCNA

CELEBRATED MOUNTAIN

Mt Kumgang, world-famous scenic beauty

Mt Kumgang located in the northern part of the Thaeback Mountains which stretch lengthily from south to north along the east coast is known as one of the eight scenic spots in Korea and the three holy mountains as it unfolds all kinds of natural scenes which are multifarious, majestic and graceful.

It is blessed with high peaks including Piro Peak (1 639m), famous rocks, passes, stone gates, waterfalls, pools and ponds.

Its scenery is as beautiful as a piece of painting. Countless peaks in myriad shapes, crystal-clear water flowing down into deep valleys and spectacular waterfalls are in good harmony with rare fauna and flora.

Therefore, Korean ancestors called the mountain Kumgang by likening it to a diamond which is ranked top among many kinds of precious gems.

The mountain can be claimed to be an aggregate of superb natural views as it is

endowed with natural beauty of mountains and valleys as well as that of plateau, land, lake, sea and seaside.

Everywhere you go, the mountain presents a unique view.

Mt Kumgang is classified into Inner Kumgang, Outer Kumgang and Sea Kumgang according to the characteristics of natural scenes and their positions.

Inner Kumgang has superb scenic beauties in each valley thanks to the combination of lots of waterfalls and ponds, thick foliage and mysterious rocks and cliffs and it is featured by the beauty of deep, secluded and graceful valleys.

Outer Kumgang showcases the natural beauty of magnificent mountains, presenting splendid views of innumerable peaks, myriads of shapes of fantastic rocks, ravines, waterfalls and ponds.

Sea Kumgang, a replica of Mt. Kumgang in the sea, is characterized by beautiful sights of lake, coast and sea.

Green pine trees growing on granite cliffs and rocky islets of various shapes in the area unroll beautiful scenery in harmony with the waves breaking on rocks.

The mountain is so beautiful that lots of famous writers and



Mt Kumgang in autumn.

painters said that it is hard to depict Mt Kumgang both in writing and painting.

The mountain has lots of historical and cultural relics and remains, from the dolmen of the primitive age to old tombs built at the outset of class society and forts, buildings, pagodas, monuments, Buddhist statues, metalwork and wood carvings from the Middle Ages.

The flora of the mountain is so diverse and rich that it looks like a grand natural botanical garden. A total of 2 298 species of plants grow on the mountain, including alpine, tropical and indigenous plants including *Pentactina*

rupicola and *Kumkangsania asiatica*.

There are a number of legends on the natural scenery and Koreans' beautiful manners and customs, including the one about the eight fairies of Mt Kumgang.

At present, the mountain has been developed into a world-class scenic attraction furnished with modern cultural and recreational facilities, and lots of tourists and holidaymakers visit it every year for rest and sightseeing.

Ri Ok Suk, lecturer at Kim Il Sung University



Podok Hermitage.



Kuryong (nine dragons) Falls.



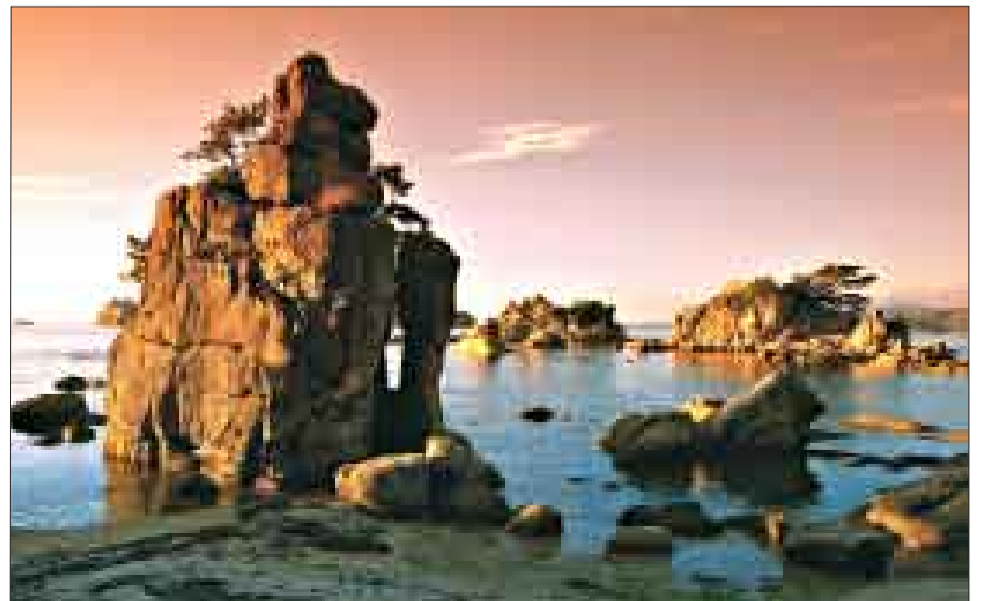
Mysteriously shaped rocks.



Upper Eight Pools.



Tourists enjoy mountain climbing.



Sea Kumgang in the glow of the setting sun.

REMEMBRANCE

Great leaders' whole-hearted devotion to national reunification will live on

The Korean people are now looking back on the immortal exploits President Kim Il Sung performed for the cause of national reunification to mark the 46th anniversary of the publication of the historic July 4 Joint Statement.

The President, who took it as an important mission he assumed for his people to put an end to the tragedy of national division and reunify the country, always devoted his thinking and efforts to the settlement of the reunification issue and, in the course of this, provided great programmes for independent reunification.

The July 4 1972 Joint Statement is one of them.

Back in August 1971 the President put forward a policy of broad negotiations, declaring that the DPRK was ready to make contact at any time with all the political parties, public organizations and individual personages in south Korea.

Afterwards he detailed the principles of national reunification he had long formulated to the south Korean

delegates to the inter-Korean high-level political talks held in Pyongyang.

The representative of the south side fully supported the President's view that the Korean reunification issue should on all accounts be resolved independently without foreign interference and peacefully, on the principle of promoting great national unity, vowing he would take it as a mainstay of reunification.

As a result, the north and south of Korea published the joint statement with the three principles of national reunification—*independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity*—as the main content on July 4 1972.

The publication of the joint statement was a landmark event in Korean history that opened up a new chapter for dialogue and negotiations between the north and south, which had been pitted against each other with distrust for decades, and instilled hope for national reunification into all the fellow countrymen.

The three principles clarified in the joint statement constitute the cornerstone of reunification and a common reunification programme of the nation elucidating the basic stand and ways to settle the reunification issue by national efforts in keeping with its will and interests.

The publication of the principles made it possible to advance the reunification movement of the Korean nation along the track of independence.

Chairman Kim Jong Il energetically led the efforts to apply the three principles by setting them as the banner of independent reunification.

He formulated the Three Charters for National Reunification with the principles, the ten-point programme of great national unity and the proposal for founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo, all put forward by the President.

He hosted the north-south summit meeting for the first time in the history of national

division and ensured that the June 15 2000 Joint Declaration whose core is the idea of *By Our Nation Itself* and the October 4 2007 Declaration, the action programme of the former, were adopted at two rounds of inter-Korean summits, thereby providing a historic milestone for independent reunification and bringing about a turning point for Korea's reunification.

The cause of national reunification that was started and led by the great leaders is making a dynamic advance under the wise leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

True to their lifetime instructions, he is working hard to develop the reunification movement onto a new higher stage.

In his report to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the work of the Central Committee, he reaffirmed the Juche-oriented reunification line of the great leaders as the guidelines to be followed by all the fellow

countrymen and set national independence, great national unity, peace and a federal system as the policy to be pursued in the struggle for national reunification, thus illuminating the way for building a powerful reunified state.

In particular, he arranged two rounds of inter-Korean summit meetings at Panmunjom and ushered in a new era of independent reunification, peace and prosperity through the publication of the April 27 2018 Panmunjom Declaration.

Thanks to his broadminded decision, a dramatic turn has been brought about in north-south relations and an atmosphere of national reconciliation and cooperation has been created on the Korean peninsula where the chill of acute confrontation lingered.

That is why the Korean people are convinced that national reunification will surely be achieved as they are led by Kim Jong Un.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

COMMENT

No future without atoning for the sinful past

"It's my turn next. I'll have face-to-face talks with north Korea to resolve major pending issues. I hope for its courageous decision over the abduction issue."

These are what Japanese Prime Minister Abe is shrieking almost every day.

Until some days before he was arguing that "dialogue for dialogue's sake is meaningless" and "dialogue with north Korea itself is abnormal", but now he has done an about-face in a desperate bid to realize DPRK-Japan summit talks, to the amazement of the world people.

As is known, the abduction issue was fully resolved in 2002 when the historic DPRK-Japan Declaration was published in Pyongyang during the then Japanese prime minister's visit. Though he might know well about it, Abe has come out with the issue once again to trumpet it as the purpose of the bilateral talks.

This is just the Japanese way of thinking about "dispelling mutual distrust and building confidence".

Conscience and morality are above politics, and justice and truth top diplomacy.

The "abduction issue"

much clamoured about by the Japanese authorities is just a matter for which the DPRK should castigate Japan.

The world people are still indignant at the abduction-related crimes Japan committed during its brutal colonial rule over Korea. It forcibly drafted over 8.4 million young and middle-aged Koreans to send them to the sites of slave labour and battlefields and reduced 200 000 Korean women to the sexual slaves of Japanese troops, violating their youth and mercilessly slaughtering them. The heinous human rights abuses left a wound that cannot heal forever.

But the Japanese authorities have set the "settlement of the abduction issue" as a reason for dialogue, talking about "national sentiment". Such behaviour is an imprudent act devoid of conscience and decency and an intolerable insult to the Koreans and mockery of them.

Japan has an ulterior motive for making the fuss over the issue.

The aim of the assailant that committed unpardonable crimes against the Korean nation in the past is to disguise itself as a "victim", tarnish

the international image of the DPRK, gloss over the crimes and evade the redemption of them.

Meanwhile, the Abe clan is playing the Samaritan.

At a recent TV round table Abe said Japan is "willing to bear the expense for the denuclearization of north Korea".

But the farce was so crude that a former chief cabinet secretary retorted that "what Japan must do at present is to make an apology for the colonization of the Korean peninsula in the past".

As a miser considers everything in terms of money, the Japanese mercenaries regard money as an "absolute weapon" and cannot abandon their mean and despicable nature.

If Japan truly wants the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations and regional peace and stability, it must make a courageous decision to redress the crimes it committed against the Korean nation and discard the dagger in its belt, instead of playing cheap tricks in a bid to meddle in the Korean peninsula issue as it dangles a threadbare purse.

Needless to say, the Abe clan clamours for dialogue in order to put up a smokescreen over

their bid to turn Japan into a military power and reinvade the Asian continent, ratchet up their nose-diving political popularity and prolong their doomed life.

Whenever Japan was driven into a political crisis, it used the argument of "north Korea threat", regarding it as a cure-all. It is anachronistic for Japan to try to profit from such a plea even at present.

Japan has a queer political formula that it gains in popularity when it takes a hard line on the DPRK. But the recipe cannot work now that the wild militaristic gale has been overpowered by the balmy breeze from the Korean peninsula.

Japan should know clearly that unless the fundamental issue is settled between the DPRK and Japan, there can be no improved relations. The issue of improving the relationship is, in essence, to forge and develop new bilateral relations in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and as required by the times, on the basis of Japan's apology for the crimes it committed against the Korean people in the past and its full settlement of them.

Japan can expect nothing before it makes amends for the past crimes and replaces its policy of hostility towards the DPRK with that of good neighbourliness.

Kim Yon I

around the world

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in a recent interview with a British TV, censured the West for its wrong policy. He said Russia does not beg the West to lift sanctions, but regards them as an opportunity to build its capacity in different key fields needed for an independent state including the economy and security.

Russia will take countermeasures according to how the West behaves, he noted.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, addressing a ceremony on June 28, called on the Iranian people to unite and display perseverance and the spirit of resistance to inflict a defeat on the enemy.

Saying that the enemy are persisting in threat and economic sanctions as they clamour for subjugating the Iranians, he noted the Iranian people should turn the tables on the enemy, take the initiative and show off their creativity before the eyes of arrogant big powers.

The Israeli troops fired live bullets at the Palestinians who were out in an anti-Israeli demonstration in an area bordering the Gaza Strip on June 29, killing two and wounding 310.

Compiled from KCNA

SOCCER

Jebi always prevails over Wolmido

Thrilling scenes are unfolded in succession at the 2017-2018 DPRK premier league soccer tournament which is getting fiercer with the passage of time.

A typical example is the match between Wolmido and Jebi on July 1.

Earlier, Jebi beat Wolmido 1-0 in the first leg of away match.

Though Wolmido leads Jebi in the annual rankings, it lost most of games with the latter. So, the matches between them have always been the focus of attention of fans.

The game started with Jebi's kick-off and Wolmido grabbed the opening goal.

Its No. 9 headed the low and fast corner kick from No. 14 just 36 seconds after the kick-off.

The scoring is the earliest one in the local premier league soccer tournament.

In the 5th minute, the referee blew his whistle amid a melee in Wolmido's goal area.

Jebi was awarded a penalty kick due to a Wolmido defender's hand-touch and it drilled home the equalizer.

It went on offensive before scoring another goal at the closing time of the first half by dint of well-knit two- or three-men combination.

The second half proceeded with Wolmido's unilateral attack.

Lots of spectators predicted that it would score, but, contrary to their expectation, it allowed third loss in the 75th minute. Jebi switched over to a fast break from all-out defence. The long centring from the right side brought a goal thanks to the cooperation of Nos. 7 and 23.

Wolmido launched into an all-out attack involving even the goalkeeper.

Wolmido's uninterrupted attacks in the Jebi's goal area greatly excited spectators.

In the 86th minute Wolmido made up for a loss with the header from centring.

There was no more goal and the game ended 3-2 in favour of Jebi.

"Wolmido gave full play to its offensive power and tactics until the end of the match and was superior to Jebi in terms of ball possession and shot, but it lost the game again. Through the match, spectators came to have a thought that Jebi is still an insurmountable barrier to Wolmido," said Rim Myong Il, a football enthusiast.

By Jong Tang Song PT



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene of the match between Jebi and Wolmido.

BASKETBALL

Basketball players from north and south hold friendly matches



KCNA

An inter-Korean basketball match is played at the Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium.

The north-south basketball games for reunification took place in Pyongyang on July 4-5 as the atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity heats up in the wake of the adoption of the historic Panmunjom Declaration.

The games involving the picked male and female basketball teams of both sides consisted of the matches between the teams formed by mixing northern and southern players and the friendlies between the picked teams.

The mixed matches were played at Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium on July 4.

They were seen by Choe Hwi, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and also chairman of the National Sports Guidance Committee, Vice-Premier Jon Kwang Ho, Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, Kim Il Guk, minister of Physical Culture and Sports, relevant officials, sportspersons, Pyongyang people and visiting

overseas Koreans.

Also present at the event were the leading members of the south side's delegation and sports squad led by Jo Myong Gyun, minister of Unification.

Prior to the games, congratulatory speeches were delivered.

Kim Il Guk said that the reunification-oriented basketball games have been arranged according to the noble intention of the leaders of the north and the south, adding that the great image of the Arirang nation will be demonstrated to the world when both sides treasure the warm affection of all the fellow countrymen and join efforts to give full play to the resourcefulness and talents of the homogeneous nation.

Jo Myong Gyun said that the south and the north are advancing towards a new era of peace and prosperity thanks to the Panmunjom Declaration adopted by their leaders, and the advance is being spearheaded by

inter-Korean sports exchange, affirming that the current games would help expand sports exchange and make a great contribution to national reconciliation and unity.

After players, coaches and referees were presented, male and female cagers played matches respectively, divided into "peace" and "prosperity" teams.

The "prosperity" team won the women's match, and men's game ended in a draw.

On July 5 the male and female picked teams of both the north and the south played friendly matches respectively, divided into "red" and "blue" teams.

The players organically combined offensive and defence according to their teams' tactics and fully displayed their high skills and noble sportsmanship.

That day, the "blue" team won the women's friendly and the "red" team was the winner of the men's match.

Compiled from KCNA

Uam seal habitat

The Uam seal habitat is in the waters off Rason City in the northeastern tip of the Korean peninsula.

Uam seals flock to the about 200-hectare area in the estuary of the Tuman River and one-mile water area of a small uninhabited island between spring and autumn every year.

The sandy and rocky habitat borders Russia in the northeast, with Rason and the East Sea of Korea in the southwest.

It has an average temperature of 6.2 degrees centigrade and annual average precipitation of 787 millimetres.

Linking the lower reaches of the Tuman River with the sea, it is surrounded by islands. It has a mild weather and is full of sea and freshwater fishes, providing a good condition for their feeding.

The habitat is of great academic value as it is the living area in summer of the rare species of animal under international protection.

Uam seal has been designated as a national living monument and its habitat and population are under strict government protection in the DPRK.

By Yang Ryon Hui PT



JON SON IL

A partial view of the Uam seal habitat.