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Chairman Kim Jong Un receives a message from US President Trump



Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, has received a personal message from US President Donald Trump.

Having read the message, he expressed satisfaction saying it contains good suggestions.

He said that he appreciates President Trump's politically judging prowess and unusual courage, adding he would weigh the appealing contents.

Compiled from KCNA

VISIT

Syrian official reaffirms stance to boost mutual support and solidarity

A Syrian government delegation has visited the DPRK.

The DPRK foreign minister held talks with the Syrian deputy prime minister who doubles as minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on June 24.

At the talks, Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Walid Al-Muallem had an in-depth exchange of views on further developing the historic and traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries provided by the preceding leaders and on regional and international issues and reached a consensus, reaffirming their commitments to boosting mutual support and solidarity.

After the talks an MOU on political negotiations between the DPRK Foreign Ministry and the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates was signed.

Present there from the DPRK side were Vice Foreign

Minister Pak Myong Guk and other Foreign Ministry officials and from the Syrian side were members of the Syrian government delegation and Syrian ambassador to the DPRK Tammam Sulaiman.

The head of the Syrian government delegation presented a gift to DPRK Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

During their stay in Pyongyang, the Syrian government delegation paid courtesy calls on Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-chairman of

the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Ri Su Yong, member of the Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, and had talks with them.

That day the DPRK government hosted a reception at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in honour of the visiting Syrian government delegation.

The Syrian government delegation arrived in Pyongyang on June 21.

Compiled from KCNA



Senior official Choe Ryong Hae talks with the Syrian government delegation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction projects go full steam ahead

Landscaping is dynamically pushed forward in parallel with the huge construction project to develop Samjiyon County into a model city of culture in the mountainous area.

According to data available, hundreds of thousands of trees have already been planted in the county town, over a dozen hectares of lawn created and flowers to be planted in the areas of thousands of square metres are under cultivation.

Builders also planted many trees along the roads in the county town and tended them with care to increase the rate of rooting.

The Ministry of Land and Environment Protection has stepped up the project to upgrade the Central Tree Nursery.

As a result, all buildings were renovated and seed selection and sowing ground was newly built to ensure the production of enough tree seedlings.

Now it concentrates on the construction of a tree sapling exhibition hall, a plastic panel

greenhouse, an integrated production control room and several others.

The construction of Huchang Mine Power Station Unit 4 is progressing at a fast pace.

The builders, who started the construction in November last year, have already completed dam building and waterway tunnelling.

The Ryanggang provincial Kungang management bureau has undertaken the project on the basis of experience they had gained in building Huchang Mine Power Station Unit 5 a few years ago. The new project is larger than the latter in power generation capacity.

After finishing the excavation of waterway by breaking the natural rocks with continuous drilling and blasting and removing thousands of cubic metres of soil and rocks every day, the builders are now pushing ahead with concrete laying.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

LEAD

Paving the way for building a powerful nation

The Korean people significantly celebrate the day when Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un was elected to the top state post with absolute trust in and profound respect for him.

On June 29 three years back, Kim Jong Un was elected chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK.

His election to the top post of the country was an event of great significance in adding glory to the DPRK as the dignified country of the people by carrying forward the state-building idea and exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and in opening up a turning phase in the building of a powerful country.

The Supreme Leader illuminated the path to national prosperity with outstanding wisdom and energetic ideological and theoretical activities over the past three years.

He declared the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the eternal guiding ideology of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state, and put forward a series of thoughts and theories on upholding the our-state-first principle, accelerating the advance of the revolution under the uplifted banner of self-reliance and others.

He laid solid political, military and economic foundations with outstanding leadership.

He administered the politics of loving the people, enjoying increasing trust and reverence

of the people for their leader and markedly building up the politico-ideological might of the country, the foremost of its national strength.

The Korean People's Army was strengthened into an elite force which defends the country and people at the cost of their lives and the self-reliant defence capability was built up, providing a sure guarantee for the security and bright future of the country.

Viewing talents and science and technology as the strategic resources, he saw that the people gave full play to the spirit of self-reliance and creative ability, with the result that the development potentials of the country's independent economy was fully demonstrated and notable progress made in achieving the goals of the five-year strategy for national economic development.

The Supreme Leader strengthened the political power of the country into the genuine people's power whose mode of existence is to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

He ensured that the people-first principle was applied to all fields of state activities so that the habit of giving top priority to and absolutizing the people's interests and devotedly working for their wellbeing prevailed in the country.

He made continuous field inspection tours to create a new history of "gold mountains", "golden fields" and "gold seas"

and spared nothing for relieving the people of their pains and sufferings. As a result, monumental structures for them sprang up one after another and great achievements were made in the building of socialist civilization including education and public health.

These are the fruition of the untiring efforts and devotion of the Supreme Leader who sets happy laughter of the people as the number one indicator of a powerful socialist country.

It is thanks to his noble spirit of patriotism and bold decision that epoch-making events took place in the past one year alone in the efforts of the Korean people to achieve the country's reunification, including three rounds of inter-Korean summit and the adoption of the Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration.

As he conducted energetic external activities, the position of the country was lifted in the international arena incomparably and a new international trend has been created for defending global peace and security and building a new just world.

It is the unshakeable faith and will of the Korean people to invariably hold Kim Jong Un in high esteem at the top post of the country and step up socialist construction by dint of self-reliance, thus building a powerful socialist country without fail on this land.

Pyon Mun Yong

ANNIVERSARY

Exhibition held in China to promote Korean culture

A DPRK culture exhibition took place in Beijing, China, between June 14 and 20 to mark the first anniversary of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's visit to China.

Seen at the exhibition venue were photos showing the Supreme Leader's China tour.

On display were also his works, picture album documenting his energetic external activities, Korean stamps and artworks showing the creative talents of the Korean nation.

The opening ceremony was attended by the chairman of the China World Peace Foundation and other personages, and staff members of the DPRK embassy in Beijing.

Speeches were made at the ceremony.

The chairman of the China World Peace Foundation said that the DPRK is an independent

country and the Korean people are diligent and good-natured people. The Sino-DPRK friendship was forged by blood and the prosperity of the DPRK is beneficial to the peaceful development of China, he added.

The secretary general of an organization for the promotion of international exchange in Beijing said that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the DPRK, expressing his willingness to further promote exchanges between the two countries and thus make contributions to bolstering up the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship through generations.

Compiled from KCNA



A DPRK culture exhibition is held in Beijing to mark the first anniversary of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's visit to China.

Election committees in the works

According to the DPRK's Law on the Elections of Deputies to the People's Assemblies at All Levels, election committees were organized at constituencies and sub-constituencies in

provinces (cities under direct control of the government), cities (districts) and counties and started their work.

Compiled from KCNA

RESPONSE

'We must know the DPRK as it is'

Foreign visitors see the DPRK from a new angle.

As he talked about the impression of his visit to the DPRK as head of the Czech parliamentary delegation, Lubomir Zaoralek, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, stressed the need to develop friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and trust.

He said it is important to meet many Koreans in order to know the DPRK as it is.

Expressing support to the DPRK's exercise of the right to defend national sovereignty and appreciating its constant diplomatic efforts for peace, he rejected anti-DPRK sanctions of all forms.

Najdat Anzour, head of the delegation of the Syrian People's Assembly, said that he was deeply impressed after looking round various places in the DPRK.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un always gives top priority to the people's interests as he plans everything for them, he said.

Working people receive medical treatment free of charge and enjoy cultured life at modern hospitals and welfare service facilities, he noted.

He said he was really surprised to see that all are built and run on the principle of providing users with full convenience.

"I am greatly impressed by the popular policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government that spare nothing for the people," he said.

"Nowhere in the world can be seen such a blessed people as Koreans who are living under

the warm care of the great leader."

The irrigation minister of the Nepalese government said the whole world is admiring the painstaking efforts of the Korean people who have made eye-opening achievements in various fields while firmly defending socialism.

It is not easy to make its way through all kinds of difficulties by its own efforts, he said.

No force on earth can check the dynamic advance of the DPRK, he added.

Hector Rodriguez, head of the delegation of the Central Council of the Communist Youth of Venezuela, said that he was deeply moved as he heard the story that Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un rode the amusement facilities to make sure their safety.

Many state leaders say they are working for the people, but history has never known such a leader as Kim Jong Un who loves his people very much, he said.

Seeing the Korean people lead a happy life under the warm care of the peerlessly great man, he could realize the advantages of Korean-style socialism in which people are the masters of everything and everything serves them, he noted.

"The DPRK is a people's paradise which is the best in the world," he said.

"As they are led by him who makes the impossible possible if it is for the people, the Korean people will surely build a powerful socialist country."

Compiled from KCNA



COAL

Industry focuses on coal-fired power plants

The coal-mining industry now concentrates on the production of coal for thermal power stations.

“The water shortage in hydropower stations requires the radical increase of power generation by thermal power stations,” said Kim Chang Sok, department director of the Ministry of Coal Industry.

According to him, the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, which takes a large share in the supply of coal for thermal power stations, found the solution to increased production in giving priority to tunnelling to secure lots of coal beds and has concentrated efforts on it.

In particular, the February 8 Jiktong and Chonsong youth coal mines are making innovations in coal production every day at all coal pits by giving precedence to the supply of tunnelling equipment and materials and raising the technical skills of

tunnelling workers.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex have organized the emulations for increased production while generalizing the successes and experiences gained by the leading units in the production of coal for thermal power stations.

The Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex has introduced efficient working methods to suit the conditions of coal beds and faces and raised the proportion of mechanization of coal extraction to increase the production.

The Tukjang Youth Coal Mine and the Myonghak Coal Mine introduced rake conveyors and various other machines with the help of scientists.

The ministry also pushes ahead with a programme to build up the coal-mining equipment.

Compiled from KCNA

AGRICULTURE

Mud snail organic farming productive

Now rice-transplanting has been finished and weeding is under way all over the country.

Strangely, however, no farmers are seen weeding or applying herbicide in the paddies of Yomju County, North Phyongan Province, in the west coastal area. Instead, grass munching sounds of innumerable mud snails in paddies are heard at night, adding to the rural idyll of mid-summer night.

It is over a dozen years since the county paid attention to mud snail.

“Once, researchers of Kim Il Sung University visited us and said mud snail is a tropical mollusk eating grass well in water and if we make effective use of its characters we can do paddy rice farming without weeding and using herbicide. Pricked by a needle of curiosity, we built experimental mud snail plots at workteams of several farms and observed them,” said an official of the county cooperative farm management committee.

Seeing is believing. All were surprised to see what happened in the experimental plots. They were clean with no weeds and in autumn they yielded 800 kilograms more rice per hectare on average than ordinary plots, over one ton at maximum, and the soil turned black and looked oily.

In the past herbicide arrested

the shooting and growth of rice in the latter period. But as it was not used, the rate of shooting rose, water permeability and porosity of soil improved as mud snails did vertical movements around the roots of rice plants and their excrement increased the soil fertility.

The county was confident of success and decided to introduce it into all farms.

“Soon we faced a big challenge. We had to have millions of mud snails to spread them all over the paddy fields across the county, but mud snail farming was not enough to secure the amount. So we tried to make them hibernate,” said Choe Yong Il, chief engineer of the Ryongbuk Cooperative Farm.

Farmers of the cooperative farm discovered that drying is the best way to make mud snails hibernate. And they found out that they can safely spend the winter in a state like a deep sleep for 200 days at the constant atmospheric temperature of 8-12 degrees centigrade and it is important to nourish them well and make them fully excrete before wintering.

Dry hibernation grounds and outdoor breeding grounds were built on all farms and at all workteams. Some time later, the Ryongbuk Cooperative

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FORESTRY

Model plane applied to the rescue of forests

The second national forest science and technology show held last year brought together many research hits conducive to forest restoration and protection.

Among those highly appreciated at the show was the model plane for scattering parasitic bees presented by the forest inspection and quarantine station of the North Hwanghae provincial forest management bureau.

“The model plane we designed and developed is the first of its kind to be applied to disinsectization in the country,” said Kim Chol Han, director of the station.

According to him, the protection of forests from noxious insects like pine caterpillars and pine nut sawfly is the most important matter in reforestation.

Especially, if pine caterpillars break out and infest, the consequences will be catastrophic.

Such methods as forest management, physico-mechanical worming that requires much labour and



Technical specifications

- Weight: 4 kg
- Output: 0.9 W
- Air speed: 100 km/h
- Flying time: 18 min
- Load of parasitic bees: 1.5 kg
- Spreading area: 200 hectares

agrochemical insect-killing are very expensive and economically inefficient. Monitoring in autumn and spring also showed that they were not effective against pine caterpillars.

The forest inspection and quarantine station, however, exterminates pine caterpillars by producing and scattering *Trichogramma dendrolimi*—a biological method that is harmless to other organisms and activates interaction among forest plants.

Originally, scattering of parasitic bees required more

than 50 people per hectare as it was done by putting their eggs on tree branches and barks at high places. It consumed much labour and the opportune period for the scattering is not so long.

“So we came up with an idea to use a model plane for scattering,” Kim said.

With the help of experts, they modified the altitude, speed, scattering angle and other engineering data of the aircraft so that they could control the speed under different complicated conditions and adjust the range of the scattering angle to reduce the loss of parasitic bee eggs and ensure maximum efficiency.

The trial flights of the plane in Sariwon and other parts of the province showed that it is economical and environment-friendly with a short extermination time.

It takes only 20 minutes for two people to get rid of noxious insects in 100 hectares of forests using the model plane, Kim said.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

MUSHROOM FARMING

Secret of increased production

“The secret behind normal production on our farm which grows mushroom for citizens is to invent and introduce new technologies on a constant basis,” said Pak Chol Ho, senior engineer at the Ryugyong Mushroom Farm.

Situated on the outskirts of Pyongyang, the farm has so far won popularity of citizens as it has overfulfilled its plan every year since it put production on an industrial basis.

All production processes, from moulding of mushroom substrate to inoculation of spores, cultivation in the

indoor cultivation ground, and treatment of waste substrate and bottles after harvest, are controlled by an integrated production control system.

As the farm is fully automated, technicians and growers are required to acquire high technology and skills.

“As we embarked on an untrodden path of industrializing mushroom production, we were accustomed to solving everything in our own way and by dint of science and technology, not following others, and this has become our mode of development,”



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Cultivators harvest full-grown mushrooms at the Ryugyong Mushroom Farm.

said Ri Chun Gil, chief of the spore workteam. “In the course of it, we applied good methods, which suit the actual conditions of our farm and country and help reduce costs and shorten the period of production, to spore production and inoculation, rather than adopting the method which is generally used in other countries.”

The farm introduced scores of new techniques, especially the introduction of substitute substrate, settlement of the amount of spores to be inoculated into substrate, a cultivation method free from waterproof cloth, a method of extending the lifespan of filter cloth installed at the germ-free area and a method of recycling waste substrate.

Noting that growers also played their part in this effort, Ri Yong Bok, chief of the cultivation workteam, said that many employees study at the online education college of Kim Il Sung University, while others acquire advanced domestic and foreign technical knowledge related to mushroom production in the sci-tech learning space.

New technological achievements made by the farm were highly appreciated at annual national sci-tech festivals and presentations, and its experience is generalized among different mushroom farms.

At present, the farm turns out *Pleurotus eryngii*, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *Auricularia polytricha* Sacc and *Flammulina velutipes*.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

GLASSES

Optician dear to Pyongyangites

Decades have passed since the Okryugyo Optician was opened on Changjon Street in downtown Pyongyang.

It is well-known throughout the country for its mobile services for scientific and educational sectors and key industrial establishments in Pyongyang and local areas.

"I'm a regular at this shop. The attendants kindly tell us about the importance of eyesight protection and how the glasses enhance the appearance and grace of the wearers. The environment of the shop is so hospitable that every visitor becomes fond of it," said So Hui Gun, PhD at Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts.

The number of visitors is on the rise as weather gets hotter these days.

Various frames and lenses that suit the tastes of people from all walks of life can be found in the sections of spectacles, sunglasses and contact lens. A special feature is that there are separate sections for children and university students that meet their psychology.

The frames are made of such materials as platinum, gold, titanium and other metals, gem, mahogany, buffalo horn and plastic in different colours and shapes and they are light, stylish and strong.

The sunglasses section sells the polarizing and coloured spectacles that screen ultraviolet rays, lens goggles and various other convenient glasses.

According to saleswoman Kim Ju, computer glasses are selling best.

She said these are good for preventing asthenopia caused by strains on eye muscles and other inconveniences at the eyes.

The shop is equipped with various facilities including test equipment and lens processing machine.

After an eye test with the automatic testing equipment, clients consult with an optician and buy or order glasses that suit their faces.

At the glasses-making room, various lenses are processed by the automatic precision machine according to sight test results. The lenses come in simple, omnifocal, coloured, aspherical, and polarizing and coloured ones.

Various other goods are on sale.

"Demand for better eyeglasses rises along with the development of society. We will provide more diverse services to meet the growing needs," said Manageress Kim Myong Sun.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Service is provided with eye tests at the Okryugyo Optician.

Agriculture: Organic farming proves effective

FROM PAGE 3

Farm succeeded in increasing the rate of living of mud snails to 98 percent, which was disseminated to all farms of the county. The year after they solved the feed problem for mud snails and then raised the rate of living of young mud snails. In this way they solved problems that arose in outdoor breeding of mud snails one after another. In the course of it, they invented a method of making solar energy collector panel with activated charcoal powder to ensure appropriate

temperature at hibernation grounds without using coal in midwinter.

As all farmers turned out for organic farming with mud snail, the county exceeded the level of peak production year in 2014 and produced many high-yield farms, workteams, sub-workteams and farmers despite the unfavourable weather conditions last year.

Now every farmer in the county says that they feel as if they cannot do farming without mud snails and the mud snail organic farming is a highly profitable, labour- and material-saving and future-oriented farming method.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

PROFILE

Mechanical researcher works to relieve country of burden

Anyone will generally think that a gold medal-winning machine at the national machine design festival is controlled automatically by a program.

The machine and its design which won the top prize at the 15th National Machine Design Festival is a small part of motor called a cycloid pin planet gearbox.

However, this tiny machine part is surprisingly beneficial to industries.

"It is an excellent product that can solve an essential matter in practice," Kang Kil Yong, manager of the Unnyul Mine, said after seeing the gearbox and its design at the festival, expressing his willingness to introduce it into his mine.

Its designer is Ri Chol San (pictured), researcher at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

The son of a worker at a machine factory in Ha-ri, Kangdong County, Pyongyang, grew up, hearing the noise of machines like a lullaby.

When he was a little boy, he asked his dad to where he was carrying a large machine



part on his back. His father answered that the machine was so "ill" that it had to go to a big "hospital".

Since then on, he cherished an idea to become a man who can cure "illnesses" of machines so that he could save his father troubles. He studied harder and harder and enrolled on the machine-tool course in the machine-building department of the university.

Kim Son Ho, lecturer at the machine-tool section of the university, recalled that Ri had an earnest desire for learning and was bright at his lessons.

After graduation, he became a researcher and obtained a doctorate for his numerous research hits including the CAM

inverse design by image processing.

"What always strikes me about his attitude to research works is that he devotes himself to solving any problems, be they big or small and labour-consuming or not, if they are urgent in practice", said one of his colleagues. "It was the same case with the cycloid pin planet gearbox, which is so small and unnoticeable."

Ri made up his mind to develop it when he got statistics that the domestic production of the gearbox would save much state funds.

After painstaking efforts, he could finally make the gearbox whose production processes, from design to manufacturing, are appropriate to local conditions.

The value of a research hit is decided by how much profit it brings to the country, said Ri as he received a gold medal and a diploma. "I started my career in mechanics to relieve my father of heavy burden, but now I work to relieve the country of such burdens."

By Ri Sung Ik PT

FAMILY PLANNING

IPPF team satisfied with association's activities



KFP&MCHA's mission:

- Promotion of sexual and reproductive health
- Provision of information, education, communication, service.

"We find the KFP & MCHA is maintaining all the good standards of IPPF. Our team is satisfied with what we have found," said Anamaria Bejar, advocacy director of International Planned Parenthood Federation, in an interview with *The Pyongyang Times* reporter Kim Rye Yong on June 13.

From June 10 to 14, an accreditation team of the IPPF reviewed the activities of the Korean Family Planning & Maternal and Child Health Association.

The international nonprofit organization that also strives for women's reproductive health

undertakes the accreditation process for national associations every five years, and this is the third time for the Korean association.

The IPPF team was satisfied with the activities of the national association after assessing them according to the federation's standards in governance, management, finance, programme and other aspects.

In particular, they highly

appreciated the passionate commitment of the national association's staff to their work and the devoted outreach RH service the volunteers provide for residents in mountainous and rural areas despite unfavourable traffic conditions.

They expressed their intention to continue offering cooperation to the Korean association for their successful programme.



BY COURTESY OF THE KFP & MCHA

An accreditation process for the Korea Family Planning & Maternal and Child Health Association is undertaken by an IPPF team.

LEISURE

Hillside park adds fun to local people

It is early morning, but the specially decorated park in Mt Haebang in the port city of Nampho has already been crowded.

Haebang Park is covered with green foliage of flowering shrubs and trees glistening with the morning dew and surrounded by beautiful singing of bird and fresh air.

It is a perfect place for walking and jogging for the citizens.

Everyone from toddlers to the elderly come here to do morning exercises appropriate to their ages.

At 10:00, the park gets more

enlivened with pupils coming for nature study and more people for spending leisure time.

Some pupils run about the park watching trees, grasses and insects, while others sit on the lawn and start drawing. At the resting places, people play Korean chess and card and yut (a folk board game with something like dice) games.

Citizens flood into the park on Sundays and holidays.

All the visitors have a pleasant time, fascinated by the scenic beauty of Mt Haebang.

A dancing party of senior citizens is always an enjoyable

sight.

Passers-by feel an urge to join the party as they watch the old dancers moving their shoulders up and down to the tune of *We Don't Care for the Passage of Years*.

Kindergarteners and schoolers compete at the amusement arcade, shooting ground and archery field and new acquaintances make teams and have fun together at volleyball courts and swinging sites.

Passing through the gateposts in the shape of a white birch, there are over 30 animal sculptures lining from the park entrance, giving joy to the visitors.

They include those of an elephant, a raccoon dog holding a bouquet, a roller-skating bear, a cat goalkeeper falling with a ball in her chest, a singing rabbit and bear brothers.

The park also provides a good place for tryst and taking wedding photos.

"Hearing the people's happy laughter ringing the park, all keepers feel the sense of pride in their jobs and work hard," said Ko Yun Myong, director of the park management station.



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

People from all walks of life visit the Haebang Park in Nampho City.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

VIRTUE

Woman ties knot with disabled soldier

Another impressive story has been told in Chollima District, Nampho, in which a "girl mother" brought up several parentless children several years ago, touching the heart of all in the country.

Yu Un Sim (pictured right), a worker at the Kangson Industrial Construction Company, got married to Choe Chung Hyok, a special-class disabled soldier with no legs.

It was two years ago when Un Sim came to know about Chung Hyok.

Yu had been known as a "treasure" of the company since she began to work at it.

"She is a good girl. She is diligent and very helpful to others. So she is loved by all employees," said Kang Yong Gil, company manager.

At the time she was well-known as she was awarded Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize, the top honour for young people in the country, for having volunteered to work at the construction projects of which the company was in charge and performed labour feats.

One day, she heard her younger sister talking about a special-class disabled soldier.



He was Choe Chung Hyok, who lost his two legs while on military duty.

His mother has so far looked after him, but he cannot live under her care all his life, she thought.

She was worried about her future as she thought of young men proposing marriage to her and feared that she might not enjoy the pleasure of being a mother after marrying the disabled soldier, Yu recalled.

But she was attracted by the firm will and honesty of Chung Hyok, who set his own goals and led an optimistic life while trying to do anything good for the public, though physically handicapped, and fell in love with him.

Her parents opposed her at first, saying if she was engaged to him on impulse, she would be depressed and regret having been married to him. Her friends also advised her to be deliberate in making a decision as many handsome young men were proposing.

Finally her parents understood that hers was not an on-the-spur-of-the-moment decision, but based on respect and love for his personality and supported her decision.

"I am very much impressed by her decision. Un Sim is really a beautiful girl both in look and mind," said Ri Sol Gyong, a friend of Yu.

The laudable deed earned her high admiration of both villagers and employees of her company and her noble mentality and beautiful deed became another pride of Kangson.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un saw the report on her praiseworthy deed and sent a message of thanks and wedding presents to her in April.

The wedding of Yu and Kim recently took place with the blessing of all well-wishers.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

BOTANICAL GARDEN

World of plants



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

University students make observation of plants at the Central Botanical Garden in Pyongyang.

The Central Botanical Garden at the foot of Mt Taesong in Pyongyang is one of the favourite haunts of all people.

Home of over 1 400 species of plants growing in Korea, the botanical garden covering a vast area of more than 160 hectares is called a herbarium of Korean plants.

It is divided into tree, flowering plant, fruit tree, medicinal herb and other sections.

"The Central Botanical Garden is not only a cultural recreation centre but also a place of learning which gives knowledge of plants growing in the country," said Kim Won Hyok, director of the botanical garden.

Its lecturers tell visitors about the name, botanical name and biological features of each plant as well as their growing place and usefulness.

"Through today's nature study tour, I came to learn a lot including the plants growing in our country and the difference between the plants growing in greenhouse and field and between grass and tree," said Mun Kwon Yong, first-year student at Pyongyang Foreign Languages School.

Nowadays, many visitors show keen interest in medicinal plants.

Kim Sun Ae from Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, said that Koryo medicines that suit the

constitution of Koreans are made of herbs growing in great numbers in the country, adding she usually spends most of time in the section of medicinal herbs whenever she visits the botanical garden.

The Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia greenhouses are the pride of the garden.

"Every visitor says in admiration that Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia flowers at the greenhouses seem to be bigger and more beautiful, though these immortal flowers can be seen in other Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia greenhouses across the country," said cultivator Ri Jong Ae.

Over 1 000 species of alien plants add more charm to the garden.

Among them, over 830 rare species including *Cliviaminiata*, *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens* and *Washingtonia filifera* are gift plants presented to President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by foreign leaders, personages and progressive people.

The garden is also home of some 200 species of tropical and subtropical plants including *Phoenix dactylifera*, *Fagraea ceilanica* and banana.

More and more people come to the botanical garden to enjoy themselves in the nature.

By Pang Un Ju PT

WEATHER

Dryness lingers on

The long spell of drought still continues in some areas of the country.

According to data published by the State Hydro-Meteorological Administration, it rained all over the country between June 8 and 10, but there was a marked disparity in the rainfall between regions.

In particular, Hwangju, Jaeryong and other areas in the Jaeryong River basin and some east coastal areas like Riwon, Myonggan and Kyongsong saw

no or little rainfall.

Weather experts forecasted that it would rain a little in some east and west coastal areas between June 15 and 17, but it was not enough to overcome the drought.

In the south of the central west coastal areas the rainfall in the last ten days of June was only 70-80 percent of that of the average year (33.3mm), they said.

Compiled from KCNA

EATERY

Ostrich dishes allure diners

There is the Yaksan Restaurant of the Changgwang Restaurant Group on the opposite side of Pyongyang's Koryo Hotel.

The eatery reminds people of roast ostrich meat and spicy ostrich meat soup.

"Roast ostrich meat and spicy ostrich meat soup which can be claimed to be the signature dishes of our restaurant have recently been registered as famous foods," said Han Song I, manageress of the restaurant.

She said the restaurant strives to diversify the processing methods of ostrich dishes.

Ostrich meat is good for the treatment of hypertension for its low protein content, and contains more than 20 kinds of amino acids needed for human body. It does not harden even though it is processed under heat for a long time.

Chef Choe Ok Nim said that ostrich meat is fit for roasting as it has no special smell and its muscular fibre is very soft, and introduced its recipe.

"After pulling out gristle in ostrich meat, slice the meat to five or six centimetres long and wide and beat slices with the back of knife or mince them. Put pear juice, sugar, smashed

spring onion, garlic, salt, soy sauce, sesame oil, black pepper and seasoning on the slices to preserve them for 30 minutes. You may grill or roast on a pan, and you can feel the unique taste of ostrich meat when you eat the steak while roasting slowly without boiling in strong heat from the outset."

Asked whether the addition of pear juice to the preparation of meat fit for roasting is the main factor for improving the taste of steak, she answered that there is another secret recipe and it is the know-how of the restaurant.

The steak has original taste as it is served along with soy sauce mixed with vinegar, soy and mustard, as well as lettuce, cucumber and tomato.

The spicy ostrich meat soup is served in a vessel after boiling meat for four or five hours and seasoning it with salt, soy sauce and spices before pouring hot broth. It tastes hot and appetizing.

According to the restaurant manageress, the number of visitors to her restaurant is on the rise.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ostrich steak and spicy ostrich meat soup.

SCI-TECH

Research hits conducive to environmental protection

The Environmental Science and Technology Institute under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection recently developed a new nationwide environmental monitoring and information system and a compound inorganic polymer flocculant.

The nationwide environmental monitoring and information system makes it possible to monitor the country's overall environment, survey, analyse, monitor and inform data on sources of pollution, estimate and predict the present state of environment and manage the environment comprehensively.

The flocculant can purify industrial waste water with combustion waste. It is highly effective as it has both agglutination and adsorption functions.

It helps speed up the

sedimentation of industrial waste water, reduce the area of purification plant and recycle sediment to make fuel or fertilizer.

It proved effective through introduction into dozens of factories and enterprises.

The institute now works on the production of compound inorganic polymer flocculant in an industrial way.

Compiled from KCNA

MOVIE

Spy film retains its charm over decades

Korean feature film "Unknown Heroes" which caused a sensation decades ago has been reproduced in natural colour to be screened at cinemas in Pyongyang.

"Most of the viewers are elderly and middle-aged persons. They probably want to experience once again the excitement they felt when the film was released," said Ri Sol Gyong, usherette at the Kaeson Cinema.

The 20-part movie is loved by every local.

It was shot by the Korean Film Studio between 1979 and 1981. It is about intelligence officers of the Korean People's Army who are on a mission in the enemy rear during the Fatherland Liberation War between June 1950 and July 1953.

There are critical situations and adventures at every moment in their intelligence activities, but they can overcome all adversities as they have ardent love for the country, confidence in victory and burning comradeship as their spiritual pillars.

The espionage film attained excellence by dint of high ideological and artistic qualities, seasoned and appealing acting, good lines, documentary clips showing historical facts, felicitous narration that helps



KCNA

Technicians of the Pyongyang Cinematography Company review the coloured feature film "Unknown Heroes".

understand the thoughts of characters and events and consummate photography.

Kim Ryong Rin and Kim Jong Hwa who play the role of Yu Rim and Sun Hui are still called thus.

The viewers are all excited and happy to see the film that has been coloured in line with the trend of modern movie.

"I saw the film several times before, but today I feel as if I've seen a completely new film. 'Unknown Heroes' is a blockbuster, indeed. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the technicians who recreated it afresh," said Kim Kwang Hyok living in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

The technicians are working at the Pyongyang Cinematography

Company.

To convert the black-and-white film into colour one they developed a colouring program and a colouring system employing the optimization method, thereby completing the huge reproduction project in a short period.

They also made different pieces of sophisticated equipment which were imported in the past in order to solve problems arising in the project.

"It is not easy to create a new thing, but nothing is impossible to a willing heart. We will work harder to develop the country's cinematography," said Choe Sang Gwon, deputy director in charge of technology.

By Kil Chung Il PT

HOT SPRING

Spa famous for marvellous efficacy

Nowadays, many patients visit the Talchon Sanatorium for Disabled Soldiers under the Ministry of Public Health in Samchon County, South Hwanghae Province.

The sanatorium has Jongdal Spa named after a lark. Once upon a time the lark cured its broken leg in the spa. Decades have passed since the sanatorium with a total floor space of 10 586 square metres was set up. It has a three-storey building, general treatment ground and other facilities.

The spa with 350 cubic metres of daily yield contains much radon gas and has no colour, taste and smell, and its

temperature is about 45.5°C.

According to Ri Chol Ho, deputy director of the sanatorium, the spa is specially efficacious for the treatment of arthritis and joint disorders and is good for curing such chronic diseases as neuralgia and meningitis and the aftereffects of surgical operations.

Patients receive various medical treatments according to the diagnosis of doctors, including bathing, shower bath, drinking of spa, massage, tractoration and physiotherapy.

Nurse Ryu Un Sil said that she thinks the spa is really amazing when she sees disabled soldiers, who were believed not to stand up again, walking freely after

several rounds of treatment at the sanatorium.

Clinical diaries of the sanatorium show that special-class disabled soldiers who had medical treatment there in recent years got marvellous treatment effect.

Especially, Ri Kang Song, a special-class disabled soldier from Sonchon County, North Phyongan Province, could walk after treatment involving balneotherapy, physiotherapy, balancing exercise and Koryo therapy, though he was carried to the sanatorium on a stretcher due to the crush fracture of cervical vertebrae.

Treatment period is 25-60 days there and the state bears all expenses during treatment thanks to free medical services.

The sanatorium can accommodate 700.

By Jong Chol PT

Intl show highlights health products

A show took place at Pyongyang's Sci-Tech Complex, which is located on Ssuk Islet in the picturesque

Taedong River, drawing lots of visitors every day.

The event drew relevant units from more than 40 countries

and regions which presented over 400 kinds of products.

"Health products are generally made from natural raw materials and embody advanced technologies," said Kim Hyong Hun, vice-minister of Public Health.

Special draws included the extract of natural sea

cucumbers, skin protecting liquid that regenerates skin cells, massage slippers combined with tourmaline that generates anion and far infrared rays, and ionized water maker.

During the show, seminars were held by each panel.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

EDITORIAL

DPRK-China ties enter a new great era

The DPRK-China friendship with a long history and tradition has greeted a new great era.

A continuation of several rounds of DPRK-China summit meeting in recent years, Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the DPRK last week fully demonstrated to the world the immutability and invincibility of the bilateral friendship.

Five rounds of summit meeting and talks between the leaders of the DPRK and China in a little over a year were so exceptional to be claimed to be unprecedented in the history of the two countries.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un accorded cordial hospitality to the Chinese President beyond international diplomatic customs, from the reception at the airport to send-off.

The warm hospitality, which reminded viewers of the reception of the DPRK leader

foreign media described as a "reception of emperor" during his China tour, clearly showed the unusual friendship between the leaders of the two countries and the true features of bilateral relations that entered a new stage of development.

During the recent Pyongyang summit, the two countries reaffirmed their consistent stand to continue to bolster up the friendly and cooperative relationship full of vigour as required by the times and discussed good plans for celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations more significantly.

Both sides agreed on making positive joint efforts to promote close strategic communication, deepen mutual understanding and trust, maintain the tradition of high-level visits and intensify exchange and cooperation in

all fields.

They appreciated that to further develop the bilateral ties in depth conforms to the common interests of the two countries and facilitates regional peace, stability and development.

They also agreed to support and encourage the achievements they have made in advancing the cause of socialism with each other and carry forward the bilateral friendship faithfully.

The five rounds of DPRK-China summit meeting and talks powerfully demonstrated once again that socialism is the invariable nucleus of the bilateral friendship and the peculiarity and invincibility of DPRK-China friendship lies in maintaining and enriching socialism with concerted efforts.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

VIEW

Growing concern about AI weapons

Many are voicing worry over the introduction of artificial intelligence into the military field around the world.

Recently, government delegates and experts of different countries got together in Geneva to discuss the restrictions on the development of weapons to which this technology is applied.

Many participants said that as AI may form unpredictable judgements, it is irresponsible to introduce the technology into weapons and it is also intolerable in light of ethics, and called for adopting restrictive measures.

This means that there should be human judgements in order

to honour laws and ethics and the decision concerning human lives cannot be entrusted to AI.

The lethal robots that can attack enemy without human involvement can cited as an example.

If AI applied to such an automatic lethal weapon makes a wrong judgement, the robot will make a fatal error in movement, then the consequence will be irreparable.

Hence the heated debate over the restrictions on the development of AI weapons.

Academic personages including the developer of AI go program met for the international AI meeting in 2017 and sent an open letter to the United Nations

to appeal to it to prohibit the use of deadly robots in war as it banned the use of biochemical weapons.

Since then meetings have been held on a regular basis to discuss the restrictions, but no fruits have been reaped due to a wide divergence of opinion between nations.

Lots of experts admit that AI has offered a totally new concept to the military field. But they still fail to advance a definite view on any rational way to control the introduction of it into lethal weapons.

Any technology that does harm to humans is undesirable, however new and cutting-edge it may be.

As the AI technology is applied to wider aspects of human life, more and more acute problems crop up and it is an urgent task to solve such problems.

By Song Jong Ho PT

STATEMENT

Continuous US' hostile acts censured

"Our state is not a country which will surrender to the US sanctions, nor the one the US can attack whenever it desires to do.

"If any country dares to trample on our sovereignty and right to existence, we will not hesitate to pull the trigger for the use of force to defend ourselves," said a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry in a statement on June 26.

The statement came after the US viciously slandered the DPRK in its "Trafficking in Persons Report" and "International Religious Freedom Report" and decided to extend by one year the "national emergency" that calls for defining the DPRK as an enemy and imposing further sanctions.

Referring to the possibility of DPRK-US working negotiations, US State Secretary Pompeo told a press conference that it is important for everyone to remember that today over 80 percent of the north Korean economy is sanctioned and said as if the sanctions are rendering the bilateral talks possible, it said.

"If the US sanctions are affecting over 80 percent of the DPRK, as Pompeo said, is it the US' goal to raise it up to 100 percent?" it asked.

The statement decried it as an outright challenge to the DPRK-US Joint Statement adopted at the Singapore summit and the height of anti-DPRK hostility.

Facts clearly show that the wild dream of the US to bring the DPRK to its knees by sanctions and pressure has not changed even a little, but rather it grows ever more undisguised, it added, warning the US not to be mistaken.

As the Chairman of the

State Affairs Commission said, the DPRK would not thirst for the lifting of sanctions, it noted.

"The US now talks much about the DPRK-US dialogue, but in reality it becomes more and more desperate in its hostile acts against the DPRK," said Kwon Jong Gun, director-general of the Department of American Affairs of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, in a statement on June 27.

As the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission has already declared in his historic policy speech, the US should come out to the DPRK-US dialogue with a correct method of calculation and the time limit is until the end of this year, he said.

He demanded the US adopt a proper approach towards negotiations, choose persons who can communicate with the DPRK and come up with a proper counterproposal, if it wants to hold dialogue.

"I would also take this opportunity to say a word to the south Korean authorities who are trying to burnish their image by saying as if they are 'mediating' the DPRK-US relations," he said.

In the true sense of the word, parties to the DPRK-US dialogue are none other than the DPRK and the US, and in view of the origin of the DPRK-US hostility, the south Korean authorities have nothing to meddle in the dialogue, he noted.

As is well known to the world, the development of DPRK-US relations is proceeding on the basis of friendship between the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission and the US President, he said.

"If we have anything to inform the US, it will be simply done through the liaison channel already under operation between the DPRK and the US, and the negotiations, if any, will be held face to face between the DPRK and the US, so nothing will be done through the south Korean authorities," he said.

The south Korean authorities are now giving a wide publicity as if north and south are having various forms of exchange and closed-door dialogue, but there aren't any," he said.

"They would rather mind their own internal affairs," he added.

up violence and recruit terrorists by dint of the web as they regard the internet capable of communicating unlimited information as the most efficient means of existence.

An expert who tracks the websites of terrorists said that although many countries spend lots of money in the mop-up operations, the internet constitutes a lifeline of terrorist groups. Unless the web is immediately adopted as a key means of war on terror, it will be difficult to eliminate the threat of terrorism, he warned.

By Min Chol PT

Compiled from KCNA

COMMENT

International counteraction against cyber terror needed

An international meeting was recently held in Paris, France, to review measures to prevent cyber terror.

At the meeting, leaders of different countries and heads of IT giants adopted the "Christchurch declaration" and agreed to ensure cooperation between government and non-governmental organizations in order to prevent the spread of dangerous ideas fomenting terrorism and contributions encouraging violence.

IT businesses promised to inhibit the expansion of the contributions by terrorists or extremists on the internet and delete dangerous contributions promptly and permanently.

The declaration was adopted as terrorists and other criminals abuse computer networks that are widely used in human life.

It is evidenced by last March's mass shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Before committing random

firing, the terrorist posted an article on the net to incite action against immigrants. And he posted a video recording his shooting.

The video contained the scenes showing people at a loss for where to run and shot to death, striking fear of terrorism into viewers in an instant.

Today terrorists employ the internet as a major means of instigation, praise and proliferation of terrorism. According to experts, they stir

GAMES

Handball tournament for Pochonbo Torch Prize at its height

The senior first-division handball tournament is running fiercely after its start on June 13 at the Handball Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang as part of the Pochonbo Torch Prize Games.

The event draws more than 210 players from seven men's teams including Ryongnamsan, Ryesonggang and Korea University of Physical Education, and nine women's teams such as Amnokgang and Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Male teams play two legs of matches on a round-robin basis, but female teams have group league matches and two round-robins to decide their rankings.

Ryongnamsan's group A is taking the lead with 20 points in the men's competition.

It won ten matches and is going ahead of second placer Ryesonggang with a four-point margin.

Though it has two more matches to play with the teams of Central School of Physical Education and Ryesonggang, spectators are confident of its victory as it beat them in the first round-robin matches.

In the women's matches, Amnokgang's group A is



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the men's first-division handball match between Ryesonggang and Ryongnamsan's group B as part of the Pochonbo Torch Prize Games.

leading others.

It has so far won all four round-robin matches in the wake of group league matches.

Its victory is definite when it proves successful in one more game in the remaining two matches.

There was a match between Amnokgang's group A and Kim Chaek University of Technology on June 25.

Amnokgang scored in succession by employing various tactics, thereby seeing off its rival 32-21.

"This tournament serves as an important occasion for evaluating the level of technical development and ability of every team and player," said Kim Kwang Su, secretary general of the handball association. "Notable improvement has been made in teams' tactics and cooperation. Especially, I can see newcomers' higher sense of play."

There were also diving and parachuting matches this week.

By Jong Tang Song PT

SITE

Anguk Temple

The Anguk Temple in Ponghak-dong of Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province, is one of the historical relics of Korea.

The temple was constructed for over 20 years in the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) and is one of the oldest temples that remain in the country.

In addition to the temple's main hall of Taeung, there still remain the Thaephyong Pavilion in front, a dormitory for Buddhist monks in the west, the Juphil Pavilion in the east,

a nine-storey pagoda and a monument.

The two-storey Taeung Hall is a priceless cultural legacy with fine architecture and of great significance in the study of history and architectural tectonics.

The Thaephyong Pavilion standing opposite the main shrine with the courtyard in-between is a single-storey, gabled building with double eaves. It is 19.25 metres in the facade and 6.8 metres at the side.

In front of the pavilion there

is the nine-storey pagoda.

The pagoda is considered to have existed since the later middle period of Koryo (918-1392), which shows that the Anguk Temple was in operation during the kingdom. It is also of value in the study of the stone pagoda architecture and sculpture of those days.

By Ri Sang Il PT



KIM SONG CHOL / KUMSUGANGSAN

The main hall of the Anguk Temple.

SCHOOL

Sports school never yields first place

Moranbong District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang is often called a "school full of pride".

Pak Chang Il, director of the Moranbong Sports Club and headmaster of the school, attributes it to the school's production of many excellent sportspeople, who have exalted the honour of the country to the admiration of the people, and to its lifting of many more trophies than others in the national competition of juvenile sports schools.

The school trains young players for football, handball, table tennis, judo, badminton and track and field. Especially, it has never conceded national titles in handball, table tennis, judo and badminton.

Its table-tennis players Pak Song Un, Kim Kum Chang and Kim Ju Hong won bronze medals at the 25th East Asia juvenile table-tennis championships held in China's Shanghai in August 2016 and its badminton players claimed both team and individual titles at the 2018 Asia-Pacific junior

tournament in Russia. And girls also booked a berth at the 2019 Asia-Pacific junior tournament slated for coming September.

Many students of the school have been picked to professional sports clubs and national teams.

According to Kang Un Jong, women's handball instructor, some members of the DPRK team who triumphed in the 2019 IHF Trophy Tournament East and Southeast Asia held in Taipei of China in May had attended Moranbong District Juvenile Sports School.

Among the graduates of the school are Kye Sun Hui, who is Kim Il Sung Prize winner, Labour Hero, People's Athlete, Olympic gold medallist and four-time world champion, and An Kum Ae, Labour Hero and Merited Athlete.

Looking at the photos of the sporting heroes on the notice-board of the school, students dream of becoming sports stars like them and train harder to live the dream.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Young judo players are under training at Moranbong Juvenile Sports School.

ACTIVITY

Farmers enjoy sporting activities

The South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea works hard to arouse agricultural workers' enthusiasm for sports.

It works scrupulously to help farms in the province play a variety of sports and amusement games, especially basketball, volleyball, table tennis, group running, tug-of-war, *janggi* (Korean chess) and *yut* (a Korean board game played with four haricot-shaped objects).

It encourages all the farms to follow the example of those taking the lead in mass sporting

activities, including the Kaeon Farm in Yonan County and the Toksong Cooperative Farm in Anak County which were successful in national agricultural workers' volleyball and basketball tournaments in the past.

Accordingly, exemplary units were set in cities and counties and their experiences were generalized. Many farms equipped themselves with necessary sports facilities and goods and took an active part in mass sporting activities.

In particular, inter-city and inter-county basketball competitions of agricultural workers are organized on a

large scale to create a highly charged atmosphere and such folk games as *ssirum* (Korean wrestling) and tug-of-war are played at breaks or on holidays in different forms and methods.

While pushing an undertaking for widely spreading common sports knowledge by holding short courses of basketball and Taekwon-Do, the provincial committee takes a series of measures to ensure success in national sports tournaments to be held this year.

With mass sporting activities gaining momentum, the Yonyang Cooperative Farm in Haeju City, the Ryonggyo Cooperative Farm in Jaeryong County and many other farms in the province are bubbling over with the zeal for sports, which results in marked success in farming.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

