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Kim Jong Un visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun on national memorial day



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, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on July 8, the greatest memorial day of the Korean nation.

Accompanying him were senior Party and government officials including Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, first vice-

chairman of the DPRK SAC and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the SAC and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, and Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Party central leadership body in Pyongyang, officials of the Party

Central Committee, ministries and national agencies and leading officials of military organs.

The Supreme Leader entered the hall where the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il stand.

Baskets of flowers were laid at the statues in the name of the Supreme Leader and in the joint name of the WPK Central Committee, the WPK Central Military Commission and the DPRK State Affairs Commission and in the joint name of the SPA

Presidium and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

The Supreme Leader, together with the accompanying officials, made a deep bow to the statues.

At the halls of immortality where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance the Supreme Leader, together with the officials, paid homage and bowed low to the President and the Chairman.

Compiled from KCNA

Nation cherishes the memory of President Kim Il Sung

The people throughout the DPRK cherished the loving memory of President Kim Il Sung in humble

reverence on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his demise.

Working people, youth and

students and service personnel visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche, on the occasion of the

greatest memorial day of the nation (July 8).

In the plaza of the palace they made a deep bow in front of

the large portraits of beaming President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Koreans across the country visited the statues of the great leaders in their localities to pay respects to them.

A basket of flowers was seen laid at their statues on

SEE PAGE 3

National memorial service held in honour of President Kim Il Sung



There was a national memorial service at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on July 8 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of President Kim Il Sung.

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, appeared on the platform of the venue.

The event was attended by Choe Ryong Hae, Pak Pong Ju, Kim Jae Ryong and other senior Party and government officials, the chairman of a friendly party, officials of the Cabinet, working people's organizations, ministries and national agencies, leading officials of military organs, officials of the Party Central Committee, service personnel of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces, the teaching staff and students of revolutionary schools, officials of institutions and industrial establishments in Pyongyang,

persons of merit, families of revolutionary martyrs, overseas compatriots, those who are related to the revolutionary activities of the President, the chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front, diplomatic envoys, representatives of the missions of international organizations and military attaches in Pyongyang and foreign guests.

All the participants observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il Sung.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, first vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, delivered a memorial address.

He said that the past 25 years were the sacred days when the greatness of the revolutionary exploits the President performed for the country and the people, the times and

mankind and their significance in world history stood out more clearly and the days of noble succession and moral obligation during which the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people accomplished the cause of immortalizing the great leader for the first time in history and won proud victories and brought about great changes in socialist construction true to the behests of the great leader.

The President regained the country and firmly defended the destiny of the country and people from the aggression by the imperialists, a great feat that will go down in the national history, he said.

He performed an undying feat of providing a powerful political force for victory of the socialist cause by building the Party, state and armed forces of Juche type and achieving unity and cohesion of the whole society, he emphasized.

It is his greatest exploit that he built people-centred socialism and provided the foundations for eternal happiness and prosperity of the

generations to come, he said.

It is the most brilliant exploit performed by the President for the future of the country and nation that he perfectly settled the issue of carrying forward the revolutionary cause, he noted.

He referred to the fact that the President energetically led the nationwide struggle for reunifying the country and put his heart and soul into national reunification till the last moments of his life.

"The revolutionary career and exploits of the President will be remembered forever along with the eternal prosperity of socialist Korea and victorious advance of the cause of independence for the people, and he will live on in the hearts of the Korean people and minds of humankind as the Sun of Juche," he added.

Similar meetings took place in provinces, cities, counties and industrial complexes on the same day.

CONTRIBUTION

Great legacy bequeathed by President Kim Il Sung

On July 8th it will be 25 years since the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung passed away suddenly while still at work. This was the greatest loss for the Korean people in their 5 000-year history and the greatest loss for Juche idea followers and the world progressive people. The international communist movement lost its elder statesman.

For us British Juche idea followers the loss of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was particularly poignant as we had just returned from visiting the DPRK the week before. I remember on the first days of our visit seeing a copy of the daily paper of the Workers' Party of Korea, *Rodong Sinmun* (which translates as "Labour Daily" or "Daily Worker"), with a picture of Comrade Kim Il Sung giving on-the-spot guidance to a co-operative farm near to Pyongyang. Every night we saw the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung either giving on-the-spot guidance or meeting foreign guests such as Ludo Martens, head of the Workers' Party of Belgium (which at that time was a militant anti-revisionist party and close friend of the DPRK). Watching the TV footage, we perceived a sense of stateliness. President Kim Il Sung had a most dignified bearing.

I had visited the DPRK three times during the era of President Kim Il Sung, the first time in May 1992, then in October 1993 and June 1994. I had visited the DPRK for the first time in May 1992.

I had become a Juche idea follower in the 1980s. I had read several books about President Kim Il Sung including his celebrated biography. This book was not in public libraries where

I lived but I was able to find in the library of Southampton University for which I obtained an external readers ticket. I also read the 1982 "History of the Revolutionary Activities of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung", a beautifully bound book which Granville V Stone of the old British Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification had kindly sent me. I had become very familiar with the life and achievements of President Kim Il Sung who rose from being the son of a poor peasant living in a straw house to a great leader and a great statesman. President Kim Il Sung was a man who smashed empires and upheld justice and a builder of a unique and remarkable socialist country, the country of Juche. I put the picture "Morning of Juche Country" which featured President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il walking together across a bridge in Pyongyang.

So in May 1992 I visited the country of Juche, the land of President Kim Il Sung, for the first time. In those days, the revisionist USSR and the bloc of socialist countries around it had collapsed or more accurately, socialism was frustrated in those countries, it was betrayed by the treacherous revisionist leadership of Gorbachev. New forms of anti-communism and anti-socialism appeared. The imperialists drunk with what they saw as their victory over the socialist camp schemed to topple the DPRK, to destroy its socialist system and restore capitalism. Many people wondered what would happen to the DPRK.

Some cynics and defeatists hidden amongst so-called progressives and leftists in the West sneered that the DPRK

would not last long. Of course these blockheads were totally ignorant of the Juche-based, independent, self-reliant socialist system of the DPRK, wrongly seeing the DPRK as a creation and an extension of the old USSR.

When I arrived in the DPRK after a few days I became immediately impressed and inspired by the solidity and durability of Juche-based socialism that had been built by President Kim Il Sung and the Korean people.

When I was in the DPRK for the first time I saw no black market currency dealers. I remember arriving in Budapest, the capital of revisionist Hungary in the 1980s, and seeing black market currency dealers almost immediately. Looking around the streets of Budapest I saw not only a McDonalds but also Rambo and Madonna posters, people wearing jeans, all very westernised, basically proving that imperialist ideological and cultural infiltration had made deep inroads. In the DPRK I saw no such things. I was convinced that socialism in the DPRK could never collapse and would last eternally.

This was not due to an accident of history but due to the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung who made sure that the DPRK upheld socialist principles despite the maelstrom of revisionism and anti-socialism.

I remember reading in the "Pyongyang Times" during the 1980s the historic speech of President Kim Il Sung "For the Complete Victory of Socialism".

This dealt a blow to the modern revisionists who were going on about perestroika and glasnost etc.

He rebuffed all the attempts

of the imperialists and revisionists to stifle the DPRK. The imperialists even sent various people to offer bribes or inducements to the DPRK to betray socialism. It was not easy for the DPRK to uphold socialism as they faced many challenges and difficulties. Some countries tried to sabotage the foreign trade of the DPRK by demanding settlement of accounts in dollars. However, the Korean people steeled themselves and defeated all the challenges under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and his successor Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The DPRK became a fortress of socialism and at the same time a beacon of hope for the world progressive people.

President Kim Il Sung also took positive measures to not only defend the socialist cause but to revive and advance the international communist movement. In April 1992 he invited numerous delegations from communist, workers and socialist parties to Pyongyang and they adopted the "Pyongyang Declaration" or "Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism" which stated that "Ours is an era of independence and the socialist cause is a sacred one aimed at realising the independence of the popular masses."

"Socialism suffered a setback in some countries in recent years. As a consequence of this, the imperialists and reactionaries are claiming that socialism has 'come to an end'. This is nothing but a sophistry to beautify and embellish capitalism and patronise the old order.

"The setback of socialism and the revival of capitalism in some countries is causing a great loss to the achievement of the

socialist cause, but it can never be interpreted as the denial of the superiority of socialism and of the reactionary character of capitalism."

The Russian Communist leader Nina Andreeva, head of the All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks of the former USSR, was invited to the DPRK and gave a lecture at Kim Il Sung University, titled "The Cause of Socialism Is Invincible" in which she outlined the causes of the frustration of socialism in the USSR and praised the DPRK as a true bastion of socialism.

That the DPRK was a bastion of socialism was thanks to the gifted leadership of President Kim Il Sung.

During our visits in the early 1990s we saw a country firmly united around the leader and the Party. A society where everyone helped each other. A country of discipline and order with spotlessly clean streets with no litter. I remember my friend Shaun Pickford when we were in the mountains, looking around and saying "Juche paradise".

Similarly, when we were in Kaesong we saw no one begging on the streets or hungry. Shaun related how the Western media had claimed that people were fainting from hunger on the streets of the DPRK, what an utter nonsense!

All in all, we saw a socialist paradise created and guided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. Today the DPRK, led by respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, is upholding independence, socialism and self-reliance. This is the great legacy bequeathed by President Kim Il Sung!

Glory to the memory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung!

Long live Juche Korea!

This is a special article written by Dr Dermot Hudson, chairman of UK Korean Friendship Association, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the demise of President Kim Il Sung.

Commemoration: Father of nation honoured

FROM PAGE 1

Mansu Hill in Pyongyang in the name of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un of the Workers' Party of Korea, the state and armed forces of the DPRK.

Floral baskets were placed in front of their statues in the name of Party, government and military organs, social organizations, ministries, national agencies, institutions at all levels, industrial establishments and schools in Pyongyang, and units of the Korean People's Army and

the Korean People's Internal Security Forces.

The Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front also laid a basket of flowers there.

Visitors made a bow at the statues.

At 12:00 noon on July 8, all the people observed a three minutes' silence in memory of the President.

A variety of events took place across the country, including remembrance meeting, poem recital and singing, and oath-taking meeting.

At the meetings, participants looked back upon the revolutionary career of the President who devoted his all to

the country and the people.

On July 8 the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun was also visited by the families of Zhang Weihua, a Chinese anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr, Zhou Baozhong, a Chinese related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and Kim Sun Ok, a China-resident Korean related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and Jong Il Sim, widow of DPRK Hero An Tong Su, and other families residing overseas of those related to the revolutionary activities of the great leaders and home-visiting overseas Koreans.

The visitors paid homage to the great leaders at their statues and the halls of immortality

where they are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

The supreme temple of Juche was also visited by the representative and members

of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front.

Compiled from KCNA



Korean people from all walks of life pay homage to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at their statues on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang.

PROJECT

County turns into hot spring resort

Yangdok of South Phyongan Province is a mountainous county which has been renowned for its hot springs since ancient times.

Yangdok Spa in the county town and Sokthang Spa in Onjong-ri are well known not only because of their high yield of hot spring and high temperature. They are very effective against various kinds of diseases with high content of simple silica, sulphur and fluorine.

Therefore, holiday camps and sanatoria were built here long ago, drawing people even from other places.

Now the county is undergoing a facelift.

Government measures have been taken to turn the county into a health and medical treatment service centre and a comprehensive sports, cultural

and rest centre.

A powerful construction force has been mobilized and the project has been pushed ahead according to an elaborate plan since last year.

An official of the construction headquarters said the spa tourist area is largely divided into sections of medical treatment, rest, general service and hotels.

The section of medical treatment will be furnished with indoor and outdoor hot spring bath houses with facilities for individual and public bathing for treatment and various other purposes. All service facilities in other sections will also be built in diverse styles and a modern fashion to improve customer service, said the official.

A ski slope will be built near the hot spring resort to suit the geographical features of the mountainous area.

This construction project has already begun on Tae Peak.

A new railway station is being built and the road is paved afresh to provide convenience for visitors.

Houses in nearby villages are being renovated to suit the features peculiar to the hot spring resort in the mountainous area.

Single- and multi-storey buildings will organically be combined and neat and cosy amusement parks and other service facilities will spring up in a balanced way.

Construction, installation of facilities and site clearing are underway in a three dimensional way.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the construction sites several times.

By Kil Chung Il PT

INSPECTION

Premier inspects various units

Premier Kim Jae Ryong inspected several units in different economic sectors.

At the combined silk-spinning workshop and other places at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, the Premier stressed the need to properly organize management and production by meticulously calculating specific conditions and possibilities, and took measures to reconstruct the production building of the combined chemical fibre spinning workshop and modernize its facilities.

At the Sunchon Chemical Complex, he took measures for integrating science and technology with production and realigning some production processes for optimization.

He acquainted himself with

farming at the cooperative farm in Songchon county town and pointed to the need to give full



Premier Kim Jae Ryong (right) acquaints himself with the farming at the cooperative farm in Songchon county town in South Phyongan Province.

play to the advantages of the field assignment system within the framework of the sub-workteam management system and unconditionally fulfil the cereals production plan set by the Party.

Compiled from KCNA

BAG

Sonamu satchels diversified in design



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Designers discuss how to create stylish bags at the Pyongyang Bag Factory.

“Whenever we see children carrying Sonamu-brand satchels on their shoulders every morning, we feel happy and pride in being satchel makers,” say employees of the Pyongyang Bag Factory.

Established three years ago to produce satchels for kindergartners and students, the factory constantly improves the quality indexes of schoolbags.

It gives top priority to design production.

“We have set up a database storing tens of thousands of pieces of information and standardized satchel sizes by reflecting the physical features of kindergarten, primary, junior and senior middle school children and university students,” said Jong Chol Guk, chief of the design production office.

To meet the demand of children according to their ages and psychology, designers organically combine various colours and patterns so that detailed elements can stand out.

For example, the satchels for new primary schoolers bear cartoons from favoured animated films and such intelligence developing pictures as mental calculation problems.

A noticeable thing is that not only designers but also workers take an active part in design

creation.

The factory organizes two rounds of meetings for joint review of designs every month and the results are issued by the non-permanent committee.

At the recent 68th review meeting, the design of satchel for senior middle school girls presented by Pyon Ok Gyong, chief of the technical preparation room, took the first place.

“On the basis of our experience and lessons, we draw pictures and have discussions in our leisure hours to develop more designs that meet technical requirements and have aesthetic value,” said Sin Myong Song, workshop manager.

As most employees take a positive part in creating new designs, the number of designs is on the rise, with the result that the detailed elements of schoolbags continue to be updated.

According to Jong Chol Guk, design production is also carried on through a national prize contest.

As a result, 217 designs have so far been introduced into production and over 100 new designs are under consideration, including the pictures from newly-produced historical animation “Ko Jumong”.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

WELDING

Nickelless welding rods prove effective

The nickelless cast iron cold welding rod took the first place at the 34th National Festival of Science and Technology held last May.

It was developed by the Poun Welding Technology Trading Company in Pyongyang.

It does not damage any part influenced by welding heat.

According to Han Won Nam, key developer and director of the company, the knottiest problem in cold welding materials with high hardenability is

that the performance and life span of products are not guaranteed due to the break and tendency to break just beside the welding spot. The higher the hardenability of relevant materials is, the knottier the problem is and it is particularly evident in cast iron.

“Our company has succeeded in applying cold welding to cast iron, one of the materials with highest hardenability, by developing a technology for solving the knottiest problem in

the world and ensured the mass-production of cast iron cold welding rods,” said Sin Chol Hak, a technical expert at the company.

The welding rod can ensure cold welding of cast iron of all kinds at any place.

In particular, large and extra-large major cast-iron products whose fixed position is usually changed by heavy load can easily be recycled in the way of cold welding. What is more important is that this technology

is also applied to the making of materials of all types and kinds for special welding and the scope of its application and the value are very wide and high.

The company also brought out welding rods to weld the hull of large ships with over 10 000 tonnage and large bridges and iron structures, the ones which can ensure the cold welding and deposition of high-intensity spheroidal graphite cast iron and the multi-purpose welding rods good for the welding of different kinds of metals.

The welding rods were introduced into the Pyongyang and Pukchang thermal power complexes and other major enterprises.

“Nickelless cast iron cold welding rods are very useful

in several workshops of our complex. The introduction of this technology might ensure special welding with domestic raw materials and under present production conditions,” said Kim Chol Ho, chief engineer of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex.

Kim Song Un, chief engineer of the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326, said that his factory welded different kinds of materials which could not be reproduced in the past by applying these welding rods.

The nickelless cast iron cold welding rod with national patent won the gold prize at the international patent technology trade fair in China.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

RESEARCH

Institute serves as catalyst for economic growth

The catalytic chemistry institute of Kim Il Sung University plays an important part in the nation's economic development.

"Though catalysts take up less than one percent in the production cost of chemical goods, they play a big role in improving the quality of products and reducing the cost," said Kim Chol Ung, director of the institute.

The institute's research effort has focused on developing propylene polymerization catalysts for making polypropylene.

The researchers of the institute had already developed a 4G propylene polymerization catalyst and put its production on an industrial basis in 2016.

They are currently pushing ahead with the research to put the production of polypropylene fibre on an industrial basis.

According to Won Paek, PhD and People's Scientist, polypropylene fibre is used as a main material for such light industrial goods as sportswear, socks and clothes. It is recognized as the second-best fibre in the world next to ester fibres like polyester as it easily discharges moisture and is warm and fluffy like wool.

The researchers completed a method of making the catalyst and newly developed a carrier to make a catalyst and

additives for polypropylene fibre. The development of thermal oxidation stabilizer, ultraviolet absorbent and other additives made it possible to prevent the aging and treble the lifespans of polypropylene fibres.

The institute has also developed an ethylene polymerization catalyst for producing low-pressure polyethylene by industrial method and a catalyst needed for the production of functional three-ply sheets for greenhouses. And it researched a polymerization catalyst for the domestic production of synthetic rubber, laying a technical foundation for creating synthetic rubber industry in the country.

It has undertaken research projects to make a palladium catalyst and a variety of catalysts needed for the establishment of the C1 chemical industry.

Among them is the cold hydrogen oxidation catalyst which facilitates reaction between oxygen and hydrogen at room temperature.

The research hits of the institute have been introduced into many factories, enterprises and units including the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, Ponghwa Chemical Factory and Pyongyang and Pukchang thermal power complexes.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Researchers are engaged in a project at the catalytic chemistry institute of Kim Il Sung University.

Unbangul instruments see improvement

"Unbangul"-brand accordion and bayan produced by the Pyongyang Musical Instrument Factory are popular with music fans and experts.

"Tone quality of our products has been diversified and their expressive function enhanced in recent years," said Yun Thae Gun, chief engineer of the factory.

According to him, the factory has renewed the design of external shapes of accordion and bayan, improved sound

quality, enhanced the accuracy of pitch and enriched the style of rendition.

Foreign experts praised its instruments for their high level of technical specifications at an international musical instrument exhibition held in China in October last year.

The factory now produces over 50 kinds of accordions and 20 kinds of bayans.

Compiled from KCNA

PROFILE

Doctor manager credited with updating silk mill

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill which was widely known throughout the country for producing Kil Hwak Sil, pacesetter of the Chollima movement in the 1960s, is now exalting its honour as the model factory in the Mallima era.

"The present sea change of our mill is attributable to Manager Kim Myong Hwan (pictured)," said Ri Son Yong, department chief of the silk mill.

Kim was appointed as manager of the mill in 1998.

At the time the silk mill was also hardly hit by the aftereffects of the Arduous March.

Many employees met him with concern about how the 37-year-old manager would lead them to overcome difficulties.

With full awareness of his responsibility and mission, he was determined to refurbish the mill within five years and turn it into a unit that fulfils its economic plan without fail.

As part of his efforts he launched a project for expanding, rearranging and paving over 25 000 square metres of roads in the compound.

The fiery enthusiast mapped out a road expansion plan in calculation of the mill's future and buckled down to it. The project was rounded off in a



fortnight. Afterwards, he saw that saplings of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* were planted around the new roads.

The project instilled in the employees the confidence that they can give their workplace a facelift by their own efforts.

And then he embarked on the construction of nursery and kindergarten to meet the specific features of the mill in which most of its employees are women and proceeded to building several blocks of dwellings, a hall of culture, fish pond and resting place. Over 45 000 trees including some 1 000 fruit trees were planted to afforest and landscape the workplace. In recent years he initiated the building of the

Jindallae Health Complex and established the solar power system.

He also pushed a project for the revitalization of production in a three dimensional way.

Though the mill had carried out its quotas since 2002, it was exceeding production costs.

So he set out to refashion the steam supply system and finished a project of laying an independent steam pipeline in two years, making it possible to save 8 000 tons of steam every month as against before.

The silk spinning process that can process substandard cocoons from the primary grading process was also built to make a comprehensive use of cocoons without throwing them away. The sanitary goods and quilt production processes were newly set up. Most recently, a silk thread production process relying on raw cocoons was established. He has so far presented dozens of new technical innovation plans, original proposals and inventions.

He obtained his doctorate in economics in February this year, and was chosen as a model of the Mallima era shortly ago.

By Ri Sang Il PT

BREEDING

New functional veggies acclimatized

Local researchers have succeeded in acclimatizing new species of functional vegetables with high medicinal efficacy and productivity.

Sedum kamschaticum is a vegetable of high medicinal value, whose content of vitamins C and B₁₂, iron and calcium are three to ten times higher than other vegetables.

Regular intake of the vegetable helps prevent arteriosclerosis and cerebral thrombosis, protect the liver and cure heart and nervous system disorders.

The Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science brought to light technological problems arising in the cuttage and other processes of growing the vegetable, thereby completing the method of growing it in great numbers under normal conditions.

According to researcher Sin Jun Myong, the acclimatized *Sedum kamschaticum* can easily be grown anywhere as it is not so sensitive to environment and can be

harvested three or four times a year.

"The blue insam" is a vegetable species containing a proper amount of protein, fat, carbohydrates and coarse fibre and has rich content of lignin, minerals and vitamins.

The researchers established a scientific method of growing the "blue insam" all the year round in greenhouses whose temperature is over 15 degrees centigrade, thereby ensuring a per-hectare yield of 20-25 tons.

Edible sponge cucumber is another functional vegetable that has plenty of nutrients, and it has two or three times more protein than that of pumpkin

and cucumber.

Its unripe fruits promote metabolism in the human body and are effective in preventing heatstroke, purifying blood, neutralizing poison, reducing inflammation and controlling blood pressure.

The researchers also solved technological problems for growing the edible sponge cucumber outdoors or in greenhouses according to localities and completed the technical guidelines for its growing.

According to the guidelines, its per-hectare yield is some 60 tons.

Besides, the institute acclimatized other functional vegetables including a high-yielding tomato variety which contains three times more lycopene, a kind of antioxidant, and registered them as national vegetable species.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



PHOTOS BY RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Acclimatized veggies (from left): *Solanum melongena*, *Lycopersicon esculentum Mill*, *Sedum kamschaticum*.

CALLIGRAPHY

University teacher comes off best five times

"I have yet a mountain to climb," said Ri Yong, lecturer at Pyongyang University of Fine Arts who won the national calligraphy festival in celebration of the Day of the Sun (April 15).

He has already won the biennial event, which is known to be the highest competition of calligraphers in the country, five times.

Ri presented his work "Revolution is just faith" written in cursive script of Chongbong style.

The handwriting "Revolution is just faith" tells the truth that faith is indispensable to the Korean revolution which has overcome a multitude of trying ordeals and difficulties.

His work artistically represents it. Every letter and every stroke has its meaning and reveals the spirit, and thickness and thinness, emphasis and ellipsis, connection and ending and the amount of moisture are in good harmony with each other to give a vivid portrayal of the theme and idea of his handwriting.

"Ri's handwriting has a philosophy and it is breathing," said jury members in unison, marvelling at the "special rhythm and marked contrast that fuse into an artistically satisfying whole".

Now Ri, in his fifties, ranks with his grey-haired teachers, masters of calligraphy.

When he was young, he was

once at the crossroads of calligraphy and painting.

In fact, he liked drawing pictures from his childhood.

Born in a mountainous county in the northern highlands, he was well known for painting good pictures. During his middle school days he was a member of the art group. He continued painting during his military service, presenting his work to the art exhibition which was held as part of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in 1989.

Regrettably, however, he had to major in calligraphy as he entered the university after his demob.

"In fact, painting tempted me till the second year. But the more I learned calligraphy, the more I became fascinated with its profound and extensive world," Ri recalled.

He tried hard to possess ample knowledge in order to grasp the real meaning of the words he was to write. In order to master every element of the manner of handling the brush, he practised handwriting so hard till he got cramp in his hand.

He continued to think over the detailed elements of artistic depiction by handwriting, including the choice of styles for



words with different meanings, regulation of size of and space between letters, thickness and strength of strokes, selection of places of rhythm, keeping of overall balance and addition of details.

His painstaking efforts connected one link to another of the whole chain in his relentless pursuit of excellence and he cut a conspicuous figure soon after he took up teaching at the university.

"I cannot rest on my laurels. Calligraphy is one of the unique and excellent Oriental arts and among them Pyongyang calligraphic style shines like a star. It is my goal to create the best handwriting," said Ri.

His works of art are also popular at calligraphy exhibitions in south Korea and Japan.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

HEALTHCARE

Rural hospital becomes a role model

The medical conditions of the Junhyok-ri People's Hospital in Kaechon City, South Phyongan Province, are the model of ri people's hospitals in the country.

Ri people's hospitals are the public health units which are close to residents in the country in which the state takes full care of locals' health and the universal and free medical services are given.

They have surgical, internal, pediatric, dental service and prevention departments, as well as wards and pharmacy.

So it is important to operate them according to the standard required by the socialist healthcare system.

"Due to harsh sanctions by hostile forces, some medicines were out of stock and a series of difficulties arose in the management and operation of hospitals. We were at a loss at first as we had entirely relied on the supplies provided by the state. But we rose up by dint of self-reliance. There was nothing insurmountable as we worked by believing in ourselves," said Kim Hye Suk, director of the hospital.

The hospital made over 40

kinds of Koryo medicines, some 10 sorts of injections and more than 50 tonics by building a herb garden and Koryo medicine production room.

With consciousness of being responsible for the health of residents, they devoted themselves to the treatment of patients and the cultivation of herbs and made several medical facilities by their own efforts.

The hospital did not neglect the work of improving the qualifications of doctors.

Some doctors of the hospital have risen to fame in the city and province for their high medical practice in the treatment of pregnant women and nursing mothers and oral diseases.

While treating outpatients, the hospital sees that the section doctor system is applied properly according to the government's preventive medicine policy.

Doctors intensify hygienic information activities in residential areas in their charge and workplaces.

Every place of the hospital is very clean and medicinal trees and herbs are seen around the hospital.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



RI SONG IK / KOREA TODAY

Medical workers analyse test data at the Junhyok-ri People's Hospital in Kaechon, South Phyongan Province.

Pyongyang Rubber Factory, stroking his hair that began to go grey.

"At first I hesitated for 15 minutes on the diving platform. But now I have confidence," said Han Myong Hui, a woman in her 30s living in Sadong District, Pyongyang.

There are also a restaurant, noodles house, *kimpap* (seasoned rice rolled in laver) house and soft drink stands in the recreation ground.

In the evening the islet is filled with excitement and joy of the visitors, turning it into a "laughter islet".

They give exclamations and shouting in wonder and surprise riding the Energy Storm and Hawk that turn over and over again, Sky Drop that falls in an instant and other facilities. And children

enjoy riding the Sombrero, Pirate and other facilities, laughing all the way through.

The amusement arcade, mirror cage and hall of laughter are also crowded with visitors.

"No one leaves the amusement facilities once they sit at the computer games. Intrigued by the games, they often fight fierce 'battles' or are delighted to show their 'great wisdom or skills'. I am very pleased to see them happy," said Ri Sol Hui, a keeper of the amusement arcade.

Illuminations of all kinds put up on amusement facilities and in the recreation ground add to the joy and laughter of the people, unfolding a magnificent view of lightings in the nocturnal sky over the islet.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

LEISURE

Recreation ground rings with merry laughter

The Rungna People's Recreation Ground, comprising a dolphinarium, wading pool and amusement park, sprawls over a large area of the Rungna Islet on the Taedong River, which flows through Pyongyang.

Summer has begun, and more people are visiting the recreation ground to cool their bodies in water and the summer

breeze, enjoying their holidays on the islet.

The Rungna Dolphinarium just near the entrance of the recreation ground catches their eyes at first sight as it is in the shape of a dolphin and becomes the first leg of leisure activities here.

It is interesting to see dolphins in Pyongyang far away from the

sea. But more amazing are the stunts of these "sea creatures".

Their "performance"—counting numbers, doing various stunts according to the instructions of trainers including walking backward on water, turning jump and continuous ball hitting, and even kissing the audience—arouses a succession of admiration and laugh.

The Rungna wading pool is next door to the dolphinarium.

Crystal-clear water waving in pools, water spray from shower bath facilities, dozens of metres high water slide at an almost vertical angle, and diving tower with several platforms up to 10 metres high and others attract the attention of visitors.

"I can hardly express the feeling of pleasure of sliding down along the steep slide and falling into the pool. It makes me feel young again," said Kim Chol Su, a worker of the



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Fun-seekers have a good time riding amusement facilities at the Rungna People's Recreation Ground.

EDITORIAL

Nation's future hinges on implementation of inter-Korean declarations

When all the Korean people turn out in one mind and will, they can bring a rosy future of the nation.

If they lack the will to carve out national destiny independently, they can never resolve the internal issue of the nation nor firmly guarantee national dignity and interests.

This can clearly be illustrated by the current inter-Korean relationship which is now at a standstill despite the unprecedented trend for détente in the Korean peninsula.

Last year, the north and south of Korea committed themselves in the eyes of all the fellow countrymen and international community to improving and developing inter-Korean relations drastically in an all-round way, irrespective of the past history of distrust and antagonism, and confrontation and war.

Later, through several rounds of summit meetings, they agreed to further accelerate the development of north-south relations and usher in a new heyday of national reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity.

Regrettably, however, the

declarations have so far borne no fruit.

The groundbreaking ceremonies for relinking and modernizing severed railways and roads which were held in Kaesong late last year ended for show and the south Korean authorities have openly violated the agreement in the military field, in which north and south vowed to make joint efforts to ease military tensions and remove hostility, by resuming joint military exercises which have already been agreed to suspend.

It shows that though the authorities promised rapprochement, peace and prosperity in front, they waver while studying the face of outsiders behind.

Today when the Korean peninsula has come under the global spotlight thanks to a series of unusual events, the south Korean people are now raising their voices in demand of the independent settlement of national problems.

The south Koreans from all walks of life demand the authorities reject the outsiders' unfair interference in affairs of north-south relations and

reunification and achieve national independence and cooperation. It is the south Korean public opinion that no alliance is better than the nation and the authorities should strive to implement north-south declarations without studying other's face.

The Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration which reflect the general will of the nation were never adopted with other's approval.

There is no need to curry favour with others and study their face, given that north and south agreed to resolve all issues on the principle of national independence and self-determination through the declarations.

The way of overcoming all challenges and advancing towards the future lies in adhering to the principle of independence and self-determination.

The south Korean authorities had better make a courageous decision to faithfully implement the inter-Korean declarations on the principle of national independence as soon as possible.

POPULATION

Accelerating 25-year-old promise called for

July 11 is World Population Day.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) set WPD in order to commemorate July 11 1987 when the global population reached 5 billion.

The theme for this year's WPD is "25 years of the ICPD: accelerating the promise".

The ICPD stands for the International Conference on Population and Development which was held in the Egyptian capital of Cairo in September 1994 with representatives from 179 countries in attendance.

With human beings at the centre of socio-economic development and on the basis of the common understanding that the settlement of women's issues exerts great influence on resolving the issue of world population, the ICPD affirmed that respecting and empowering women and ensuring human reproductive health and rights are matters of key importance in solving the population problem.

At the ICPD, the direction of addressing the population issue shifted from the restriction of population growth to the formulation of policies and action programmes centring on human life.

At present, ever-growing attention is being paid to this issue, and to respect and ensure women's rights has been brought into a strong focus in redressing the issue.

Although many international agreements such as the Beijing

Declaration and Programme of Action and the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Population and Development have been adopted over the past 25 years since the ICPD Programme of Action, people's demand for reproductive health for all including family planning is yet to be satisfied.

Annually, some 289 thousand women die from complications at the time of pregnancy and delivery across the world. And 13 percent, most of whom are teenage girls, die due to unsafe abortion.

Especially, in the least-developed countries, one out of three pregnant women does not receive proper pregnancy care and more than half of the deliveries take place somewhere outside healthcare facilities and with the help of those who have not been trained as midwives.

Inadequate family planning service results in numerous unwanted pregnancies and 500 000 cervical cancer cases are registered and half of them die every year, and half of the tens of millions of people infected by HIV are women under 24.

The UNFPA set the theme for WPD for this year, which marks the 25th anniversary of the ICPD, in order to urge all governments to commit themselves to accelerating the implementation of ICPD action programme.

Events took place in the DPRK to mark the day.

By Min Chol PT

COMMENT

Transatlantic relations as far apart as ever

Disputes and friction are growing in several fields between the EU and the US that maintain partnership.

Surfacing is the friction surrounding the issue of European defence before anything else.

In April the European Parliament approved the plan for raising fund worth €13 billion for the development of weapon systems in the 2021-2027 period and founding a PESCO to coordinate military cooperation between member nations as part of the efforts to carry out its own defence programme.

The US denounced it, saying that through the independent defence policy the EU seeks for a change that is likely to jeopardize the integration process which has been pushed for decades within the framework of the military alliance, called NATO.

The EU dismissed it as ungrounded, insisting that the implementation of its own defence plan will help EU member nations fulfil their commitments to NATO more properly and also the military

bloc benefit from the EU's collective efforts for defence.

Some European countries think that dependence on the US in the field of defence can never guarantee European security.

The abrogation of the Russia-US Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty (INF Treaty) has forced the EU to regard the building of self-defence capacity as an urgent matter that brooks no further delay.

Both sides also have taken different attitudes to the Iran nuclear deal and anti-Cuban sanctions.

Contrary to the intention of the US, which ratchets up sanctions and pressure against Iran, the EU supports the Iran nuclear deal. Recently when the US listed the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps as a "foreign terror organization", the spokesman for the EU expressed its stance to distance itself from the US.

The EU also expresses opposition to the US intention to expand sanctions against Cuba by fully setting the Helms-Burton Act in motion.

These sanctions will

reportedly inflict the greatest damage to European businesses that have close economic and trade relations with Cuba.

The EU warned the US not to take any measures which would harm its interests, expressing its attitude to protect its interests including the investment in Cuba and its economic activities.

Experts argue that the US has invoked the Helms-Burton Act in a bid to extract concessions out of the EU in trade negotiations by putting pressure on it.

Most recently the US released a list of EU-made imports worth US\$11 billion on which tariffs would be imposed, saying the EU's payment of subsidies to Airbus, Europe's airplane maker, has adverse effect on it. The EU responds to it by forging close economic ties and cooperation with China, which has been pitted against the US over tariffs on trade.

Analysts estimate that the contradictions in interests will widen the gap in transatlantic relations.

By Om Ryong PT

MEETING

ALBA nations vow to fight against high-handedness

Recently, the 18th meeting of the ALBA political council was held in Cuba.

The meeting discussed the matters of coping with the moves of hostile forces to block regional integration.

In a speech delivered before the meeting, the Cuban Foreign Minister rejected all sorts of interference in internal affairs of Venezuela, describing the military blackmail against the country as an act of seriously threatening regional peace and security.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister, in the meeting, strongly demanded the US stop interference in internal affairs of his country and stressed the need to settle domestic issues by local people and political forces, free from the interference of outsiders. Rejecting US sanctions against Venezuela, especially the financial persecution preventing the latter from importing goods and

medicines from other countries, he urged the US to respect each other and put an end to military threat, insolence and economic blockade.

At the meeting, Cuba, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Surinam and other countries opposed foreign military intervention against Venezuela and called for resolving the country's political crisis through dialogue.

The meeting issued a final statement calling on the participants to strengthen regional cooperation and unity against US high-handedness and arbitrariness.

Such efforts of the ALBA member nations to reject foreign intervention and arbitrariness on the strength of regional cooperation and unity and achieve constant development are winning positive support of the international community.

By Song Jong Ho PT

WRESTLING

Athletes bring medals home from intl tournament

The 5th “Baerhu Cup” International Wrestling Invitation Tournament was held in China on June 28-29.

It brought together over 180 men and women wrestlers from the DPRK, China, Russia and Mongolia and was held fiercely divided in weight

categories.

DPRK players Pak Un Gwang and Jong In Sun respectively won men’s 57 kg freestyle and women’s 57 kg division.

Korean runners-up were Ri Son Myong in men’s 57 kg freestyle, Rim Jong Sim in

women’s 62 kg category and Ri Su Ok in women’s 68 kg division.

Won Song Ho, Ri Kum Chol and Mun Chang Myong bagged bronzes in men’s 65 kg and 86 kg freestyle.

By Jong Chol PT

GAMES

Jongsung Cup Games at its height

The Jongsung Cup Games which kicked off on July 1 grow fiercer.

In the annual event held in the water-sports season, 12 sports clubs compete in dozens of categories of nine sports

such as canoeing, water-skiing, swimming, yachting, rowing and diving.

As before, the sports club of the Ministry of Land and Maritime Transport snatched almost all medals in both men’s

and women’s events to show off its capacity as a power in local water sports.

The club’s Kim Pu Song and Jon Chung Hyok caught the eyes of experts and spectators as they claimed titles in several events including the 1 000m and 500m kayak quartets.

Songdownon’s Jo Il Gwang was the focus of attention as the promising young player rivalled veterans.

In the senior-level swimming, male and female players of April 25 hogged gold medals. The Ministry of Fisheries and Ryesongang came second and third respectively in the men’s event, while the Ministry of Fisheries and Wolbongsan took the second and third places in the women’s event.

The games will go on until July 22.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



PAK JIN SONG / CHEYUK SINMUN

A scene from the yacht race of the Jongsung Cup Games.

SPECIALTY

Kaesong boasts of Koryo gastronomy

As Kaesong was the capital of Koryo dynasty (918-1392) and had the royal palace in it, it developed its special food culture.

Among the well-known Kaesong specialties are *yakpap* (sweet rice dish), *chuothang* (loach soup), *sollongthang* (beef and rice soup) and *phyonsu* (a kind of dumpling).

Yakpap has been a holiday food on Jongwoldaeborum, or the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar, and a traditional dish which was a must in any big parties since olden times.

According to historical records, honey was often regarded as yak (medicine in English) and the boiled rice mixed with honey was called *yakpap*.

It is prepared by evenly mixing steamed glutinous rice with sesame oil, honey and sugar and adding date, chestnut and soy sauce, before steaming it again. It is told that the Koreans have taken the dish from the period of the Three Kingdoms. At that time, neighbouring countries called it *Koryoban*, praising it as a rare food.

Chuothang, sometimes called *chuthang*, is a tasty and very nutritious food.

In the Kaesong area, it was made by boiling loach with bean curd and red pepper.

It was widely used to help people recover from illnesses or weakness and to promote the growth of children.

Sollongthang, whose name was derived from a Korean

onomatopoeic word suggesting the sound of liquid simmering gently for a long time, is said to have been made in the Kaesong area first.

In the olden days poor people in the area purchased the cattle’s hooves and pluck thrown away by the rich at a cheap price and boiled them hard. It was tasty and nutritious and good for making weak people recover



Some of Kaesong specialties (from left): *Samsaek kyongdan*, a kind of rice cake dumpling made in three colours. *Umegi*, a kind of fried glutinous rice cake. *Yakkwa*, a sweet cake made from wheat-flour, oil and honey.



CANOEING

Girl builds her career as promising canoeist

“One-minute-long 40 kg bench press: record high of 83”, “great physical ability” and “promising canoeist”—this is part of a comment a German publication made about Ko Haeng Bok from the DPRK after she underwent a test during a joint training session organized by the International Canoeing Federation prior to its 7th women’s Canoe Cup tournament.

The international competition took place in Hungary on May 18-19, drawing more than 60 players from 16 countries and regions including the DPRK, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Germany and Hungary.

KoHaengBok won preliminary, semi-final and final matches in the senior women’s 200-metre singles by overpowering all odds-on favourites.

And she came second and third respectively in 500- and 200-metre pairs to bag three medals in total.

“I witnessed outstanding abilities of Korean players in the current event. Ko Haeng Bok especially is excellent in physical preparedness and may well match world aces in technical aspects,” said the Serbian head coach of the Chinese national youth team.

Hailing from Anju of South Phyongan Province, she took up canoeing seven years ago.

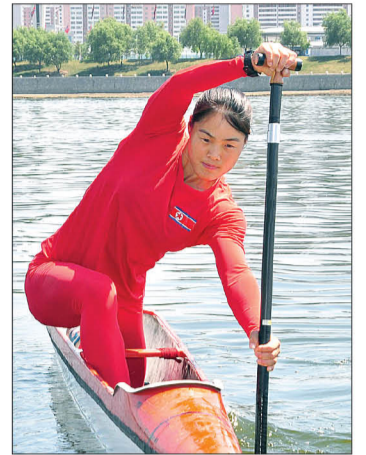
Her sturdy body with powerful legs caught the eye of coach Kim Tok Yong, who toured the city to pick recruits.

“The only daughter of mine was fond of sports in her childhood, but I didn’t want to make her an athlete as even boys find it difficult to do sports by profession. Moreover, the coach suggested I let this apple of my eye do this little known canoeing, rather than well-known football, so I rejected the suggestion. But I finally gave in to my determined girl

health. Since then, it was widely known throughout the country and became a popular dish loved by all, rich and poor.

Phyonsu means thinly rolled dumplings cooked in water.

It is made by rolling dough thinly in the shape of a square, putting pepper-flavoured stuffing made of pork, pumpkin,



and persuasive coach,” recalled Ko’s mother Kim Ok Hui.

After coming to the Pyongyang Sports Club, she honed her skills under the guidance of the coach and two years later she won the youth event of a national tournament to draw the attention of experts.

She made her international debut at the Asian canoe championships held in Indonesia in 2015.

She came third in the senior women’s 200-metre singles. And she grabbed a bronze medal in the 200-metre pairs in the Asian Cup canoe competition held in Uzbekistan the following year, and silvers respectively in the 200-metre singles and the 200- and 500-metre quartets in the Asian canoe championships in China’s Shanghai in 2017.

Last year, she distinguished herself as an Asian canoe ace by winning the 200- and 500-metre singles in the Asian Cup tournament in Chinese Hong Kong.

“Haeng Bok has a natural aptitude for the sport. She excels both in physical and intellectual faculties and her tenacity and firm will are especially good qualities as an athlete,” said Kim Tok Yong.

By Jong Tang Song PT

bean curd and egg mixed with different seasonings, joining its four corners to form a dumpling and cooking it in boiled water. It is served in clear and cold meat soup.

Kaesong *phyonsu* was well known across the country.

By Pang Un Ju PT

