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Kim Jong Un oversees frontline artillery units' live-fire drill and corps artillerymen's competition

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, directed another fire strike drill of long-range artillery sub-units of the Korean People's Army on the front line on Mar 9.

The purpose of the drill was to inspect the surprise military counterattack capability of the long-range artillery units on the front.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un set forth battle circumstances to the chief of the General Staff and watched the drill.

The frontline artillerymen hit the target with marksmanship, fully



to opt for further intensifying artillery training, he put forward highly important tasks to be tackled in improving the quality of artillery training and conducting it under actual war conditions.

The might of the artillery is just the power of our army, he said, stressing the need to set it as the most important task in the line of building the Juche-oriented revolutionary armed forces to strengthen the artillery force of the KPA into the world's strongest arm everyone is afraid of and

demonstrating their combat power as a-match-for-a-hundred artillerymen.

Expressing great satisfaction with the drill result, the Supreme Leader

highly appreciated the perfect operational readiness of the long-range artillery sub-units on the front.

Referring to the need for the KPA

continue to wage a vigorous struggle to this end.

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Artillery competition: Supreme Leader guides live-fire competition

FROM PAGE 1

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un oversaw an artillery fire competition between the artillery units under the 7th and 9th corps of the Korean People's Army on Mar 12.

On his instruction, the corps commanders directly commanded the artillery fire at the observation post.

The Supreme Leader received a report on the General Staff's appraisal of the competition results from its chief.

He praised the militant enthusiasm and attitude of the artillerymen who participated in the competition which was organized without prior notice.

The 7th Corps overpowered the 9th Corps in the firing of artillery pieces of all calibres.

Army General Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the KPA, awarded the certificates, medals and badges of artillery marksmen to artillery battalions and companies under the 7th Corps which scored excellent marks in the competition.

The Supreme Leader hoped that the day's training would be an occasion for awakening the entire artillery of the KPA to its sense of mission once again and for firing it with the enthusiasm for training and competitive spirit. He specified important military tasks to be tackled in further bolstering the Juche-oriented artillery forces.

KCNA

VIEW

British figure lauds Kim Jong Un as successor to the cause of Juche

For eight years Marshal Kim Jong Un has led the DPRK through immense challenges as the US-led imperialists stepped up their attempts at stifling the DPRK and Juche socialism as they not only wanted to destroy socialism in any part of the world but were obsessed with the idea that a "fourth generation socialist country" could not be tolerated and must be knocked down at all costs (this idea is based on the theory of some reactionary anti-communist ideologists in the West that a socialist country cannot last beyond one or two generations).

He has carried forward the ideas, policies and lines of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, which have at their core the Juche idea.

He has always stressed self-reliance, self-development and self-sufficiency, saying that the Juche character is the nature of socialism. He also said that the inclination towards importing should be ended. He was delighted when the DPRK

produced its own metro train and light aircraft. At the trial run of the new metro train in November 2015 he said, "Our heroic and resourceful Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's working class, scientists and technicians boundlessly faithful to the Party proved in practice, not with words, that the words 'proclivity to import' should be eliminated from people's minds through the successful trial operation."

At the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in May 2016 Marshal Kim Jong Un made it clear how important self-reliance and self-development are, saying "The history of the Korean revolution is the one of self-development; the revolution was pioneered and has advanced victoriously by means of it. The basis of this spirit is the great leaders' revolutionary idea that a country must carry out the revolution on its own, and the form of struggle for applying it is self-reliance and fortitude. The great leaders' spirit of self-

reliance and self-development, based on the principle that man is the master of his destiny and should carve out his destiny by himself, inspired our people to become stronger than anyone else in spiritual strength, not knowing the word impossible, and to develop theirs into an indisputably powerful nation.

"Today we have nothing but our own strength to rely on. No one is willing to help us and see our country reunified, powerful, well-off and flourishing. It is only when we are possessed of the spirit of self-reliance and self-development that we can go through any trials and hardships and achieve the greatest success even in the worst conditions. We should reject big-power worship and dependence on foreign forces, and push ahead with building a powerful socialist country with our own strength, technology and resources and in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. We should also achieve national reunification, the long-

cherished desire of our nation, on our own by strengthening our motive force."

The line of self-reliance, which is an application of the Juche idea, was also stressed at the 4th and the recent 5th plenary meetings of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Jong Un has always followed the people-orientated policies that were established by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. He has always put the people's interests first and chastised those who practise bureaucracy. He has visited construction sites many times and thrown his energy into grand projects such as the construction of Samjiyon City and the Yangdok Cultural Recreation Centre.

He has shown himself to be a most shrewd and astute leader who has maintained a most sturdy independence whilst at the same time boldly expanding the external relations of the DPRK.

Over the past few years he has visited Russia, Singapore, Vietnam and China. However, he does not copy any of these countries but sticks to the stand of Juche firmly adhering to building Korean style, Juche-based socialism rather than any foreign model. He has held two summits and one meeting with US president Trump but

saw through the tricks and fake peace of the imperialists and maintained a position of defending the DPRK's independence, refusing to accept one-sided unilateral disarmament that the US tried to impose on the DPRK.

We can never sell our dignity which we have so far defended as valuable as our own life, in the hope of gorgeous transformation, he said. This was a rejection of the false promises of prosperity made by the imperialists to the DPRK. In reality it would have meant the restoration of capitalism and the enslavement of the Korean people by the imperialists and international monopoly capital. It was very wise of him to see through this and reject. Sadly, some leaders of former socialist countries allowed themselves to be fooled by the imperialists.

Marshal Kim Jong Un is the great revolutionary successor to the Juche cause.

Dr Dermot Hudson,

president of the Association for the Study of Songun Politics UK, chairman of the Juche Idea Study Group of England, chairman of the UK Korean Friendship Association and chairman of the British Solidarity Committee for Peace and Reunification on the Korean Peninsula

POWER

Minor power plant projects pushed to enhance capacity

According to media, every province is pushing ahead with the construction of small- and medium-sized hydropower stations in order to ease electricity shortage by local efforts.

Kangwon Province cut through a thousands-of-metre-long waterway tunnel for the Munchon Army-People Power Station after finishing the Ichon Army-People Power Station project this year and the building of waterway tunnels and dams is being carried on for Kosong, Sepho, Phyonggang and Hoeyang army-people power stations.

Builders of Hungju Youth Power Station Unit 4 in Jagang Province introduced construction methods capable of markedly reducing the consumption of cement, steel materials and timber, thereby completing the building of hydraulic structures ahead of schedule, and are now speeding up the assembly of equipment in order to inaugurate the power plant in

the first half of this year. At the construction site of Hungju Youth Power Station Unit 5, whose construction started in November last year, the excavation for the foundations of the dam and generator room has reached a 70 percent level, while the concrete placing for the dam is being stepped up simultaneously.

North Phyongan Province is pressing on with the construction of such minor power stations as Kujang Youth Power Station Unit 2 and Pihyon Power Station Unit 2, while South Hamgyong, North Hwanghae and South Phyongan provinces are expediting the building of several other power stations.

According to an official of the Ministry of Electric Power Industry, the completion of minor power stations planned for this year will add over 100 000kW of power generation capacity to the nation.

Thermal and hydropower stations across the country scrupulously organize work

to give the fullest play to their existing power generating capacity.

The Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal power complexes and the Chongchongang Thermal Power Station are pressing on with undertakings for recovering the original performance of boilers as they replace high-pressure drawn pipes and air preheaters with new ones.

The Sunchon Thermal Power Station carries on the remodelling of feed pumps to increase the output of each generator, while the East Pyongyang and other thermal power stations push the projects for increasing generating efficiency.

The general overhaul of hydropower structures is under way at different power stations in Jagang Province.

Meanwhile, power plants in North Hwanghae Province have put water conservation on a scientific basis by introducing advanced methods.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



The Chollima Steel Complex in Nampho applies a new jig to reduce the continuous casting process time by two hours and introduces an electromagnetic induction and agitation technique to improve the quality of steel.

JANG SONG BOK / RODONG SINMUN

Nationwide

Electronic protective mask and thermometer developed

DPRK researchers developed an electronic anti-epidemic mask that protects against bacteria and viruses in the air.

The protective mask completely destroys various germs and viruses contained in the breath of patients so as to prevent pollution of surrounding air and infection of contacts.

They also developed a diagrammatical electronic thermometer with a digital display. The measurement time is very short and the displayed diagram is highlighted.

Pine trees planted in Pyongyang streets

Pine trees were planted in

several districts of Pyongyang in such a way as to enhance the charm and elegance of the evergreen national tree. Flowering shrubs were put in around the trees to add to their ornamental effects. Sosong and Moranbong districts are planting tall pine trees at the roadsides so that they go well with the surrounding landscape.



Anti-blight campaign launched in North Hwanghae

North Hwanghae Province conducted work to prevent damage from blights and

harmful insects on over 700 hectares of forests last February. And the province produced and applied highly effective agricultural chemicals with long duration of effects.

Finest cast gypsum making technology established

The technicians of the metalwork production unit of the Mansudae Art Studio has established a new technology of making finest cast gypsum and a casting process based on it. They developed a casting material by relying on locally available raw materials and established a new casting method.

They can reportedly be introduced into making metal parts of precision machines as well as the production of fine nonferrous metal craftworks. The technology won a national

PREVENTION

Nationwide efforts to prevent COVID-19



Hygienic and anti-epidemic personnel disinfect a park in Pyongyang to prevent novel coronavirus infection.

Amid the nationwide emergency campaign to prevent COVID-19 in the DPRK, Pyongyang has deployed loudspeaker vans in public places to inform citizens of the routes of spread, symptoms of outbreak and preventive measures against novel coronavirus and given wide publicity to the reports and presentations about infected cases around the world and new aspects of spread through large-sized electronic screens in a concentrated way.

On passenger transport means, passengers are informed of the matters related to the prevention of the virus through radios and TVs, while factories and farms in the capital city timely make public the affirmative and negative practices exposed in the anti-epidemic work in their units.

Arrangements have been made to make the people feel no inconvenience in life.

People's committees across the country are ensuring the timely supply of food for residents by tapping all latent reserves.

Samsu County in Ryanggang Province pays close attention to minimizing residents' inconveniences in living in time.

Orang and Kumya counties of North and South Hamgyong provinces give priority to providing people with every convenience in life including the supply of food, daily necessities and fuel.

The Bureau for Affairs with Diplomatic Corps has secured necessary materials for the

convenience of its employees under medical observation, while the South Phyongan Provincial People's Security Bureau has supplied those under medical observation with staple and subsidiary foods and the like.

The Sinuiju Hotel has arranged birthday spreads for more than 20 people in quarantine.

The DPRK strictly abides by rules in releasing from quarantine the persons of secondary risk (contacts), foreigners whose quarantine terms have expired and the locals who have been isolated together with foreigners after coming into contact with them.

Among the persons of secondary risk who have been in quarantine in their homes and institutions, those who have not yet developed suspicious symptoms though it has been 40 days since they contacted with the persons of primary risk (returnees) are set free from quarantine before anybody else, but medical observation goes on for them.

Accordingly, more than 1 020 people have recently been freed from quarantine in Kangwon Province, while over 2 630 in Jagang Province.

Along with the release of foreigners who have been quarantined, civil servants, guides, interpreters and drivers that have been kept separate together with foreigners in the same place find their way out of quarantine according to the established order.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

patent.

North Hamgyong plans to increase herb acreage

North Hamgyong Province has undertaken a programme for reclaiming over a thousand hectares of land for the cultivation of medicinal herbs this year to suit the topographical features of the province with many mountains.

In particular, cooperative farms in the province have introduced an intercropping method to increase the

medicinal herb acreage.

Farm profits from growing sesame

The Taesan Cooperative Farm in Yonsan County, North Hwanghae Province, has been benefiting from sesame farming on non-cultivating lands for ten years. According to a farmer, the county produces edible oil with its seeds and purchases materials needed for farm management with them.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

RETAIL

Kimchi stands attract many customers

A long queue of buyers is often seen at the stands of the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory in all parts of Pyongyang.

“Our stand is always crowded with shoppers as it sits in a park just in front of Pyongyang Railway Station. Among them are those on business trip to Pyongyang and foreigners as well as Pyongyang citizens. Mostly housewives and girls, but even men,” said saleswoman Pak Un Ha.

She said kimchi stands draw lots of customers these days partly because spring has come and every family is running out of their winter kimchi.

More important is that the factory has steadily improved the quality of products. Customers say that its products have a more refreshing, savoury and sharper tang than those they prepare by themselves at home.

Full bok choy kimchi, chonggak kimchi (a kind of radish kimchi), white kimchi and pickled sliced radishes seasoned with pepper are popular all the year round.

“Generally, the name of chonggak kimchi reminds everyone of hard radish. When I was young, I liked it very much. As I got older, I had a set of false teeth put in and didn’t have much of it. But the factory has matured it so well that it is very soft and tasty,” said Yun Ryong Hyon in his seventies living in Sochang-dong, Central District of Pyongyang.

White kimchi seasoned with various spices without using red pepper is mostly favoured by the aged, children, dyspeptics and patients who had operations.

These days the factory’s kimchi stands sell bean-

sprout watery kimchi, mung-bean sprout kimchi, bok choy wrapped-up kimchi, nutritious kimchi for children and other functional kimchis made to the age-old traditional recipes and sweet and hot kimchis according to customers’ likings.

Children especially like nutritious kimchi for children as it is made by adding nutrients like yogurt, honey and chlorella and zinc-enriched lactobacilli and has a unique flavour.

They also sell the red pepper, garlic and cucumber preserved in soy sauce, the radish preserved in bran and the fermented walleye pollack.

“On my way back home I often buy kimchi, soy preserved vegetables or fermented food and it is a big help in improving diet of our family. Now, all my family members have acquired a taste of this factory’s kimchi so much that I cannot imitate or copy their taste. We have ordered the factory’s products since last year,” said Jang Hye Yong living in Yokjon-dong, Central District.

According to Kang In Chol, a staffer of the factory, the number of families ordering the factory’s products is increasing year by year. Kimchi stands play a very important role in increasing production of the factory, improving the taste and quality of kimchi and developing new products as they fully reflect the consumer demand.

“Kimchi factories and their stands built across the country show an aspect of popular policies of our government. Recently, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un tasted and highly appreciated kimchi produced in our factory,” said manageress Paek Mi Hye.

She said that kimchi stands of her factory would be set up in larger numbers in Pyongyang in the near future.

Full bok choy kimchi of the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory won the December 15 Medal of Quality last year.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



A customer is happy with a product from the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory in Pyongyang.

PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

PROVINCE

North Phyongan pushes ahead with industrial renovation

An undertaking is carried on in North Phyongan Province to rebuild and upgrade locally-run factories.

The province organizes work scrupulously to renovate factories one by one in cities and counties with the Samjiyon Blueberry Drink Factory as a model.

Sonchon County made all the production processes of the county foodstuff factory automatic, streamlined, germ-free and dust-free so as to turn the factory into an exemplary unit in the province, while Kujang County set up a sugar beet processing process with an annual capacity of thousands of tons in its county foodstuff

factory.

Other cities and counties also upgraded condiments production processes, and a dozen city and county garment and clothes factories underwent reconstruction. Besides, paper factories spruced themselves up.

The province is pushing a project to build a modern provincial condiments factory in Sinuiju City within this year.

Meanwhile, machine factories in the province are speeding up the manufacture of equipment for the automation and assembly line of other factories and enterprises.

North Phyongan Province plans to undertake more than 70

construction and reconstruction projects this year.

The construction of the provincial tree nursery is nearing completion.

The construction of a seed selection and sowing ground, light substrate production ground, sapling exhibition hall, dwelling houses for employees and workers’ hostel has already been completed and such construction projects as outdoor cultivation ground, adaptation area, tall-tree cultivation ground and several blocks of outdoor greenhouses are now under way.

The construction of over 60 school buildings including the one for Sinuiju Teachers Training



Effective broad-spectrum antiviral injection developed by the Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences.

CUISINE

App helps housewives improve culinary skills

Cooking information browsing program “Ryorisegye (Cooking World)” (2.0) developed by the Cooks Association of Korea is a good, dependable companion of housewives as well as experts and fans in the DPRK.

The mobile app includes animations and e-books on cookery, data on cooking festivals and contests, the 10-volume *Complete Collection of Korean Dishes, Folk Foods in Four Seasons* and other cookbooks.

As the animations of more than 700 recipes are divided into over a dozen columns

like cereal, meat and marine products dishes, they are very convenient to use.

Also available are animations of photos of dishes presented to and demonstrations of excellent cooks at various cooking festivals and contests held in the country every year including cooking festival in celebration of the Day of the Sun, culinary skill contest in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star, national kimchi show and sweets and cake sculpture exhibition.

KCNA

RECYCLING

Materials for rubber products ensured by recycling

The Pyongyang Rubber Factory directs efforts to recycling.

“In recent years our factory has intensified research to ensure the domestic production of materials, which were imported in the past,” said Kung Jong Sun, head of the lab of the factory.

According to her, the most important thing in the research is to resinate the fabric for rubber products and the factory secures necessary materials by dint of recycling.

“We extracted a reagent, which was imported in the past, from the liquid pulp waste from a paper mill, and the resinating method based on it is highly efficient,” said engineer Won Jong Hyok.

In addition, they added a newly

developed reinforcing agent to double the reinforcement efficiency as compared to previously.

The factory directed a lot of energies to putting equipment on a modern and IT basis to lower power consumption by a third as against before, and streamlined the operation of equipment by converting the press of the wedge belt production process from circular type into flat one and making an automatic temperature control device for the press.

“Our various rubber products including all kinds of conveyor belts, hoses and belts fully satisfy physical and mechanical indices like toughness,” said chief engineer Kim Hyon Ju.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

College, Kujang Youth Power Station Unit 2, Pihyon Power Station Unit 2 and other small- and medium-sized hydropower stations is being pushed in real earnest. A modern, model farm specializing in the production of cheese and butter is being built in Samgwang-ri, Unjon County, as it has favourable grazing conditions.

The province set the favourable areas in Sinuiju and Cholsan County as animal reserves and

is stepping up the construction of ring roads, securing of useful animals including roe deer and building of fences.

Such reconstruction projects as the Sinuiju Textile Mill and the Sinuiju Chicken Farm also progress apace.

Meantime, the Kujang Cement Factory is pushing cement production to supply it to construction sites.

By Kil Chung II PT

UNIVERSITY



Hub of sci-tech education and research

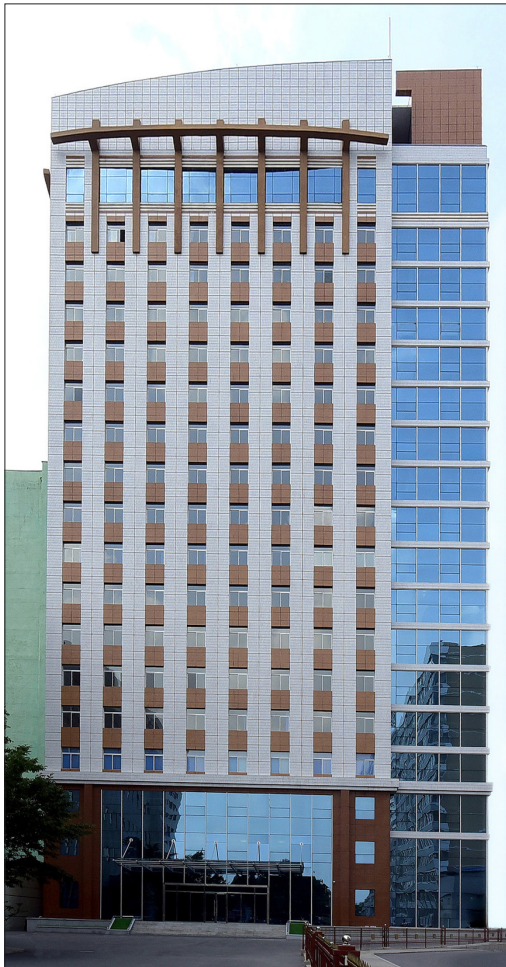
March 10 is a meaningful day for all the teaching staff of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

On March 10 last year Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the university to vote for the president of the university, a candidate for deputy to the 14th Supreme People's Assembly, and gave an instruction on developing the university before bestowing great favour on it.

The university recently innovated teaching content and form to make remarkable progress in the training of scientific and technical personnel and came up with hundreds of sci-tech hits conducive to reenergizing the economy and improving the people's standard of living.

It also made achievements in improving and perfecting the educational system and innovating teaching content, form and method.

In line with the global trend of educational development and the country's specific conditions, it integrated and readjusted dozens of major subjects, introduced over 90 subjects including the modelling of hydraulic process and the physical properties of nano-materials and compiled over 470 kinds of textbooks including *Theory of Satellite Orbit*. It



HONG KWANG NAM / PICTORIAL KOREA

The Mirae science and technology centre in Kim Chaek University of Technology.

also made more than 200 kinds of experimental apparatuses and equipment of practical use including parallel robot working cell with vision and general electrical engineering bench.

It also devised over 400 teaching methods like the one that combines students' preparations for lecture and discussion by using the hologram

display technology in the subject of computer graphics and generalized dozens of them at technical colleges across the country.

The university organizes various events significantly such as programming, machine designing and foreign language contests, students' scientific forum and scientific presentation in order to fire students with the zeal for study and research.

Students of the university became the Asia East Champions at the world's finals of the 43rd ICPC, came first at the Codechef Long Challenge and won the International Grand Master of Memory at the 28th World Memory Championships.

The research groups of the university have played a key role in the country's major construction projects and the modernization of factories and enterprises and pushed ahead with

research and development of high-tech products.

In addition, over 50 essays written by its lecturers and researchers were carried on SCI-class international academic journals of different countries including the UK, Germany and India.

By **Kim Rye Yong PT**

SHOOTING

'Hunters' practise shooting at gallery

The Meari Shooting Gallery nestles in the sports village on Pyongyang's picturesque Chongchun Street.

Perhaps, the cooks of the Meari Shooting Gallery will be the best hand at pheasant cooking.

"We are particularly good at preparing pheasant dishes thanks to the 'hunters' at our shooting gallery," said cook Pak Sol I.

Senior attendant Kim Su Ryon said that shooting live pheasants 50 metres away is very popular with shooters at the outdoor shooting ground.

"Shooting is a good sport. The thrill of hitting the bull's-eye cannot be felt in other sports. Especially, no words can express the pleasure of hitting live pheasants," said Pak Il Gwang, a regular visitor to the shooting gallery.

However, it is not so easy to hit a live pheasant.

In fact, Pak is called a marksman capable of hitting nine targets by firing ten in air-gun.

But he said he hit none of

pheasant in his first try by firing ten shots at the outdoor range.

So, he practised hard at the indoor shooting ground for a month until he hit one pheasant outdoors.

Other shooters said that they also acquired marksmanship by training hard like him.

However, it is not impossible to acquire such marksmanship.

The indoor shooting ground has a 50m rifle range on the ground floor and a 25m pistol range on the first floor, and anyone who can win 100 points by firing ten rounds is said to be able to shoot dead pheasants.

According to Kim Ju Yang, attendant of the indoor shooting ground, it usually takes about three months to achieve 95 to 100 scores and those who can attain the level can be "hunters".

Hanging on the walls of the photo service room at the shooting gallery are many photos of beaming "hunters" holding pheasants as if they were prizes at shooting contests.

By **Ri Myong Jun PT**



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Visitors enjoy shooting at the Meari Shooting Gallery in Pyongyang.

ATTIRE

Tinge of spring reflected on citizens' attire

Spring is felt in every Pyongyang street.

Many have changed from dark and thick winter clothes into light and bright spring dress.

"People's outfits have markedly changed from last

spring. Not only young people but also the middle-aged prefer light-coloured overcoats and jackets. The streets seem to have become brighter," said Kim Myong Gil, a trolley-bus driver.

"We now receive lots of orders for overcoats. Our coats made in various styles with various decorations enhance the customers' figures," said Jo Kyong Ae, chief of the tailor's shop on Chollima Street in Central District, Pyongyang.

"Cream, light grey, light pink and verdant green colours brighten people's attire and meet the sentiments of our Korean people," she added.

According to saleswoman Son Ok Ju, the shop designs overcoats to suit the customers' complexions and figures and they come in those with turndown or closed collars, collarless ones, those with narrow or wide sleeves or slightly slit sleeves and those with such decorative elements as ribbon, floral pattern and stripes, and therefore the customers like them very much.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A tailor's shop in Central District, Pyongyang, is popular with customers for serving them with a variety of seasonal suits.

About 60 heroines emerge in eight years

Nearly 60 women have been honoured with the title of hero in the DPRK since 2012.

Among them are a manageress and a primary school teacher who looked after orphaned children and a student who contracted an incurable disease, a merited keeper who has worked in the Central Zoo for decades since her girlhood, a kindergarten headmistress who trained many musical prodigies, farmers

who produced surprisingly high yields, sportswomen who added glory to the country at international competitions and those who gave birth to many children and raised them up excellently.

Some wives of military officers, who devoted their all to husbands and soldiers, also became heroines.

KCNA

"I used to opt for deep-coloured clothes in view of my occupation and age. But this time, I ordered a cream-coloured overcoat on the advice of the shop's dressmaker. My colleagues and all my acquaintances say I look younger," said Kim Song Hui, middle-aged woman official of the Ministry of Public Health.

At present, men also favour light-coloured suits instead of

their conventional black or dark blue clothes.

Young men choose cream and light grey suits, while middle-aged and elderly men select light brown ones.

The original ideas of designers are transformed into nice garments by skilled tailors to give pleasure to customers.

By **Kil Chung Il PT**

Q&A

Nation strives to bridge educational gap

As part of its ambitious effort for developing education, the DPRK is now focusing on narrowing the gap between central and local educational facilities.

Recently, *The Pyongyang Times* reporter Pang Un Ju interviewed officials of the Education Commission on that account.

The problem of narrowing the differences in the level of education between the central and local areas was pointed out at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Could you specify how such differences surface?

Vice-chairman Ri Kwan Il: Firstly, there are differences between qualifications of teachers and between attainments of students.

If we make a comparison of the qualifications of teachers in central and local areas, the gap between their academic and pedagogic qualifications becomes obvious. What especially matters is the disparity in capabilities between the teachers in urban and rural areas involved in general secondary education. As those in rural areas lack the ability to deal with information technologies as well as their major field of study, they could not grow out of conventional teaching methods and find it hard to create and introduce new ones. This eventually resulted in the difference between attainments of students.

Moreover, there exist differences between central and local areas in terms of content, method, condition and environment of education.

These differences are attributable to the economic and cultural disparities arising from regional characteristics.

So what measures are being taken to address the problems?

Ri: We are intensifying scientific analysis of the contributory factors of the education gap. On the basis of this, we are making detailed plans and taking scrupulous measures to vitalize the dissemination of good experiences of central educational facilities to local areas and to make central, provincial and county institutions help education work of their subsidiaries.

We are also planning to steadily improve educational conditions and environment in close collaboration with officials of regional Party and government organs.

Department director Pak Il: The higher education sector has worked out plans for creating

a model in every field among local colleges and making others copy them and for normally operating the online academic unification systems at central universities that serve as hubs of relevant scientific branches so as to disseminate excellent practices of lecture, experiment and course to colleges, faculties and departments dealing with corresponding disciplines.

At the same time, local colleges are encouraged to invite lecturers from central universities and those universities serving as scientific centres will provide short courses for lecturers from local areas.

The general secondary education sector will continue to create new teaching methods and spread appreciated ones to all schools across the country.

More efforts will be directed to distributing superior pedagogic methods and experiences created at schools and kindergartens in Pyongyang.

In particular, the teachers' in-service training system will further be enhanced to improve the qualifications of the teaching staffs of rural schools. Skilled teachers of urban schools and reeducation facilities will be dispatched to rural schools to give model lessons and help local teachers improve their qualifications through panel discussions on lessons and development of new teaching methods.

Besides, projects have been scheduled to build model schools and refurbish schools in cities and counties on a high level so as to put them on a par with central model schools.

PROFILE

Lecturer challenges century-old quantum theory

A DPRK scientist has reexamined the basis of quantum mechanics which, with Einstein's theory of relativity, constitutes the twin pillars in the development of physical science.

Quantum mechanics takes on ever-growing importance now when man's sphere of domination is expanding toward space.

Regrettably, however, quantum mechanics is still hiding too many things for man. A typical example is the explanation about the existence and movement of particles, which is the main concept and principle of this physical branch.

Over the past 100 years, the physical world has witnessed a serious conflict on this matter between the viewpoints based on statistical explanation started by Einstein and complementarity principle by Bohr.

To the age-old dispute, Jong Chol, lecturer at the materials science and technology faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology, suggested a groundbreaking opinion.

In March last year, he published a study paper entitled "Ensemble in phase space: Statistical formalism of quantum mechanics" in the *Pramana Journal of Physics* of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

"The core of the paper is to prove the contradiction in the explanation of fundamental



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Jong Chol works on a research project on quantum mechanics.

basis of the present-day quantum mechanics and to develop new theoretical basis," said Jong Chol. "It proved that quantum mechanics should be formulated in phase space instead of the present configuration space and that the Schrodinger equation is an approximation, derived a new fundamental equation and suggested a new methodology for explaining quantum-mechanical phenomena using the equation."

The paper shook the physical world as soon as it was made public online.

A judge commented that the essay was an interesting and stimulating attempt at expanding the foundational base of quantum theory. Another judge said that every new approximation of quantum mechanics devised from a different standpoint in comparison to standard theory should always be welcome and the paper should be published without any revision.

The Lambert Publishing

offered Jong to publish free of charge the book "Quantum mechanics based on statistical ensemble in phase space". The book got an ISBN and, thereby, was sold through bookstores worldwide such as Morebooks Publishing, Amazon UK and Amazon US, Hachette and through more than 80 000 booksellers.

Jong received invitations to international

gatherings of renowned scientists including the International Conference on Physics and Networks USA 2019, Physics Annual Research Meet 2019 and SCON World Congress on Optics, Photonics and Laser Technologies.

It was the common view of the organizers of the international meetings that Jong's theory is original in conception, scientific and specific in research and unimaginable in amplitude of successfulness.

Jong's paper is also expected to shake up the circles of philosophy and experimental physics.

Fascinated by physics, he majored in the subject at Kim Il Sung University, when he already doubted the fundamental basis of quantum mechanics. He is now working hard to further his achievement which is the brainchild of over 20 years of painstaking efforts.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

FLOWER

Shop flourishes by arranging lovely flowers

From ancient times, flower was a symbol and synonym for beauty.

People had a craving for

beautiful mind and face as they saw flowers.

A flower shop can be called a business reflecting such human



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A flower shop in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, sells various decorative flowers.

feelings.

It sells flowers grown naturally or by gardeners and artificial flowers including those made of paper and, recently, many kinds of ornamental flowers.

With cultural aspirations growing high, more of working and living spaces are being decorated with flowers.

Recently, the Okryu flower shop has become a favourite haunt of Pyongyang citizens who want to purchase special decorative flowers.

"As well as naturally grown flowers, various decorative flower arrangements made of dried flowers or synthetic materials such as rubber and sponge are on sale at our shop," said Choe Kum Hyang, manageress of the shop in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, adding all of them are in high demand.

The shop reminds anyone entering it of a flower exhibition hall.

Flowerpots of different sizes, paintings depicting flowers

and framed dried flowers on the walls and a variety of decorative flower baskets and wall-decorating flowers are filling the whole space.

"On the occasion of International Women's day, I gave my mother and wife bouquets newly designed at the shop and they really liked them," said Ri Yong Il, a customer at the flower shop.

He often buys his daughter decorative flowers on holidays and significant anniversaries, and ordered a wall-decorating flower for her some days ago.

According to assistants, some customers choose among those on display but, more often, they have to make flower arrangements on order.

"Sometimes, customers suggest a surprisingly unusual arrangement," said manageress Choe. "So we must work to improve our skills constantly in order to meet their exact demands."

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

US

In pursuit of military supremacy

Sunday Express and other foreign media recently reported that the US staged a war game in simulation of nuclear conflict with Russia under the direct supervision of the US Defense Secretary in an air base in Nebraska.

They said the US has conducted military exercises in various grades including top-secret simulated drills to devastate Russia with a nuclear attack.

Russian politicians described those who organized the war game as insane.

Bloomberg also said that the US plans to form special units to contain Russia and China. These units will be stationed in the Philippines and the Pacific islands in the east of Chinese Taipei and armed with high-precision weaponry.

The US Defense Secretary asserted in December last year that it would concentrate on

rivalry with China and Russia to get the upper hand in the relevant sector.

The US Department of Defense recently announced a plan to deploy for action a new type of nuclear-armed cruise missile which can be launched from submarine and warship in the coming seven to ten years. A high-ranking defense department official was quoted as saying that it has decided to deploy a new kind of sea-

launched nuclear-armed cruise missile to counter “nuclear threats” by China, Russia and other countries and earmark US\$5 million for preparations for the development of the cruise missile.

Analysts comment that such moves of the US show its ambition to maintain and strengthen military supremacy.

The US’ exit from the INF Treaty on the pretext of “Russia’s violation of the treaty” and “Chinese missile threat” can also be construed in this context.

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently told TASS that his country does not want to fight with anyone.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

JAPAN

Ulterior motive for claiming sovereignty of Tok Islets

In February a Tokyo mass rally took place allegedly to mark the Third Takeshima Day in the Japanese diet and the chief of Cabinet Secretariat asserted Tok Islets (Japanese call them Takeshima) are part of Japanese territory, saying he would deal with the issue with a cool head and resolution.

Later, the 15th “Takeshima Day” meeting was held in Shimane Prefecture with the governor and a Cabinet official in attendance.

Japan’s claim to Tok Islets is ungrounded from a historical and legal point of view and has a very dangerous ulterior motive.

In historical terms Japan’s arguments for dominion over the islets are not persuasive.

The most powerful evidence Japan has come up with is that its Cabinet attached the islets to Shimane Prefecture on Feb 22

1905.

Some of the declassified documents in Japan say that at the time the prefectural population knew Ullung and Tok islands were originally the islands in the East Sea of Korea, but the Japanese government railroaded the annexation of Tok Islets in order to set up an observation post to be used for the Russo-Japanese War.

And the two maps of unidentified sources made public in Japan a few years ago mark Tok Islets as “Matsushima” and Ullung Island as “Takeshima”. Korean historical records say that in 512 the Korean state of Usan covering the two islands was incorporated into Silla. And in 1900 the feudal Joseon dynasty issued royal ordinance No. 41 to repeatedly declare its dominion over Tok Islets.

The maps published in the US in 1949 and in Britain in 1951 all mark Tok Islets as part of

Korean territory.

Others include the transcribed copy of the Taedongyo Map discovered in Japan, the marine chart which was drawn by Russians and the successive Japanese textbooks, which show clearly that Tok Islets are part of Korean territory.

A separate peace treaty the US concluded with Japan during the 1950-53 Korean war by excluding the DPRK, the USSR, China, Mongolia and other related nations, the September 1951 San Francisco treaty Japan bases on as international law is an illegal document which does not meet the requirements of international law. The DPRK Foreign Ministry published a statement on September 15 1951 to clarify the illegality of the treaty and declared that the treaty is invalid and it does not recognize it.

The treaty delicately defined the four major islands and

small ones surrounding them as Japanese territory. Accordingly, Japan set it as its diplomatic goal to secure as “many small islands in the surroundings as possible” and resorted to every possible means to attain it.

Japan’s territorial disputes with Russia and China over the Kuril Islands and Diaoyu Island can be claimed to find their origins in the San Francisco treaty.

For the US, which regards Japan as the advanced and logistics base for its Asia strategy, the latter’s securing of dominion over the islands will not only be in the interests of Japan.

The fact that Japanese politicians openly argue that they should retake the disputed islands by fighting a war warns a lot to the international community.

Analysts say Japan’s claim to Tok Islets will be an excuse for Japan which runs headlong to revival of militarism to provoke military conflict with neighbouring countries and become a flash point of the third world war.

By Om Ryong PT

STATEMENT

Japan urged to make full apology and reparation

Well over ten thousand Korean people who had been forcibly drafted to Japan were killed and tens of thousands of others wounded during the indiscriminate bombing by the US forces on March 10 1945, said a spokesman for the Association of Korean Victims of Forcible Drafting and Their Bereaved Families in a statement on Tuesday.

The statement coincided with the 75th anniversary of the tragic death of lots of Korean people in the air raid on Tokyo by the US air force during the war of aggression ignited by the Japanese imperialists.

The terrible disaster is entirely attributable to the Japanese imperialists’ military occupation of Korea and forcible drafting of Koreans and therefore we can never forget the thrice-cursed crimes against humanity committed by Japan even though time passes and generations may change, it noted.

The Japanese government, however, is trying in every way to play down and cover up the damage inflicted on the Korean victims while trumpeting only about the damage to Japanese nationals, the statement said.

It also disposed at its own will of the remains of the victims

without informing their families and is now blocking the way of the bereaved families to find the remains of their fathers, it said.

The Japanese rightists are making a vicious attempt to remove the memorials to the Korean victims of forcible drafting built in Japan, it noted.

Lurking behind the move of the Japanese authorities and right-wingers is an intention to do away with the evidence of the crime, thus hushing up the crime of forcible drafting of Koreans and the issue of their remains, beautifying the history of their aggression and then disclaiming responsibility for making reparations for the past

crime against humanity, it said.

“We strongly condemn them, as we can hardly repress mounting anger at the Japanese authorities and right-wingers, who are distorting and covering up the truth of history without feeling guilty about having forced our nation to suffer untold misfortune, pain and miserable and unjust death, and rubbing salt into the wound of the victims and their families.

“The Japanese government should drop the shameless attitude to conceal the crime-ridden past behind the curtain of history, make a full apology and reparation to all the Korean victims of forcible drafting and their families and take practical measures to find out all the remains of the Korean victims and bury them in accordance with the wishes of the bereaved families”.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Briefly

Russia

Ready for any aggressions, Putin says

Russian President Putin recently told TASS that Russia is ready to cope with any aggressions.

Russia is prepared to confront any aggressors who want to repeat the fascist Germany’s invasion of the former Soviet Union, he said, adding dangers are overcome by dangers.

Venezuela

Venezuelans determined to live at liberty

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Moros on Mar 9 expressed his will not to yield to the imperialists on Twitter, saying any aggressive move against his country will encounter the valiance and resistance of the Venezuelan people who are determined to live at liberty forever.

Cuba

Cuban FM censures US sanctions

Recently, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla on Twitter denounced the US as the very one that aggravates the living conditions of Cuban people.

His tweet came as a rebuke to the sanctions the US imposed on a company which dealt in remittances to Cuba.

The US tramples down on the sovereignty of not only Cuba but all other sovereign states, he said, adding such sanctions bring to light the hypocritical nature of US politics.

Iran

US sanctions described as medical terrorism

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohamad Javad Zarif tweeted on Mar 7 that the US is maliciously intensifying illegal sanctions against Iran in a bid to deplete its resources needed for preventing COVID-19.

He called on the world to no longer stay mum about the fact that the US’ economic terrorism is leading to medical terror.

US

US ranks first in arms sales

According to a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute report on Mar 9, the volume of the US’ arms export in five years until last year increased by 23 percent as compared to the corresponding period until 2014.

Accordingly, the US is, as it used to be, taking the first place in arms sales. During that period it exported weapons to 96 countries and regions of the world, with half of them to the Middle East.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

CLUB

Toward higher goals

Founded in 1956, the DPRK's Pyongyang Sports Club is the one with a long history which has been engaged in 13 sporting events including football and other ball games, marathon, artistic gymnastics and wrestling.

Last year alone, players of the club snatched a total of 40 medals including 13 golds, 15 silvers and 12 bronzes in different international games.

The top ten coaches and players of the DPRK last year included two coaches and players of the club, and its football coach and player were also chosen as best football coach and player of the year.

Pak Yong Mi won the women's 53 kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships held in China in April last year, earning four consecutive wins in the championships. She also came first in the same event of the 2019 World Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan in September to claim the world title for the first time in the country's women's wrestling.

She was awarded the title



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Players are under training at the Pyongyang Sports Club.

of People's Athlete, the top honour for the DPRK players, in November last year.

Woman judoist Kim Jin A took the first place in the women's 57 kg category at the Asian Judo Championships held in the United Arab Emirates in April last year, the 2019 IJF Hohhot Grand Prix judo championships in China's Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region in May, and the 2019 IJF Grand Slam in Abu Dhabi in the UAE in October.

Besides, the club produced

lots of excellent players in boxing, weightlifting, volleyball, table tennis and many other sports, especially footballer Sung Hyang Sim, winner of the best technical prize and youth player prize in different games.

"Our coaches and players are now training hard to attain higher goals," said Jo Song Sam, an official of the club.

The club's several athletes are to take part in the 32nd Olympic Games this year.

By Song Jong Ho PT

CAR

Amusement car developed

A new type of amusement car will appear in amusement parks in Pyongyang in the near future.

"Imported amusement cars were small in number and it was impossible to repair them when they got out of order. Therefore, we made a new amusement car," said Ri Hyok Chon, staffer of the Taesongsan amusement facility management station.

According to him, the car can run at the speed of 50kmh and cover a longer distance with less fuel than the imported one.

Technicians of the management station studied lots of technical data on the

imported car to develop a more practical design and made new jigs to manufacture section steels, thus completing the car in a little over 40 days.

"When we unveiled a trial product, every viewer was surprised at it. Though some other units had also tried, they were unsuccessful as they failed to make the power transmission device. But we have done it," said Mun Jong Su in charge of technical preparation.

The trial product attracted interest of many at the trial run.

"I frequently drove amusement cars at the Mangyongdae Amusement Park and Ryonmot

Park. I saw the trial run of the new car with my children at the Taesongsan Amusement Park on lunar New Year's Day this year, and it was quicker than the imported one. I look forward to driving it soon," said Choe Jin Hyok living in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

At present, the station is receiving a large order for it from other amusement parks in the city and even from the provinces.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A new type of car designed and manufactured by the Taesongsan amusement facility management station in Pyongyang.

SILK

Korean silk boasting long history

Korean silk has a time-honoured history.

Many of the earthenware objects unearthed at the dwelling sites of Pyongyang's Namgyong site, which belongs to primitive and ancient times, have pictures of mulberry leaves at their bottoms, and similar pottery and the sculptures representing silkworms were also discovered at the Jithap-ri site in Pongsan County, which dates back to ancient times and middle ages.

Forest Economy, Kosasinso and other old books say that silkworm indigenous to Korea moults three times, describing the characteristics of Korean silkworms that dislike moisture and smoke.

The Korean three moulter has a short growth period and is highly resistant to diseases and very viable. In particular, its cocoon thread can be woven into soft and light silk cloth and is dyed easily and beautifully.

Large quantities of silk fabrics were discovered from ancient tombs in the area of Rangnang District, Pyongyang, and an analysis of them shows they were woven with the very fine threads of the three moulter.

In ancient times, there were different sorts of Korean silk fabrics including the one woven with double-ply thread, and diverse kinds of high-grade

silks were produced in the period of Koguryo, especially twilled cloth with patterns and the one woven with gold and other threads.

With silk production technology making rapid progress in the period of Koryo, silk fabrics saw a remarkable increase in their variety and improvement in their quality. So they found their way to markets in neighbouring countries and even those in the Middle and Near East.

Among the famous present-day silk cloths of Korea, there are Yaksan and Kuryong silks. The former with azalea patterns was named after Yaksandongdae in Nyongbyon, while the latter was called after the Kuryong River flowing beneath Yaksandongdae in the meaning that the pattern of the cloth is as graceful as the flowing river.

These silk fabrics are produced at the Nyongbyon Silk Mill.

The mill which is equipped with modern machines and equipment, turns out dozens of kinds of quality silks.

The silk threads produced at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill are winning popularity among other silk mills at home and abroad.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



Silk quilts come in different forms.

MONUMENT

Phenomenal spring water and bamboo thicket

Masikryong Spring Water

Masikryong Spring Water is well known as a good spring water for health and longevity. It is found on Masik Pass of the DPRK where the Masikryong Ski Resort is located.

It is free from contamination by any germs or bacteria as its catchment area is the natural forest zone of the Masikryong Mountains and it flows through a long layer of granite.

Low in association degree, it is slightly alkaline (pH 7.2) which is good for retarding

ageing and its temperature is 8.5 degrees Celsius.

It is effective in relieving heart burden and indigestion and restoring vigour as it contains a proportional amount of potassium, calcium and other minerals.

It was listed as a natural monument of the country in 2016.

Kosong bamboo thicket

The famous Kosong bamboo thicket sprawls across Samilpho-ri and Sunhak-ri of Kosong

County, Kangwon Province.

It is very mild and rainy in Kosong County which is relatively favourable for the cultivation of bamboo.

Over 1 600 bamboo shoots sprout in the thicket every year.

The county has planted bamboo groves covering over 300 hectares around the thicket.

And it produces various bamboo products like flower basket, fan and fishing rod.

KCNA

