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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un breaks ground for hospital project in Pyongyang

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, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital on Mar 17.

When the Supreme Leader arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the builders burst into cheers of hurrah in honour of Kim Jong Un who has made tireless efforts with ardent love for the people to open a broad avenue of fresh advance of Korean-style socialism.

The ceremony was attended by Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee.

Also present there were Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, Ri Il Hwan and Pak Thae Song, vice-chairmen of the WPK Central Committee, and leading officers and officials and builders

of the army and civil construction units.

Kim Jong Un delivered an address at the ceremony.

Saying that the Party discussed and decided on the task of building a modern general hospital for the promotion of the people's health in Pyongyang at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of its Seventh Central Committee, and set it as a top priority project for this year of the 75th founding anniversary of the WPK, he referred to the preparations made in every aspect to complete the project in the shortest possible time.

Emphasizing the importance of the

project, he said it is a source of greatest happiness and encouragement for the Party to see the people including the rising generations lead a healthy and cultured life, fully receiving advanced medical service under the benefit of the socialist public health system.

The Party set the bolstering up of the public health sector as a political matter of defending and ennobling the image of Korean socialism and as a crucial task to which top-priority state efforts should be directed whatever the conditions and circumstances, he noted.

He pointed to the Party's intention to make the spirit of making selfless,

devoted efforts for the people run through today's offensive for a frontal breakthrough in the process of the construction project and to make the spirit of devotedly implementing the Party's policies and the construction speed, which would be created during the project, pervade all fields of socialist construction, and specified detailed tasks and ways to finish the project in time.

He ardently called for unsparingly devoting sweat and passion to building the hospital for the people splendidly.

He broke ground

first to mark the beginning of the construction of the hospital and pressed the button of the blasting device.

The moment, the stirring sound of explosion resounded, signalling the start of the construction project.

All the builders swiftly launched into construction, burning with the determination to complete the hospital as a monumental structure in the era of the Workers' Party fully embodying its great view on the people, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

KCNA



Kim Jong Un calls for building general hospital to celebrate WPK's 75th anniversary

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un delivered a speech entitled *Let Us Build the Pyongyang General Hospital in an Excellent Way, Greeting the 75th Founding Anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea* at the ground-breaking ceremony of the construction project of the hospital on Tuesday. The following is the full text:

Comrades,
The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee and the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party

of Korea, both held recently, made an analysis of the situations facing our revolution and put forward correct fighting modes, tasks and ways.

This year, when the entire Party and the whole society, having equipped themselves with the ideas and spirit of the plenary meeting, are waging a gigantic struggle to implement the line and policy for independent development in the harshest-ever internal and external situations, is for us an auspicious year as we will be greeting the 75th anniversary of the founding of our Party.

Of the challenging and colossal tasks for this year when we have to bring about without fail an epoch-making and lively phase in the course of development of socialism of our own style, we are now faced with the most important and most worthwhile fighting task.

The task is building a modern general hospital, which our Party has long planned and aspired after, and we have gathered here today to announce the start of this important and worthwhile project.

Frankly speaking, at the plenary meeting of its Central Committee, our Party analyzed and assessed the present state of public health service, medical service, in the country in a comprehensive, scientific and open-hearted way and, feeling miserably self-critical of the fact that there is no perfect and modern medical service establishment even in the capital city, discussed and decided on building in this year of the 75th anniversary of its founding a modern general hospital first in Pyongyang for the promotion of people's health.

Accordingly, the Central Committee of the Party delayed several construction projects planned to be conducted this year, and defined the construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital as a major project to be finished by the 75th anniversary of Party founding, a project where primary efforts should be directed among the construction projects to be conducted this year, the first year of the offensive for a frontal attack for making a breakthrough; and over the past more than two months it has made every preparation while going over in a detailed way the plan for finishing the project in the shortest period, ranging from selecting the site to designing, forming construction forces and



supplying materials.

Having indicated a detailed direction for building the hospital in a modern fashion with an eye to the distant future, the Party already had officials in various sectors visit the hospitals that are reputed to be advanced in the world, and on the basis of this, gave guidance so that planning was done on a high level and on a priority basis.

As you can see from the drawing of a bird's-eye view of the Pyongyang General Hospital to be built, the project target is quite huge but its period is short.

That is why I decided to entrust the project of the Party's first priority and utmost concern to my most reliable construction units, Guards Hero Brigade and the Eighth Construction Bureau, and, though it was unplanned, I have come here to extend militant encouragement to you on ground-breaking.

It is important for you to have a correct understanding of the significance of this project, a long-cherished wish of our Party.

For our Party, which regards the people-first principle as its nature and sacred political creed, to protect and improve the health of the people is the most urgent and honourable revolutionary work, which it should shoulder and undertake without fail whatever the conditions.

When our people including the rising generations lead a healthy and cultured life, fully receiving most advanced medical service under the benefit of the socialist public health system, it is a source of greatest happiness and encouragement for our Party.

In recent years, modern ophthalmic, dental and other specialized hospitals and children's hospital have been built in Pyongyang, but we cannot be satisfied with these successes as they are only grains of sand in a mountain when compared to the lofty ideals and ambitions of our Party.

We should now take the first step to building our public health service to be people-oriented and advanced one with the mindset that we are starting everything in a fresh way.

If they had heard that a modern general hospital is going to be built here, an ideal place in Pyongyang, in a big way, Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il would have been most pleased, and

this news will also bring pleasure to all our people, young and old, men and women.

When the general hospital is built, we will get another valuable asset with which to better protect the precious health and safety of our people, and will be able to set up a springboard for consolidating and developing the socialist public health system by enabling the public health sector of the country to make a significant leap forward with this hospital as a central base.

I firmly believe that the general hospital will be wonderfully

built encouraging the entire population, who have turned out for the offensive for a frontal attack for making a breakthrough, thanks to the unshakable will of the Workers' Party of Korea that puts forward the work of bolstering up public health sector as a political issue to defend and add lustre to the image of socialism of our style and as a crucial undertaking to which the state must direct primary efforts whatever the conditions and situations, and to the ardent patriotic devotion of you who have always been loyal to the call of the Party.

Comrades,

It is the Party's basic intention to ensure that, through the building of the Pyongyang General Hospital, the spirit of making selfless, devoted efforts for the people runs through today's frontal attack for making a breakthrough and the spirit of carrying out the Party's instructions unto death and the speed of construction that are to be created in the course of building the hospital are rapidly propagated to all sectors of socialist construction.

True to the Party's lofty intention to develop our socialist public health service into the most people-oriented, advanced one which takes full responsibility for protecting all people's life and promoting their health, we should turn out as one for the effort to finish the construction project unconditionally by the 75th founding anniversary of the Party.

All the civilian and military officers and builders seconded to this project should work an unprecedented miracle in the worthwhile undertaking for realizing the Party's plan to create another asset for the people, valuing them most.

Only 200-odd days are left until the Party founding anniversary day.

Needless to say, it is not easy to complete this gigantic project in such a short span of time.

The present conditions for this construction are not so favourable, and therefore we may experience many difficulties and trials while building the hospital. But we can neither leave the construction undone nor remain seated idly until good conditions are created.

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Our Party is under obligation, as required by our people's high aspirations and demands, to make our country more prosperous, bring our people greater happiness and provide them with better care and living conditions.

Whatever happens, we must complete the construction of this hospital in an excellent way at the earliest possible date and make the hospital wait for the people.

Whether the construction is finished by the set date or not depends entirely on our efforts.

The conditions are bad and many difficulties lie ahead; however, we can surely overcome those difficulties that may be encountered in construction when we work actively by enlisting all our effort with an understanding that nobody brings us happiness and creates our future and that we must achieve our happiness by means of our own struggle and create our future with our own hands.

We should raise fierce flames of the speed campaign with the indomitable mental strength displayed in the period of ushering in the great golden age of construction under the Party's leadership, and launch a loyal offensive, a fierce 24-7 struggle and a resolute lightning campaign to add brilliance to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Party with the completion of the proud monumental edifice.

It is our Party's demand to set up all architectural structures as ones absolutely perfect both in content and quality in order to make them meet the requirements of the present era and the people and to be used effectively in the people's life not only for the present but also in the distant future.

In the true sense of the word architectural structure, it is a building of everlasting value which is different from consumable goods.

Although it is well designed and high-quality materials are used in its construction, the quality of an architectural structure cannot be ensured if its building work is not executed effectively.

To lower the quality in the execution of building work on the plea of finishing the project as quickly as possible or to slow down the speed on the plea of improving quality runs counter to the ideas and demands of the Party and has nothing to do with the speed campaign which we call for.

As you know better than me, if we repeat the execution owing to some faults in its process, it would lead to the waste of large amounts of labour, materials and funds and hamper the speed of construction, with the result that the project cannot be finished on schedule; worse still, such

an architectural structure has to be repaired just after its inauguration, causing discomfort for the people, cannot guarantee its lifespan and may cause such a serious consequence as undermining the trustworthiness of our buildings.

I emphasize over and over again: It is the heaviest yet noblest duty of all the builders to improve the quality in construction.

The quality of a building should be ensured, not under the control of supervisory organs, but by the pure loyalty and conscience towards the Party and the people of the commanding officers, Party members, soldiers and working people who are in charge of every process of the execution of building work.

Keeping deep in mind that the work they are doing is an undertaking for the good of the country, the people and themselves, as well as for increasing the number of precious assets of the country to be handed down through generations, all builders should give full play to their collective wisdom and skills by always taking care and controlling and helping one another to improve the quality of the architectural structure.

They should root out such a bad habit and work attitude as executing building work in a slipshod way in disregard of the scientific and technological requirements and building methods, strictly observe the building standards and methods at each construction process and devote unsparingly the sweats of their pure conscience regardless of whether they are appreciated or not. By doing so, they can ensure the quality of the project on the highest possible level.

It is essential for the builders to intensify the economy drive at every corner of the construction site so as to establish a climate of economizing on building materials including cement, steel and timber to the maximum, maintain attitude and stand befitting masters, display a high sense of responsibility and practise devotion at every process of construction.

Construction supervisory organs should, true to their mission and duty, enhance their sense of responsibility and role so that the whole processes of building the hospital become a model and example in meeting the requirements of the design and building methods.

To give precedence to supplying building materials and equipment leads to the acceleration of the building speed.

The Cabinet, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, the Ministry of Construction and Building-materials Industry, the Ministry of Forestry and other ministries and central organs and factories and enterprises should organize and guide production scrupulously and

stoke up the flames of the drive for increased production, thus supplying materials and equipment necessary for the construction at the earliest date possible.

What is very important here is that the workers of Sangwon and Sunchon should produce sufficient amounts of quality cement and the metallurgical industry produce large quantities of iron and steel.

The relevant organs and enterprises should produce and transport fuel oil, timber, glass and others necessary for the construction project without delay and push forward the work of greening the area according to a well-worked-out plan.

The relevant units including the Ministry of Public Health should train officials, doctors and nurses who will work at the Pyongyang General Hospital, take practical measures for putting medical service on an intelligent and IT footing, and prepare with a sense of responsibility the medicines, consumables and various equipment necessary for running the hospital.

The political section of the construction coordination commission should give full scope to the atmosphere of surge and competition by covering the construction site with the Party's militant slogans and Red flags and launching an uninterrupted ideological offensive by accurately-targeted and focused methods, and thus vigorously propel successful completion of the construction work.

All the commanding officers, fully aware that they are entirely responsible in front of the Party for the accomplishment of this important building task, should arrange the organization and command of the construction work in a three-dimensional way and, always at the forefront of the charge, powerfully encourage the builders to performing heroic feats by means of their self-sacrificing efforts and revolutionary traits of setting personal examples.

Comrades,

The Pyongyang General Hospital, which will rise up high in the centre of the capital city under the manifold difficulties and hardships, will turn into a structure that demonstrates, as they are, the spirit of our country advancing vigorously towards the better future by frustrating cheerfully the mean sanctions and blockade of the hostile forces and the unchangeable situation of our revolution.

Let us all build just in this place a wonderful hospital for the people as proudly as to be envied by the world by striving hard with sincere devotion of our sweat and blood for today's honourable and worthwhile construction work for our valuable people.

VIEW

The life and lessons of Kim Il Sung

It should go without saying that anyone who is progressive, who believes in a bright socialist future without exploitation and oppression, without imperialism and war, should study the life and works of Comrade Kim Il Sung. All true revolutionaries who have encountered his works and heard of his deeds can only feel themselves inspired and heartened by his example and leadership, by his contributions to applying Marxism-Leninism to Korean conditions and his evolution of the Juche idea.

Kim Il Sung said: "The

oppressed peoples can liberate themselves only through struggle. This is a simple and clear truth confirmed by history."

When still a student at Jilin Yuwen Middle School, he was secretly absorbed in reading the classics of Marxism-Leninism, and other revolutionary literature, and learnt early on the importance of theory and practice.

He regarded Marxism-Leninism as a weapon of struggle and a means of practical activity. He first put this to use when he formed the Down-

with-Imperialism Union in 1926 when he was 14 years old. The aims of the union, he said, are to struggle for the building of socialism and communism in Korea in the future, and, for the present, to defeat Japanese imperialism and achieve the liberation and independence of Korea.

Later on he would achieve just that after the victory in the anti-Japanese struggle.

But his vision of a liberated, independent Korea, free to build socialism under conditions of peace, was sadly to be upset

after the war by the aggressive actions of imperialism, a vicious imperialism that still divides Korea to this day.

He said: "The time has come when we Korean people have to unite our strength to build a new, democratic Korea. People from all strata should display patriotic enthusiasm and turn out to build a new Korea. To contribute positively to the work of building the state, let those with strength give strength; let those with knowledge give knowledge; let those with money give money; and all people who truly love their country, their nation and democracy must unite closely and build an independent and sovereign democratic state."

His words are still fondly remembered by the progressive peoples of the world in their challenge for all of society to unite and build the new

chapter in Korea's history. It's a quote you can see in print and on banners in the Korean Revolution Museum in Pyongyang.

He also remained the consistent anti-imperialist and advanced scientific socialism through application of his Juche idea.

"We always say that the basis of the Juche idea is that man is the master of everything and decides everything," he said.

It's important we learn from him and study his works. We wish his legacy a long life, and wish for peace and reunification of Korea under socialism, a revolution he guided from victory to victory.

James Taylor,
*communications secretary of
the UK Korean Friendship
Association*

CEMENT

Sangwon fully unleashes potential to meet domestic needs

Complex registers record-high monthly output

The Sangwon Cement Complex in North Hwanghae Province is making an upsurge in production.

From the beginning of this year, it saw an increase of more than ten thousand tons in cement production every month and exceeded the peak month level for the first time in its decades-long history.

Chief engineer Yun Song Chol said the boost in production is attributable to prioritizing science and technology and ensuring the operation of equipment at full capacity in accordance with the completion of modernization of all processes for cement production by the end of last year.

According to him, though it

was a common idea that a full-load running test generally takes several months, the complex broke the convention and successfully carried out the test run in a week and thus paved the way for normal production.

He ascribed the success to scrupulous advance preparations and countermeasures from scheduling the modernization project to raising technical skills of operators and getting rid of risk factors.

The most important part was to develop a program for controlling all the modernized processes.

"Previously, we used to get help from professional research institutes or researchers of

educational institutions whenever we were stuck with an important technological problem in production," said Pyon Wan Ju, head of the automation workshop. "But we came to think that we would never free ourselves from dependence on others if we went on with such practices, and started building our own capacity."

With the self-awakening as a momentum, they eventually developed the new control system with their own efforts.

With the production capacity rising, the complex put the oxygen generation on a normal footing and made its affiliate coal mines and other mines provide necessary materials sufficiently.

Its repair shops are supplying tools and equipment needed for production in time.

"The complex has renewed the monthly production record this year and is looking forward to accomplishing the first quarterly plan at over 110 percent. We will introduce artificial intelligence technology into the control system in the near future so as to lower the norm of consumption per unit of production, raise the quality and quantity of output further and thus continue to exceed peak production levels," said the chief engineer.

By Yun Kyong II PT



PHOTOS BY PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Packed cement bags roll off the production line at the Sangwon Cement Complex in North Hwanghae Province.

Duck farm contributes to supply services for workers

The Myongdang Duck Farm is one of supply bases for the Sangwon Cement Complex.

The farm consists the duck-keeping block, vegetable greenhouse and fish-breeding ground each covering an area of thousands of square metres, a nearly 1 000-square-metre mushroom cultivation ground

and hundreds of square metres of pig-raising block and loach-breeding ground.

"Our farm conducts business scrupulously in a scientific and practical manner by establishing a food production cycle combining animal husbandry and crop farming," said Jon Yong Ae, manager of the farm.



The Myongdang Duck Farm raises a large number of ducks to improve supply service for cement producers.

According to her, the farm automatically controls with the computer control device the temperature, humidity, egg rolling, cooling and ventilation of the hatching block, while removing gas discharged by excrement through indigenous microorganism-based fermentation.

And the mushroom production base also automatically controls temperature, humidity and carbonic acid gas through the PLC environment monitoring operating system established in the general control room.

Solar water heaters are installed in all vegetable greenhouses to ensure the internal temperature even in midwinter, while the water temperature of the greenhouses and catfish spawning ponds in them is ensured with the boiler's cooling water in the mushroom cultivation ground.

"We recycle all excrement and

Control room crucial to production boost



Engineers monitor the production processes at the central control room.

"The central control room plays a very important part in ensuring steady cement production in our complex," said Yun Song Chol, chief engineer of the Sangwon Cement Complex. "All the processes including raw material crushing, calcination, cement and coal crushing and carrying in and out are monitored and controlled in the central control room."

According to Jon Myong II, chief of the central control room, as all the meters, machines and automation components in the production sites are manipulated under the control of the central control room, it is impossible to ensure the top quality and maximum quantity of overall cement production in the complex, if the controllers of the room lack understanding of the processes in their charge, and therefore the room gives top priority to enhancing their technical knowledge and skill.

He added that they frequently go to work sites in order to verify the numerical value of every process and identify and fix faults, and hold consultative meetings for the coordination of process manipulation from time

to time so as to make the upgraded processes prove efficient.

Given the major cement production processes were renovated last year, the control room is striving to find out operating methods for stabilizing numerical values of process manipulation and ensuring maximum capacity.

Controllers in close contact with relevant departments have selected rational control methods to ensure qualitative indexes of cement production and strictly followed them. And to avoid quick setting of cement they have fixed rational mixing ratio of clinker, gypsum and additives and applied it to practice.

"The technical knowledge and skills of our controllers have a great impact on cement output, so we are working hard to discharge our responsibility and role," said chief controller Jang In Guk.

Thanks to their strenuous efforts, the complex could overfulfil its production plan for January by 7.7 percent and that for February by 17 percent as it exceeded the peak production level every month.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

used substrates obtained from meat and mushroom production processes," said senior engineer Kang Pyong Gil.

He said the feed for pigs is prepared by treating duck excrement and byproducts and used mushroom substrates with bacteria, and that for rabbits by fermenting the used substrates.

At the vegetable greenhouse built under the pig-raising block, methane gas is produced with pig excrement to boil the animal feed and the methane fermentation liquid is used as organic fertilizer for growing vegetables, thereby producing more than 60 tons of vegetables a year.

The farm also produces

earthworms, while using the leftovers of duck feed and byproducts as the feed for pigs and fish, fermenting duck excrement to make mushroom substrates and also fermenting used mushroom substrates to make feed for rabbits. Duck excrement is also used as natural feed for raising such fishes as carp, grass fish and silver carp in the fishponds.

The farm built a nearly 2 000-square-metre chives field and planted thousands of trees including various fruit trees in the compound to turn it into a virtual orchard.

By Kim Il Jin PT

SERICULTURE

Kophung seeks economic growth with sericulture

Kophung County in Jagang Province has achieved economic growth by developing sericulture in recent years. The county is far away from railway lines and in its north and south stretch the Joguryong Mountains and their ranges. Most of its area is covered with mountains and forests and its farmland accounts for about 10 percent of its area. It has the last frost in May and the first frost comes in September.

The county is far away from railway lines and in its north and south stretch the Joguryong Mountains and their ranges. Most of its area is covered with mountains and forests and its farmland accounts for about 10 percent of its area. It has the last frost in May and the first frost comes in September.

Under such unfavourable circumstances, the county has brought mountains and uncultivated land under plough, planted many mulberry trees there and increased cocoon production to earn decent economic profits in recent years, said an official of the county.

According to him, given that 500 kg of cocoons are produced in one hectare of mulberry field, the profit is equivalent to the production of more than ten tons of beans or rice.

"We produce lots of cocoons and supply them to the Huichon Silk Mill every year. Then they

turn into silk to contribute to the economic development and improvement of the people's livelihood in the province and county," said Kim Song Ryol, chief of the county sericulture goods supply and procurement station.

In the past, each cooperative farm in the county dried cocoons manually, but now they are dried in the cocoon drying house of the station which is equipped with a 100-ton capacity hot-air drying oven and the drying of cocoons by the scientific and industrial method has markedly boosted the proportion of first-class dried cocoons and prevented the loss of cocoons, he added.

The Ryongphung Cooperative Farm is leading others in cocoon production.

"Every year, our farm produces more than eight tons of mulberry leaves per hectare in the fields by applying over 20 tons of manure per hectare, though its per-hectare yield was only three tons in the past," said Paek Kyong Ho, chairman of the management board of the farm.

The Saemak Cocoon Cooperative Farm produces the largest numbers of high-yield farmers in the province.

The production of mulberry leaves is precisely that of cocoons, said O Kap Sun, who is noted as master cocoon producer. In order to increase

per-hectare production of the leaves, the farm has introduced a kind of layering method to increase the number of the trees per hectare, ensured depth manuring in keeping with ultra-dense planting, thereby producing good quality leaves each year, and applied an advanced sericultural technique to improve the quality of cocoons, she added.

The county finished the construction of a hydropower station in a matter of two years with the incomes from sericulture and has proceeded to build Kophung Power Station Unit 3, which is four times larger than the previous one in workload. The hundreds-of-metre-long waterway tunnel of the power plant has already been cut through. Given that micro-generators are being used by many farming households in the county, when this station is completed, the county will be able to fully satisfy its need for electricity by itself.

It has also provided itself with such vehicles as heavy-duty truck and backhoe loader to carry on construction projects as it wishes, while securing lots of farming materials.

Farmers say that as sericulture flourishes, cash incomes grow and their living standards improve every year.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

GARMENT

Clothes processing time shortened



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Designers discuss sample pieces of cloth at the Ragwon Ponghwa Garment Factory in Pyongyang.

The Ragwon Ponghwa Garment Factory in Sosong District, Pyongyang, has increased the clothes processing speed.

Senior engineer Kim Yong Nam ascribed the success to the positive introduction of new technical innovation plans into production.

Much labour was spent in the past to completing a product as it had to pass through several processes, but the introduction of new jigs has made it possible to shorten production processes and speed up the processing of products, he said.

The waist part tightening processing jig, one of the new jigs, helps complete at one time the processing of fabric belt for women requiring three rounds of sewing, thereby ensuring the processing speed and quality per unit product and markedly raising productivity.

Especially, the cloth roll unreeling machine contributes to saving much labour in the unreeling of cloth rolls, a preceding process of cutting, as it is installed with a device

of measuring the length per metre by giving double tension according to the weight of cloth rolls.

The machine took the first place at the 34th National Festival of Science and Technology last year.

The optical sensor installed at the fixed cutting machine helps put away the racing of electric motor as it is designed to work only when cut cloths are put on the table, thus prolonging the serviceable life of motor and saving electricity.

According to engineer Kim Kyong Hui, the electricity production cost of a new mixed-fuel generator is below 60 percent as against the case of using only diesel oil.

Women's dress and coat, men's jumper, short overcoats for men and women and different kinds of trousers produced by the factory are now very popular at home and abroad for their smart styles and good quality.

The factory was awarded the title of thrice model technical innovation unit.

By Kim Il Jin PT

Nationwide

Silver knives and gold rings given to triplets and quadruplets

A few days ago, the girl triplets who were recently born at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and their parents living in Taean District, Nampho City, received an ornamental silver knife and gold rings as gifts.

Such silver knives and gold rings have been presented to several hundred sets of triplets and quadruplets, who were born in the country from its liberation on August 15 1945 until now, and their parents.

The year, month and date of triplets' births are inscribed respectively on the blades of silver knives for boys in the order of their birth and the full date of their birth on one side of all three sheaths so that everyone can see when they were born and who is elder or younger.

Three sunflowers are depicted in the middle of each gold ring with a ruby set in and the year, month and date of births inscribed in order in the same way as the silver knives.

Factory produces effective antiseptic solution and gel



The Ryongaksan Soap Factory in Pyongyang is now mass-producing antiseptic solution and hand sterilizing gel which have higher sterilizing effects and are more convenient to use than the previous ones. They will be very helpful to the preventive efforts against COVID-19 as the highly effective antiseptic solution can be used at home, workplaces and elsewhere and the hand sterilizing gel has skincare effects.

Land administration underway with come of spring



The spring general

mobilization work for land administration is conducted briskly across the DPRK.

Kumchon County of North Hwanghae Province improved rivers by dredging riverbeds in several kilometres and covering dykes with stones in thousands of squares metres.

Songyo District in Pyongyang repaired roofs of dwelling houses in a residential area and built fences with a total length of thousands of metres.

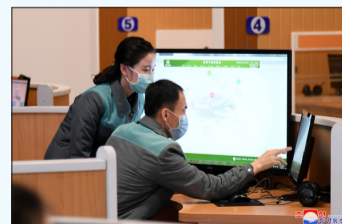
South Phyongan Province planted thousands of cryptomerias in the environs of the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory and major roads while conducting some road works.

Over 1m pieces of information added to Sci-Tech Complex's databank

Over 1.43 million pieces of information about science and technology have newly been added to the database of the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang.

The new data contain scientific and technological achievements made in various sectors of the national economy in recent years.

They include videos, magazines and science news materials on information technology, nanotechnology, bioengineering and viral infectious diseases.



Plantations reclaim 40-odd hectares for tea planting

A land reclamation project for growing more tea trees has been undertaken in earnest from the beginning of this year and more than 40 hectares have been added to the tea plantations across the DPRK.

The Kangryong Unjong

Tea Plantation concentrated efforts to digging out shrubs and rearranging slopes on the surrounding hills which are favourable for tea farming, thereby bringing additional 10 hectares under cultivation and finishing the preparations for seeding.

The Kumdong and Kosong Unjong tea plantations transformed dozens of hectares of non-farming hills into tea fields.

They enriched tea fields with tens of thousands of tons of quality organic fertilizers in keeping with the growing state of tea trees and conducted with sincerity manuring and cultivating work including weeding, thinning and cutting of branches.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

FUND



Applying itself to national heritage protection

The restoration of the Sogwang Temple, which was carried out late last year, is associated with the sincere assistance of overseas Koreans.

“As our first activity we ensured that the sincere donation from overseas compatriots was successfully put into the restoration of the temple,” said Kim Kwang Hyok, president of the Korea National Heritage Protection Fund.

An independent nonprofit organization, the fund was established in 2018 with the mission to receive donations of valuable historical information, remains, materials and money at home and abroad and contribute to the protection of national heritage including the unearthing, preservation and management of historical sites, relics and intangible cultural heritage.

Korean ancestors created a great deal of excellent national legacies, especially the Taedonggang culture showing the origin of mankind, the world's first-ever rain gauge, the turtle-shaped iron-clad ship, metal type and world-famous Koryo celadon, but lots of them were damaged and lost during the 40-odd years of Japanese military rule and the three years of Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s.

The DPRK made remarkable achievements in the protection of national heritage in the past, and at present the expansion of the undertaking on a worldwide scale has become an urgent necessity.

The Korea National Heritage Protection Fund adheres to the principle of voluntary donation and the principle of respecting legislation of relevant countries and international law and relations in getting back remains which were drained abroad.

It has not been long since the fund was set up, but it has come into contact with lots of overseas Koreans and foreigners across the world as well as local people who show great interest in defending the spirit of Tangun's nation and protecting the glorious cultural heritage of the Korean nation.

It set it as the orientation of immediate work to restore and repair temple sites, unearth and exhibit historical remains, receive them in donation and attract emergency aid for preventing the damage of historical sites, scenic spots and living monuments from natural disasters.

“This year the government has a plan to restore more than 40 temples including the Tachung Temple in Kaesong, the capital of the Koryo Kingdom. We will closely cooperate on it,” said Kim.

The fund keeps in touch with the non-permanent national heritage protection committee, the Korea National Heritage Preservation Agency, history museum and other relevant units. And upon authorization of it, more than ten overseas Koreans and foreigners are working as its agents in different countries.

It hopes to establish contact with more donors in the future.

Tel: 00850-2-18111(ext) 381-6146

Fax: 00850-2-3814410 ICC 388

E-mail: knhpf@star-co.net.kp.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



Members work on future undertakings at the Korea National Heritage Protection Fund.

EDUCATION

Advanced methods applied to develop creative thinking faculty

East Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 in Pyongyang has invented and introduced advanced methods aimed at fostering the creativity of students.

The school developed a national model of STEM education last year and a mode of lessons based on a new teaching structure.

“An important requirement in training creative talents is to make students proactive learners and searchers. Therefore, we switched from the lessons to impart new knowledge into those to make students play the leading part,” said headmistress Rim Hyon Ok.

The previous teaching structure was based on the method of initiating students into new knowledge and helping them consolidate it.

But the new structure requires

students to collect information in advance according to the assignment given in the previous lesson and analyse it, raise points and discuss them with classmates during the later lesson before announcing the results.

“While gathering information, I have come to know well what kind of book I should choose and how to collect information. And as we ourselves raise points and find out answers, they impress themselves on our minds,” said Ri Kwon Ryul, a second-year student.

The school also draws up teaching programmes for running extracurricular groups.

“Unlike lessons focusing on the teaching of principles and knowledge, extracurricular groups aim to increase students' application and creative abilities. Shortly ago, the IT

group introduced a programme called ‘Assembly and control of artificial intelligence robot’ on an experimental basis, and it proved very effective,” said Kang Chol Min, head of a department.

According to the programme, students carry out every process on their own ranging from conceiving of a robot with artificial intelligence to design, assembly, application programming and execution.

As a result, students acquire the abilities to apply the principles they have learned in class to reality, to use the contents of different subjects in a synthetic way and to carry out assignments independently.

At present, the school is working to generalize the new teaching methods.

By Yun Ki Song PT

PROFILE

Spectacle repairman basks in public admiration

Every Nampho citizen knows Ham Thae Song (pictured) who works at the optician's of the Hangu District Public Service Management Station in Nampho.

“As the saying goes, ‘The eye is the pearl of the face.’ And glasses are



indispensable especially to us aged. Ham Thae Song provides us free with just fit and smart glasses. He is really an obliging and respectable man,” said Kim Ha Chon, a war veteran in his 80s living in Sangdaedu-dong, Nampho.

Ham is greatly admired by people as he has devoted his sincerity to war veterans and disabled soldiers not only in the city but also in other parts of the country.

He came to work at the public service management station as he got hurt by accident more than two decades ago.

With a quick eye for learning things and a liking for light electrical appliances, he had intended to become a repairer of fridge and other electronic appliances, but on hearing the station was short of spectacle repairman, he volunteered to be one.

The mending of glasses was unfamiliar to him and required delicate workmanship, so he worked diligently and came to have many customers soon afterwards.

Whenever the husky man fixed the small spectacles perfectly, customers would lavish praise on him, saying “his enormous hands are so dexterous”.

As there was no optician's

in the city at the time, Ham made glass lens himself to provide service.

To this end, he visited libraries and many other places in the capital city and local areas to acquire relevant skills and devoted a great deal of time

and energy to secure necessary facilities.

“It was exhausting to pore over technical books and travel round to procure necessary facilities while providing customers with service. But the warm, friendly voices of customers calling me ‘our repairman’ were a constant source of encouragement,” recalled Ham.

Later, his workshop was equipped with a full set of equipment for making all kinds of glasses including sunglasses.

He provided war veterans, disabled soldiers and persons of merit with free service.

“His sincerity and devotion to them warmed the hearts of many and so everybody admires him,” said attendant Choe Song Hui.

“After learning about his kind deeds through the mass media, I wrote to Ham on behalf of our veterans in Songchon County in South Phyongan Province who wanted him to manufacture their glasses. Then he came to our county to make spectacles for over 20 veterans,” said war veteran Kim Un Gun.

Recorded in his service log are the addresses and eyesight of more than 2 000 war veterans and disabled soldiers who received free service from him.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Research achievements made in combating COVID-19

Medicobiologists of the DPRK have come up with new research results helpful to preventing COVID-19.

They established a technique for measuring water quality of rivers promptly and accurately in any place.

Their activated carbon-based adsorption and desorption method is said to facilitate the sampling for evaluating water quality in field conditions.

This sampling method has proved effective in the assessment of water quality in areas along the border.

Researchers also developed recombination human interleukin-2 cold spray which

helps boost antiviral functions and immunity.

Clinical trials confirmed that the medicine promotes the generation of antibodies and the secretion of interferon to prevent and cure various diseases like flu, while having no negative effects on other organs and the body.

Researchers have already finalized the design of a portable detection system for promptly detecting the gene of the novel coronavirus in general lab conditions or without using the PCR facility, and are now speeding up the research for establishing the system.

KCNA

SPA



Sanatorium open to spa bathers in hot spring resort

Diverse baths exert marvellous treatment effects



PHOTOS BY PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The panoramic view of the Yangdok hot spring sanatorium in the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

A spa sanatorium was inaugurated on Mar 7 at the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

Furnished with top-class medical equipment for balneotherapy, the sanatorium can cater for at least 600 people, said manager Kim Kyong Song.

It has one block for treatment and two for recuperation.

The treatment block has rooms for checkup, private spa bath, physiotherapy, underwater traction, water-gun massaging and treatment

by mud and sand bath, among others, while the recuperation blocks have wards, a restaurant, shop, amusement room and service facilities for the accommodation and amusement of patients.

The medical examination and treatment are provided free of charge according to the country's free medical care system and nominal fees are charged for other services, said the manager.

Kim Sung Ho, director of the convalescence department,

said nutrition is very important for the patients as they expend much energy while receiving balneotherapy and every patient there is put on a diet according to scientific planning.

Even highly nutritive ingredients of dish can taste delicious only when they are processed well, said An Kwang Chun, chef at sanatorium block No. 1, adding they are doing their best for the patients' diets.

Located in a picturesque

valley full of pine trees, the sanatorium pleases all patients with quality treatment and service.

The Yangdok hot spring sanatorium offers diverse treatment services by relying on Sokthang spa which is known to have marvellous therapeutic efficacy among others in the country.

It is said that the spa has a special virtue for curing chronic skin diseases, paralysis, physical disorders and other chronic and obstetrical and gynecological

diseases.

Doctor Om Kyong Il said that the treatment combining bathing with ultrasonic therapy helps produce good curative effects by stimulating the outer layer of the skin and the peripheral nerves of patients with mobility troubles.

After having a spa bath for 10 to 15 minutes and taking a rest in the resting hall, bathers get access to mud bath, sand bath, electrotherapy or exercise cure according to their treatment plans.

Jong Chun Hui, who suffered from arthritis for a long time, said her symptoms got worse for a few days after she began to receive the treatment based on balneotherapy and pelotherapy, but she gradually felt better along with the relieving of pain.

According to local medical workers at the sanatorium, the clinical expression of living body which comprehensively reflects physiological and pathological responses during the process of balneotherapy is called spa response, and this response appears a week before and after the start of balneotherapy.

The mud treatment room is devoted to curing diseases related to the articular and nervous systems, skin and obesity by applying bath and fomentation based on mud from Lake Sijung, whose medical efficacy is widely known, and other treatment methods that combine mud and electrotherapy.

The physiotherapy room provides patients with skin diseases and pains with ultrasonic, infrared and medium- and low-frequency treatment using medical facilities.

Underwater kinetotherapy is said to be most popular at the sanatorium as various treatment factors act at the same time, including the medicinal efficacy of hot spring, hydrostatic pressure, buoyancy and calefaction.

Bathers receive massage together with such traditional Koryo therapies as acupuncture, moxibustion and cupping.

Han Yong Jin, a department chief, said that treatment efficacy is very marvellous when spa bath is combined with Koryo therapy.

Pak Yong Ju, a special-class disabled woman soldier, said that her treatment proves effective thanks to the excellent treatment environment of the sanatorium and the warm sincerity of doctors and nurses.



Patients have underwater kinetotherapy.



A woman receives medium-frequency treatment at the physiotherapy room.

What they say

The Yangdok Hot Spring Sanatorium has good environment and its conditions for treatment, board and lodging and all others are excellent.

I like everything except one. It is time goes too fast.

A dozen days have already passed since I began to recuperate here.

Indeed, it seems to me that a month-long recuperation is too short.

Yu Jin Ok, farmer at the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm

I was accustomed to keeping the surrounding environment clean as I have long been working in an exhibition house.

So, I have tried to maintain my sick-room and corridor since the day when I entered the sanatorium despite the dissuasion of nurses.

However, not only I but also all the other patients have been mindful of the management of the sanatorium.

I think it is an expression of their gratitude to the socialist system which makes sure that such a wonderful sanatorium was built for the people so that they could receive treatment free of charge.

Han Jong Hye, staffer at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House

Since the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort started service in December last year, an endless

stream of visitors have flowed to it. And every visitor has been struck with wonder and said they would come again when they left it.

The same is the case with recuperators at our sanatorium. They say they will come again before their recuperation period ends.

Our family has lived here since my grandfather settled here, but Yangdok has never been so famous like at present.

Sonu Song, keeper at the Yangdok hot spring sanatorium of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort

By Pang Un Ju PT

JAPAN

'Whale hunter' to go for all sea creatures, humans as well

The large-scale earthquake and tidal wave that occurred in March 2011 hit the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan to cause the leakage of a huge amount of radioactive contaminants, leaving the international community in the grip of uneasiness.

It is said that over 100 tons of contaminated water are generated on a daily average at the nuclear power plant. More than 11.1 million tons of contaminated water are reportedly kept in about a thousand large tanks and Japan cannot help building more large tanks as it has been storing the contaminated water for nearly 10 years.

The problem is that Japan deems the discharge of the contaminated water into the sea more profitable than storing it

by investing large amounts of labour and funds.

Japan craftily insists before the international community and its people that the radioactive water has been decontaminated.

The media outlets, however, say that the so-called decontaminated water contains radioactive substances, adding that if this water flows into the sea, it will bring about catastrophic consequences to human life and safety and ecological environment as well.

Radioactive substances constantly give off radiation when they are stuck on or absorbed into human body.

According to information available, thousands of children in the area around Chernobyl were confirmed to have contracted thyroid cancer though decades have passed

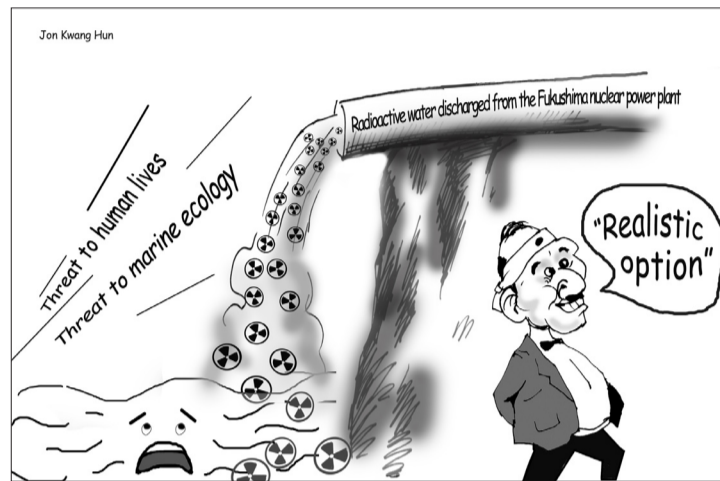
since the nuclear disaster.

That is why experts are of the opinion that it will cause unimaginably serious damage when Japan sends out the contaminated water of the Fukushima nuclear power plant to the sea.

Nevertheless, the Japanese government describes the discharge of the water into the sea as a "realistic option".

The behaviour of the island nation that has no scruples about doing anything to serve its own interests is filling the world with consternation and indignation. At present, the international community criticizes Japan that the "whale hunter" is now working to annihilate sea creatures and even whole mankind.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



FINDINGS

There's no need to fear cough as whole

Today, when COVID-19 is rapidly spreading over the world, every community is very sensitive to cough.

It is quite natural that many are afraid of meeting coughing people and those with coughs doubt if they have been infected with the novel coronavirus.

With regard to it, medical experts offered following opinions.

An important defensive reflection with which organisms protect themselves, cough is good for clearly cleaning the secretion of respiratory organs and harmful factors, but frequent

and violent cough has an effect on human body.

According to its duration, cough is divided into acute cough (its duration is less than three weeks), subacute cough (three to eight weeks) and chronic cough (over eight weeks).

It can be subdivided into dry cough and habitual cough in accordance with its property.

There are so many causes of coughs. The most universal ones are respiratory and lung diseases, as well as heart trouble and nose, ear and throat diseases, and some medicines also may give rise to cough.

If those with coughs have a

clear pathological change in the X-ray or CT camera test, it can be seen that they have contracted pneumonia, phthisis or pulmonary tumour. When you are ill from pneumonia, you have fever and each disease will develop different symptoms.

However, there is no need to think that coughing means you have got such diseases.

You may often cough even if no pathological change was found in the X-ray or CT test.

For example, the familiar acute cough is related to the infection of respiratory organs. Such cough is limited and cured spontaneously with the passage

of time whether medicines are dosed or not.

The subacute cough is attributed to infection. It is also called a cough after cold and it is developed after being infected by a certain kind of virus.

For instance, respiratory organs become very sensitive after cold and humans are easily prone to have coughs when temperature changes or when they are stimulated. Even if they recover from a cold, cough can last for a long time.

Allergic diseases and nose, ear and throat troubles may also give rise to coughs. Such chronic coughs are not accompanied by fever.

Therefore, experts advise those with coughs not to confuse allergic cough and the one caused by infection by the novel coronavirus.

By Om Ryong PT

COVID-19

Sports world shrinks as COVID-19 spreads on

The global epidemic COVID-19 has also made a serious impact on international sports.

The greatest confusion in the sports is expected about the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games slated for late July.

Foreign media and experts argue that if the virus transmission continues to grow worse, they cannot exclude the possibility of cancellation or postponement of the Tokyo Olympics.

US magazines Time and Newsweek said in case the Olympic Games are called off or the host city is changed, the ensuing consequences on the Japanese economy would be unimaginable and Prime Minister Abe would suffer a political blow that hard.

Others say it is better to delay the Olympic Games for a year than to play them at empty stadiums.

The widespread COVID-19 also casts a dark shadow

over the European football championship.

UEFA decided to hold the championships in 12 cities in Europe by four matches without choosing the host country for the first time this year which marks the 60th anniversary of the European football championship.

But foreign media report that as the global epidemic is sweeping through the European continent, European soccer has been compelled to press the "stop button".

Football matches have already been postponed in Italy and Switzerland.

The Asian Football Confederation called an emergency meeting to discuss measures to cope with the adverse impact on the Asian soccer to be made by the spread of the epidemic.

AFC and FIFA agreed to postpone the 2020 AFC five-a-side (futsal) championship which would double as preliminaries of the 2020 FIFA five-a-side World Cup to August.

Experts said it is very uncertain whether the already postponed international matches would be held as COVID-19 continues to spread worldwide.

Briefly

Russia

Putin orders new anti-epidemic strategy

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently ordered the government to work out by July 1 a new strategy for anti-epidemic work until 2030.

He called on the government to formulate the national strategy with reference to the WHO's recommendations and concentrate efforts on finding the viral factors of infectious diseases.

Cuba

Cuban FM calls US leading human rights abuser

Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla in his Twitter account on Mar 11 branded the US as the number-one human rights abuser on earth.

Earlier, the US State Secretary in a human rights report marked China, Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua as major human rights abusers.

Such a report cannot be trusted, Parrilla said, adding the US administration did not include in the report its own human rights abuses committed in various parts of the world.

China

China hits out at US' allegation

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang in a recent press conference said that the US' attempt to belittle China's endeavour for the prevention of infectious disease would not prove successful as he criticized the US State Secretary who described COVID-19 as "novel coronavirus of Wuhan".

Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, also said that it is a great mistake to call COVID-19 "the epidemic of China".

Iran

Iranian FM demands US troop pullout from Mideast

The US has no rights to raise such an argument over the incident which was caused by the illegal presence of its troops, said a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Mar 13.

His remarks were a response to the comment the US made in its own way on the recent rocket attack on an American military base in Iraq.

The US should stop dangerous acts and ungrounded denunciation and strictly examine its troop presence and behaviour in the region, he said, strongly demanding the US troop pullout from the Middle East.

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