

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 22 (3 110) weekly <http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp> e-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp Sat, May 30, Juche 109(2020)

Chairman Kim Jong Un presides over enlarged meeting of WPK Central Military Commission

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, guided the Fourth Enlarged Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Military Commission.

The meeting was attended by members of the WPK Central Military Commission, members of the Executive Committee of the Korean People's Army Committee of the WPK, commanders and commissars of the services and corps

of the KPA, commanding officers of the Ministry of State Security, the Ministry of People's Security, the Guard Headquarters and other military organs at all levels and deputy directors of major departments of the WPK Central Committee.

It studied and discussed important military and organizational and political measures for further bolstering up the overall armed forces of the DPRK politically, ideologically and in military technique, so as to firmly defend the political stability and sovereignty of the country and reliably contain the persistent military threats, big or small, of the hostile forces, and



Commission and recalled or by-elected some of its members.

Also tabled at the meeting was the organizational matter of dismissing or transferring or newly appointing commanding officers in major posts of military institutions.

The WPK Central Military Commission decided to promote the military ranks of major commanding officers of the KPA.

Chairman Kim Jong Un put main emphasis on thoroughly ensuring the Party's unified leadership over the KPA by

dealt with an organizational matter.

It reviewed and analysed a series of defects observed in the military and political activities of the overall armed forces of the DPRK including the KPA, and discussed the methodological issues for overcoming them and bringing about drastic improvement, the issue of examining and setting right the unreasonable machinery and organizational defects in the formation of the armed forces and the core issues for further increasing the capabilities of militarily deterring the threatening foreign forces by rapidly increasing the self-reliant defence capabilities

and organizing new units.

It stressed once again the sectoral tasks for thoroughly carrying out the revolutionary military line and policies of the Party.

New policies were put forth at the meeting to further increase the nuclear war deterrent of the country and put the strategic armed forces on a high alert in line with the general requirements of the building and development of the armed forces of the country.

Crucial measures were also taken to decisively improve the firepower strike ability of the KPA artillery.

The meeting elected a vice-chairman of the WPK Central Military

consolidating Party organizations and political institutions at all levels within the KPA and enhancing their functions and roles, and on improving Party guidance to conduct military, political, logistic, security and all other affairs in line with the ideology and intention of the Party in every way. He specified key issues to be constantly maintained in the military and political activities of the armed forces of the DPRK, and tasks and ways to this end as well.

He signed seven orders including the orders on new military measures.

KCNA-THE PYONGYANG TIMES



RECOLLECTION

When thinking of leader's exertion on midsummer day

I have worked as a driver at the West Pyongyang Trolley Bus Station of the Pyongyang Municipal General Passenger Traffic Service Enterprise for over 40 years.

I have lots of unforgettable memories of those days and especially still vivid in my memory is that of August 3 two years back when I drove a new type of trolley bus for a trial

run in the presence of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

That day, the Supreme Leader visited the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory and the Songsan Tramcar Station successively from the morning to see a new type of trolley bus and tramcar as he was very pleased to hear that our workers made them by their own efforts. And late at night he participated in their test run to familiarize himself with their performance.

I was filled with excitement as I tried out the new trolley bus in his presence.

His clothes were covered with sweat as he was on a field guidance tour all day long in



an especially glittering trolley bus which had been running for decades without accident. It was used by President Kim Il Sung who was so anxious to settle the passenger transport problem in the capital.

Since I was told about this, I had felt that the President might get on my bus on his way to and from field inspection tours, and I had kept it as my earnest

wish.

And I fulfilled this wish as I had the Supreme Leader on my bus.

The station assigned number 483 to the bus by adding together the date of his field guidance and the number of the route he travelled on the bus, and I was appointed as its driver.

I am determined to devotedly work for passengers on my bus No. 483 associated with his warm love for the people.

Jang Kyong Sun, driver at the West Pyongyang Trolley Bus Station of the Pyongyang Municipal General Passenger Traffic Service Enterprise

an unprecedentedly fiercest heat. Without caring about that, he examined every part of the bus over and over and was very glad to say that the quality and modernity of the internal environment and fittings were improved, the noise during the run got lower and the bus met all the technical specifications.

It would be splendid to see our homemade tramcars and trolley buses running along streets and the people would feel truly happy, he said in delight.

Looking up to him, I recollected the days when I took the first step as a trolley bus driver.

In our station there was

the sea with lots of fries.

Central Zoo sees population growth

This year, 50-odd species of animals brought forth over 160 baby animals at the Central Zoo in Pyongyang, including a dozen breeds of gift animals presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by foreign leaders and prominent personages.

Among them are *Selenarctos thibetanus*, *Papio hanadryas* and pet dog King Charles spaniel.

Pyongyang strives to tap natural energy sources



The production of electricity relying on natural energy sources continues to increase in Pyongyang.

Dozens of units have established the system-parallel generating system, while many other units and families have introduced the independent solar power generation system, with the result that the city has built a solar power generation capacity of nearly 10 000 kilowatts.

In addition, many other

units are working to build solar energy-based generating capacity which is organically combined with national power grid. The units produce electricity by themselves and use it, while supplying the national power system with over 70 000 kWh of electricity every month.

Kangnam County has finished the construction of a power station with a capacity of generating 1 000 kW based on rice-chaff gasification and is now pressing on with the assembly of equipment in the final stage.

Ryokpho District has built a miniature hydropower station to satisfy the needs for electricity for cage-net fish farming and other areas are stepping up the construction of such power stations by making an effective use of small rivers.

Preparations in full swing for new school year

Preparations are being made extensively in the DPRK to start the new school year.

Power organs at all levels step up the work to receive new schoolchildren according to school levels and to ensure the opening of schools and kindergartens.

The primary and secondary educational sectors make sure that the unfinished curricula are thoroughly implemented

Founding day of KPRM set as national holiday

The founding day of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army has been set as a national holiday in the DPRK.

On April 25, 1932 President Kim Il Sung founded the KPRM, the first Juche-type revolutionary army.

To commemorate the important event every year, April 25 has been instituted as a national holiday, said the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK issued on May 20.

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INSPECTION

Premier inspects port, farm in Nampho

Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected the port of Nampho.

Looking round several places of the port, Kim stressed the need to further strengthen the inspection and quarantine system without a moment's relaxation under the situation in which the anti-epidemic work is expected to last longer.

The field consultative meeting discussed issues of thoroughly carrying on the disinfection on a scientific basis and carefully organizing

the supply of disinfectants to ensure effective anti-epidemic work.

At the Chongsan Cooperative Farm in Kangso District, Nampho, he encouraged the farmers to work harder to produce high grain yields by applying scientific farming methods.

Premier Kim also learned about the operation of the Pyongyang Metro, development of new products at the Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex and reconstruction project of the Kumsong General Tractor Factory.

KCNA



Premier Kim Jae Ryong (second from left) on a visit to the Chongsan Cooperative Farm in Kangso District, Nampho.

during vacation which was prolonged due to the fight against COVID-19.

Schools and kindergartens across the country demand all teachers give introductory classes to students and children and carefully organize guidance over and correctly understand and assess their self-study during vacation.

Meanwhile, schools receive new schoolchildren, form classes and distribute textbooks with the help of their parents.

Officials in the relevant areas and supporter organizations are intensifying assistance to schools and kindergartens for the start of the new school year while taking measures for the supply of equipment for

disinfection and disinfectant needed for the anti-epidemic work.

Technical innovation competition heats up

The national technical innovation competition of three-revolution teams-2020 is going on in the DPRK.

The event is being attended by members of three-revolution teams working at ministries and national institutions and in different economic sectors in local areas.

The competition, which began in March, will go on till October under the guidance of the State Commission of Science and Technology.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Nationwide

Millions of salmon and flatfish fries released into rivers and sea

The DPRK has stocked rivers and the sea with millions of salmon and flatfish fries this year.

The Tanchon Namchon Stocking Fishery Station of the Sinpho Distant-Sea Fishery Complex released more than 600 000 salmon fries into the waters off the station and the Riwon Fishery Station stocked the sea with over a million flatfish fries which it raised by ensuring water quality and sufficient oxygen supply, while the Yanghwa Fishery Station secured millions of fries.

Stocking fishery stations in South Hamgyong Province remarkably increased the survival and fattening rates of young fishes by producing assorted feed with a high protein content, and stocked rivers with hundreds of thousands of salmon fries.

Fishery stations in Kangwon Province resolved technical problems arising in the production of feed for young flatfish and its artificial culture, thereby more than doubling the number of fries released over last year.

The Kim Chack Fishery Station and many other units across the country also stocked

WATERWAY

Large irrigation system established in South Hwanghae

According to the Korean Central News Agency, the construction of a large irrigation system has successfully been completed in South Hwanghae Province.

The waterway construction, which began in January 2012, was a project for building the largest gravity-fed irrigation network in the DPRK, during which over 11 800 000 cubic metres of bedrock and earth should be excavated, dozens of waterway tunnels drilled and over 190 km-long waterway with at least 770 structures of all kinds and huge inverted siphons built.

The builders made a leap forward from the beginning of the first-stage project to finish it in five years and started the second-stage project in January 2017.

The second-stage project was also a huge and difficult task to remove soil, excavate bedrock and lay concrete in an enormous amount for the foundations and to build a reservoir dam, over 80 km-long waterway, tunnels and hundreds of structures like inverted siphons and culverts.

In the construction of the dam on Lake Pongchon, the major front of the waterway project, the building of spillway, which was believed to take over two years, was finished in a year and that of the sand-stone-mud reservoir dam was pushed ahead in a three-dimensional way. Finally, the dam was built in April 2019.

Villages for the people evacuated from submerged areas sprang up and good species of



Dam on Lake Pongchon and other structures of the waterway in South Hwanghae Province.

trees and flowering shrubs were planted in the mountains and fields around the construction site, adding to the beautiful landscape.

The second-stage waterway construction in South Hwanghae Province was completed in a

little over three years.

The successful completion of the second-stage project and the waterway project in South Hwanghae Province as a whole laid a firm foundation for increasing grain production by fully irrigating the farmland

in the vast western coastal granary.

The establishment of the distinctive irrigation network in the western area of the country makes it possible to save tens of millions of kWh of electricity for water pumping every year

and many pumping facilities, protect land by preventing flood damage in the lower reaches of the Jaeryong and Ryesong rivers and spruce up the appearance of the socialist country.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

RECYCLING

Factory turns out various plastic products by reprocessing

The Sariwon Aeguk Essential Plastic Goods Factory in North Hwanghae Province turns out different kinds of quality plastic products with plastic waste.

Their varieties number over 20 including plastic pipes of all sizes, bucket and basin.

"Recycling is very profitable as it provides us with raw materials and brings benefits to the country," said manager Jon Myong Son, adding they direct their recycling effort to improving the quality of products, not confining it to production.

Given the factory produces 99 percent of products from recycled materials, we have remodelled a large-capacity transformer and injection moulding machines to increase productivity 1.3 times with a small amount of electricity while making quality plastic ceiling panels of different sizes, said technician Choe Jun Sop.

The factory developed

and manufactured efficient equipment so as to make an effective use of waste.

According to a staffer in charge of sales, Chonsongbong-brand plastic products are very popular with housewives in the province.

The factory's plastic pipes of all sizes have widely been used for major construction projects and renovation of cultural and welfare facilities in the province.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



A worker holds a PVC bucket from a machine at the Sariwon Aeguk Essential Plastic Goods Factory.

INNOVATION

Power station saves fuel by stabilizing combustion

The Chongchongang Thermal Power Station has recently established an automatic combustion stabilization control system to save a lot of materials.

"We found a way to save heavy oil and coal in the introduction of the automatic combustion stabilization control system into the boiler," said Rim Kwang Ju, an official at the power station.

In the course of analyzing the preceding research data on the combustion stabilization technology and examples of other units, the technicians came up with a plan to control the combustion stabilization with the oxygen content of waste gas from the boiler as the main factor.

Having set the oxygen contents of waste gas and hot air from the fire chamber and the quality and quantity of anthracite as points of control, they analyzed their relations with combustion stabilization and, on that basis,

confirmed the technical indexes that are crucial in establishing the automatic control system.

They wrote a program which maintains at a certain level the output of electric motors of equipment even when the system voltage and frequency are fluctuant, thus achieving a breakthrough in establishing the new technology.

The technicians and workers put their heads together to make the protective device for the motor and automatic frequency converter in a short period, contributing to completing the project ahead of schedule.

The power station installed the automatic control system into a generator boiler and saved several tons of heavy oil and hundreds of tons of coal in April alone.

Now it is pressing on with the application of this technology to all other boilers.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

DOW

Development of deep ocean water with good prospects

A deep ocean water industry is being expanded on a large scale in the wake of its establishment around the world.

Different countries have formulated national policies and strategies and drawn up legislation concerning the development and use of deep ocean water and are setting up specialized research institutes and industrial zones. At present such international organizations as the Deep Ocean Water Agency (DOWA) have been formed.

The 17th international forum on health drinking water, which was held last year, emphasized the need to promote the development and application of deep ocean water that boosts the immunity of the human body.

This is the water over 900 metres deep in the sea and its pollution level is the lowest among all other waters on earth.

According to research findings, it contains over 90 kinds of minerals indispensable for the growth of plants and humans and abundant microelements as well. It is well absorbed by the body as its components are similar to those of body fluids. Therefore, it can widely be used in the production of drinking water, cosmetics, medicines and foodstuff, cereals



farming, animal husbandry, offshore farming, fish farming and others.

Interest in the water deep in the East Sea of Korea has been growing since it was recently confirmed that it is of great industrial value.

Kim Il Sung University is now taking the leading part in the research project for establishing the deep ocean water industry.

The water deep in the East Sea of Korea measures about 0.2°C in temperature and is free from physical and chemical pollution and colon bacillus. It is also rich in such nutritive substances as Si, P, N and K, and its molecular group consists of small molecules.

Researchers have introduced the water on a trial basis into the production of grains and vegetables at seven cooperative farms in the environs of Pyongyang and three counties

in North Hamgyong Province, and are achieving good results.

The two years of trial introduction ascertained that the application of 10 litres of the water increases per-hectare agricultural output by 20 percent and that of the primarily-processed and high-concentration enriched liquid minerals boosts grain and vegetable yields respectively by 30-50 percent and 50-100 percent.

They have already established the water intake technologies from vessels and coasts and attained a high level in the primary and second-stage water processing technologies.

There is a prospect of establishment of one business by dint of each of the techniques forming the primary processing technology, including those of freshwater extraction and desalination and those of manufacture of low-concentration enriched minerals, high-concentration enriched liquid minerals, salt, drinking water and cosmetics.

We hope for exchanges and cooperation with businesses of different countries in the use of the water deep in the East Sea.

Pak Jin Gil, professor and PhD at Kim Il Sung University

CEMENT

Non-burned cement production methods widely adopted

Many units across the country widely introduce the methods of producing cement by relying on locally abundant raw materials.

"Non-burned cement production is the main trend of development of the cement industry in the 21st century," said an official of the Ministry of Construction and Building-materials Industry.

Unlike the production method of Portland cement, the non-burned method, in general, is very low in the dependence on limestone and coal.

Most important in cement production is the stage of making cement clinker, which forms the main component mineral of cement, from raw materials. In order to get clinker, it is inevitable to calcinate and melt raw materials in the revolving furnace, which is done only at special factories.

"However, calcination is needless as the ash from blast furnace, slag from electric furnace, brown coal ash, pumice and serpentinite, which are used as the main materials for the

non-burned cement, contain a certain amount of major component minerals of cement. Adding some components that differ a little is enough," said a researcher of the State Academy of Sciences.

Sukchon County in South Phyongan Province is leading others in producing non-burned cement.

It developed a method of using brown coal as the main material for the non-burned cement production.

"Our county could not produce cement as it has no limestone and coal deposits. But we have put an end to it," said an official of the county people's committee.

The county set up a non-burned cement production process with 60 percent of brown coal ash and 7 percent of marine solonchak, and produces an additive that can be claimed to be the core of the cement production.

Equipped with one ton-capacity ball crusher and 50kWh

capacity dynamotor powered by anthracite gas, the not-so-big production base annually turns out a large quantity of cement.

According to lead developer Ri Myong Song, when the ball crush is run by putting in raw materials and additive, it makes cement in two hours. The cement is waterproof and resistant to freezing and keeps warmth. As its hardness is about 180 MPa, it can be used not only in the production of blocks but also in the plastering of walls and floor construction of one-storey buildings.

"We have built several buildings with the cement. Now we pave roads with it," said a county official.

The environment-friendly technology was highly appreciated at different sci-tech exhibitions.

Sukchon County is steadily carrying on the work of improving the quality of non-burned cement.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

TREE

Rooting rate raised

The Sukchon County Forest Management Station in South Phyongan Province increases sapling production as it raises the rate of rooting.

"Since our county is a flat area, its parent nursery is located in a flatland unlike other counties that set up parent nurseries in the fields at the foot of mountains," said manager Ri Myong Song.

The station carried out a project for establishing an automatic irrigation system with the water of the far-off Aesang River as the source and installed sprayers, each having a 10-metre radius, thereby laying a foundation for production that is unaffected by any severe drought.

In the 250m² plastic panel greenhouse to which the double tree sapling cultivation method has been applied, saplings of dozens of good species of trees are produced, including *Schizandra chinensis*, pine-nut, Kumya black pine and metasequoia.

Characteristic of the sapling

production at the station is the application of the C1 farmyard manure.

According to the senior engineer of the station, the manure activates the roots of planted trees and enables them to absorb nutrients from the soil in time and develop root hair in a fortnight, resulting in a higher rate of rooting.

"Generally, tree saplings are raised in greenhouses before being transplanted to fields and then to mountains. Those of pine-nut trees, however, are grown at a place for three years before being moved to mountains as they are apt to die when they are moved to other place before three years. But all the 500 one-year-old pine-nut saplings we transplanted three years before took root and stay alive," said keeper Kim Myong Hui.

At present the station annually produces ten tons of this manure.

By Jong Chol PT



Employees discuss the introduction of double tree sapling cultivation at the Sukchon County Forest Management Station in South Phyongan Province.

SERICULTURE

Silkworm disinfectants produced

A large-capacity agrochemical production base sprang up in the Unsan area of South Phyongan Province and launched into production to contribute to the production of cocoons.

Built in an area of thousands of square metres, the production base is automated and put on assembly line. It turns out quality disinfectants for silkworm and silkworm-raising rooms and apparatuses.

"In the past we imported silkworm disinfectants. But they caused pollution and did harm to human body. While paying primary attention to these points, we have developed new ones," said Ryu Myong Jin, deputy head of an office at the Bureau of Sericulture and Silk Industry.

According to him, the Unsan area has abundant resources for

the production of disinfectants.

The disinfectants of the base are popular for their low costs and high quality. They reportedly remove pathogens that cause danger to silk culture and markedly reduce the damage by harmful animals as they have a strong sterilizing power. They are easy to apply and transport and have a long shelf life.

"In addition, the base mass-produces chlorine antiseptic for the prevention of the world-sweeping COVID-19, contributing greatly to the anti-epidemic work of residents in this area," said Ryu.

It has added more facilities for the production of chlorous soda and other agrochemicals and is now stepping up the preparations for it.

By Kim Il Jin PT

PROFILE

Nurse becomes spouse of disabled soldier

“As the saying goes, the face is the index of the heart. Choe Sun Jong is beautiful, but her spiritual world is more beautiful,” said Kim Hak Song, director of the Yondae Polyclinic in Waudo District, Nampho.

Choe Sun Jong, nurse of the polyclinic, is respected by her fellow medical workers and other people not only because she is devoted to patients but also she is the wife of honoured disabled soldier Kim Il Nam.

She met Kim for the first time in October last year.

On her way back home after work she happened to see a young man limping along the street.

A nurse by occupation, Choe felt she could not go past him, so she helped him walk home holding his arms, though he declined her help.

That day, Sun Jong learned that he was a disabled soldier and his father was an honoured disabled worker.

She was attracted by his parents who were proud of their son as he sacrificed himself without hesitation at the post of national defence and the noble mentality of the man who lived optimistically although he lost one leg, Choe recalled.

From that day on, she often called on him.

She treated his sick father, too, and sometimes sang songs



Disabled soldier Kim Il Nam strolls with his wife Choe Sun Jong.

to please them.

In the course of that, she was fascinated by Il Nam's enthusiasm and kind heart and made up her mind to be his life partner.

But the parents of both her and Il Nam disagreed with her.

“I was very surprised to learn my daughter's decision to marry the disabled soldier. At first, I thought it was due to a passing impulse,” said Sun Jong's mother, Kim Yon Chun.

Il Nam and his parents adamantly refused her proposal as they hated making a sacrifice of Sun Jong for him.

But her love for him grew more intense and her resolution was firm and unshakable.

According to Il Nam's mother Kim Sun Hui, all her family members were moved to tears when Sun Jong who

was so admired by all both at her work and in her village came to their home to get married to him. Through her, she remembered, we could see once again the true image of our society where everyone lives harmoniously helping and leading one another forward.

“Honoured disabled soldiers are patriots who devoted themselves to the defence of the country at their sacred posts. I think it is natural to love such people. I will do my best to build a happy family as his leg and supportive wife,” said Sun Jong.

Sun Jong and Il Nam recently had a wedding amid the blessings of her fellow medical workers and villagers.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

VIRTUE

Dedicating themselves for others

Woman risks life to save hanging child

At about 14:00 on April 20, a crowd of passers-by gathered under an apartment house in Ryomyong-dong of Taesong District, Pyongyang.

A child was screaming, hanging dangerously from a windowsill on the third floor of the building.

The flat seemed to be empty since no helping hand was stretched from inside.

The ear-piercing scream of the boy got louder with every passing second and those looking up from outside were at a loss what to do with their palms sweating.

At that nerve-racking moment, a woman showed up from a balcony downstairs.

The woman, who looked out of the window to see what was happening outside, heard from the crowd that a boy was hanging above and climbed onto the guardrail without a moment's hesitation.

Standing on top of the balcony wall, she stretched out her arms and told the boy to relax and let go his hold of the window several times, but the horror-stricken boy seemed petrified.

The onlookers got even more perplexed at the breathtaking sight of the woman and the boy who might fall down at any moment.

After a while, the boy was exhausted and fell down into the bosom of the woman, who hit the floor of the balcony with her arms around the boy.

Thus the boy was saved.

The boy was a six-year-old called Pak Kwang Myong who had been playing alone while waiting for his grandmother.

The woman was Kim Chun Sil, worker at the Ryomyong

noodle house of the Taesong District Restaurant Group.

“Anyone might have done as I did in such a situation. I did not have time to feel fear at the only thought that I have to save him,” said the boy's saviour.

Handbag lost and found

One day, a service worker of the Pothonggang IT Exchange Centre in Pyongyang came to see a handbag on the counter just when she was about to leave for her home after daily service.

She looked all around in search of its owner, but no customer was seen. It was clear that someone left it after buying goods.

She waited some days for the owner to come back, but she did not appear.

There were a purse, cosmetics and a few new electronic parts in the handbag.

“At that time, I could not calm myself with the thought how much the owner would be worried about her lost handbag, which made me harden my resolve to find its owner at any cost and return the handbag,” said service woman Ri Yong Mi.

An idea flashed into her mind that she might find the owner when she detected the shop selling the same accessories as was seen in the handbag.

In the course of visiting those shops, the saleswoman finally found out the owner of the handbag.

The owner had given up finding as she had visited several places that day. She was very happy to get back her lost handbag.

By Pang Un Ju PT

EDUCATION

Interactive Q&A system applied to online education

The online education faculty of Pyongyang University of Architecture makes constant efforts to improve distance teaching methods.

According to lecturer Ri Un Gwang, distance learning in the past was only for students to download and study the videotaped lectures uploaded on the website.

Student Kim Ye Song said that lecturers had previously shown them videotaped questions and answers between students and lecturers as part of lectures in their efforts to make online education down-to-earth, but these were still unsatisfactory.

As students always have questions to ask, those who watched video lectures would phone or call on lecturers or experts to ask them questions in order to clear up their doubts.

It was impossible to correctly

assess the performance of students by the conventional methods, said O Hung Son, section chief of the faculty.

“To improve online education methods was a pressing problem facing our university where practical training takes a large proportion,” said dean Kang Hyok.

To this end, the university set up a system of running Q&A session in real time and adding points to students' marks according to their level of understanding of lectures, on the basis of grasping their individual progress on the website.

Sin Chang Hyok, worker of the Misan architectural decoration company, said the real-time interactive Q&A system provides students attending online lectures with the same environment as classroom. Through the Q&A sessions, students can get

answers not only to their own questions but also to others' like in the classroom.

“Students of our faculty are assigned the tasks of designing structures and making architectural mock-ups, and this interactive system enables us to check and oversee their assignments,” said the dean.

The design or mock-up of a student on the table is transmitted to the computer of a lecturer in real time through a webcam, and the latter gives the former guidance marking something on the design or model with a virtual pen, which is also transmitted to the student's computer.

The system proved especially effective at the time when lectures for university students were temporarily suspended as a preventive measure against COVID-19.

By Yun Ki Song PT

TRAINING

Tens of thousands of teachers receive online in-service training

With dynamic efforts being made in the DPRK to improve teachers' qualifications a level higher, tens of thousands of school and kindergarten teachers have been under online in-service training throughout the country.

At present, 22 000 school and kindergarten teachers in the general education sector are receiving in-service education through the online educational network of universities of education and teachers training colleges across the country.

In order to increase the efficiency of online education,

universities of education and teachers training colleges have updated online teaching plans.

The online education support system developed by Kim Hyong Jik University of Education and others has been generalized among the units for reeducation at all levels to prove effective.

The support system, which analyses and assesses individual study records, helps teachers continue their study on a regular basis by using tablet PC or laptop.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

THEATRE

Open-air theatre has a facelift after reconstruction

Many monumental structures are named after youth in the DPRK.

Among them is the Youth Park Open-Air Theatre in Pyongyang that boasts over 60-year history.

President Kim Il Sung came to the foot of Moran Hill and chose the sites for the youth park and open-air theatre.

The construction projects whose grounds were broken on March 1 1959 were completed in a little over 70 days, and their inaugural ceremonies took place in the presence of the President on May 15.

According to Im Kon Il, manager of the theatre, the performance celebrating its inauguration raised the curtain with *Song of General Kim Il Sung*.

Since then on, the theatre has served as the host of mass rally, lecture and other meetings and art performances of schoolchildren. It was renovated in June 1971 with the Sixth Congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea as a momentum.

Pyongyang Sinmun newspaper said on July 4 1973 that the theatre hosted mass lectures, a round of demonstration sports game, 50 film shows, 52 rounds of song and dance dissemination and others that year (1973) with the number of participants totalling some 231 660.

Many international events including those of the 13th World Festival of Youth and



The reconstructed Youth Park Open-Air Theatre in Pyongyang.

Students also took place at the theatre.

The operation of the theatre continued even in the period of the Arduous March and forced march when the country experienced harsh trials.

According to the May 15 1999 issue of *Chongnyonjonwi* newspaper, more than 40 million citizens, youth and students visited the theatre for the past 40 years and over 150 rounds of youth gatherings were held there.

After embarking on another reconstruction project in October 2018, it had an inaugural ceremony with splendour on January 16 this year to mark the 74th anniversary of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League.

It is equipped with an 10 000-seater auditorium, electronic display facilities, modern

lighting and sound facilities, a rhythmical fountain, a production office, an online lecture room and six hobby group rooms in a total building area of over 13 993 square metres.

The main building typifying the theatre was given a final touch with coloured glass and well-trimmed granite and was roofed with smart metal plates on a large arch-style iron truss to add dignity to the building. The interior was designed to ensure convenience and aesthetics.

"IT, motorcar, literature and other hobby group rooms are equipped with such facilities as multi-functional electronic board, mobile projector, display and computer and a large collection of books," said Ri Kum Bok, a vocal instructor.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

TOBACCO CONTROL

Centre instrumental in no-smoking activities

The DPRK signed the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and adopted and put in force the Law on Tobacco Control in 2005.

Since the law was revised and supplemented last year, no-smoking areas have increased in public places and buildings. Cigarette makers are bound to distinctly inscribe health warnings and notes of the contents of nicotine, tar, monoxide and the like on cigarette packets and if they violate such regulations, prohibitions are imposed on them.

"Smokers' will to quit smoking is essential in tobacco control," said Kim Ok Rim, consultant at the Tobacco Cessation Centre.

She added publicity is very important in encouraging people to give up smoking.

The DPRK mass media give wide publicity to the harmful consequences of smoking including its influence on human health and ecological environment.

The staff of the centre attach much importance to the warning sticker in publicity activities.

According to section chief Kim Su Gyong, the warning sticker may deter even habitual smokers from lighting

cigarettes and they may lose the desire for smoking as they suppress it while trying to find designated places for smoking, and therefore the sticker should not be neglected.

That is why they always put up the sticker at residential quarters and enterprises after conducting publicity activities.

A smoker who attended such a lecture said that though he started smoking to demonstrate his adulthood, he was going to quit smoking.

Information activities are also intensified targeting young people.

As part of such efforts, a survey of them and the work for including the substance about the hazards caused by smoking into school curricula are being stepped up.

Such activities conform to the theme "Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use" set by WHO for this year's World No Tobacco Day (May 31).

The centre also carries on the work to build the capacity of primary health care providers for consultation and develop various smoking cessation products.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



RI SUNG IK

A consultant tells clients about how to use anti-tobacco pills at the Tobacco Cessation Centre in Pyongyang.

focused on the correct position and applying a testing method in which five testing strategies are reflected to ten testing forms.

Consequently, they developed an automatic perimeter, whose technical specifications conform to international standards and manufacturing costs are one fifteenth of the imported one.

Their development came first at the national exhibition of sci-tech achievements in the public health sector last year. It was introduced into the Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences Hospital, proving its efficiency in treatment.

For example, when a patient with glaucoma with higher morbidity among ophthalmic diseases and high rate of eyesight loss consulted a doctor for subjective symptoms, it was

too late to recover the eyesight. But the automatic perimeter helps make an early diagnosis of ophthalmic diseases so that patients can be treated in time and maintain normal sight.

The hospital drew a three-dimensional visual map that can comprehensively reflect the functions of minute parts of eyes with the help of the perimeter.

"The automatic perimeter has laid scientific and technical foundations for raising on to a new height the diagnosis of such eye diseases as glaucoma and optic nerve and retinal diseases, as well as nervous system disorders and the judgment of their treatment effectiveness," said Jon Yong Guk, section chief of the university hospital.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Homemade automatic perimeter satisfies standards

When humans show no abnormal signs in eyesight, visual range and sense of colour, they are regarded to have good eyes.

Tests of eyesight and the sense of colour are simple in method and offer no problem

as they are to find out whether humans correctly distinguish things or not. However, it is difficult to do an accurate test of visual range, an indicator of how wide they can see, as the subjective views of patients affect the examination.

That is why an automatic perimeter which combines highly-precise optical and control systems and a result processing program is in wide use internationally.

The perimeter is now produced by a few countries, and Germany holds monopoly over its optical system, the core part of the perimeter.

Researchers of the DPRK designed the optical system and developed control and analysis systems in a unique way to suit the country's actual conditions.

They set the size of visual target by a sixteenth mm² and made an optical system in such a way as to automatically regulate background illumination and brightness of visual target. They also resolved all problems in Korean way while manufacturing a precise and lustreless hemisphere, making sure that stimulus light is



KIM RYE YONG

A doctor checks a patient with the homemade automatic perimeter at the Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences Hospital.

DISPUTE

Friction goes on between Russia, Japan over territorial issue

Shortly ago, Russia reset the conclusion day of the Second World War on September 2 as September 3 which had been celebrated as the V-J Day during the period of the Soviet Union.

Japan's *Sankei Shimbun* said that Russia is trying to justify its "occupation of the northern territory" by overlapping the victory day in the war against Japan and the Second World War conclusion day.

And it analysed that there is a high probability that Russia will host large-scale V-J Day celebrations on September 3 this year that marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the "occupation" of the "four islands in the north" by the Soviet Union after Japan signed the Potsdam Declaration may be the object of congratulations.

In the meantime, *Asahi Shimbun* opened to the public the contents of the "top-secret dialogue" between the Soviet Union and Japan in which the former had allegedly "admitted" the issue of the southern Kuril Islands as the "post-war pending issue" at the bilateral summit

meeting in October 1973.

As to Japan's publication of the dialogue contents, the Russian foreign ministry disclosed that Japan tries to get upper hand at the talks for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Russia on the basis of conjecture. And it clarified its stand that the bilateral peace treaty can be concluded only on the condition that Japan fully acknowledges the results of World War II including Russia's dominion over the southern Kuril Islands.

Commenting on such moves of Russia and Japan, analysts said that the difference in both sides' stands concerning the territorial issue is growing wider and the prospects of its settlement are becoming bleaker.

The matter of dominion over the four islands in the southern Kurils (which are called northern territory by Japan) has remained the most sensitive problem between the two countries for decades.

At the talks held in Potsdam after the end of the Second World War, an agreement was made on transferring southern Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands,

which Japan had taken away from Russia during the Russo-Japanese war in the 1900s, to the Soviet Union. In 1956, the Soviet Union and Japan proclaimed the cessation of war and adopted a joint declaration on the reestablishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. In the declaration the former expressed its willingness to cede the two islands belonging to the southern Kurils to the latter when an all-round peace treaty was made between them. However, Russia invalidated the obligation to return the two islands it took on according to the 1956 declaration in retaliation for Japan's amendment of the security treaty with the US in 1960.

Later, Japan has made desperate efforts for decades to restore the dominion over the four islands.

Though it has tried in every way possible to exact compromise and concession from Russia by using economic aid and cooperation as a bait, it has failed to break down the principled stand of Russia on the territorial issue.

It is the stand of Russia that

they cannot allow the slightest concession in the light of national security, although they need economic cooperation. If Russia returns the controversial four islands to Japan, it is as clear as day that the islands will be used as a military strongpoint common to Japan and the US against Russia.

When Japan recently waged a military drill with the US in Okinawa, Russia responded to it with a large-scale military exercise by mobilizing over 20 warships and air force belonging to the Pacific fleet.

A military expert asserted that Russia's buildup of defence capabilities was a right choice, saying it watched for a long time the militarily strategic actions Japan has taken in collusion with the US behind the scene of diplomatic words and deeds.

Although the US and Japan have been practising the plan of attacking the Kuril Islands through routine joint military exercises, Japan will rather be driven into a tight corner if it mounts an attack on the islands, he commented.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

technologies with high accuracy and resolution at low and medium altitudes.

The Iranian army has also taken over new drones, each of which can carry three bombs.

The drone has a flight altitude of about 14 000m and a flying range of 1 500km.

The Iranian navy commander announced his country's plan to build nuclear submarines capable of conducting military operations in international waters.

The commander-in-chief of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps reportedly ordered the units in the Gulf to deal a blow to US naval forces if they attempt to threaten the safety of Iran's civilian and war vessels.

Iran is steadfast in its stand never to tolerate any provocation against it.

By Om Ryong PT

News said the Pusan and South Kyongsang provincial progressive alliance of university students held a press conference near the US consulate in Pusan on May 19 to denounce the US for having manipulated the Kwangju massacre behind the scenes.

Speakers said it was revealed through a telegraph of the Seoul-based US ambassador and urged the US to make an apology for the backstage manipulation.

KCNA

Briefly

Iran

Hassan Rouhani refers to progress in self-sufficiency

"Our country goes on with production uninterrupted even in the face of illegal and unjust sanctions and heavy economic pressure by the US," said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a televised speech on May 20.

He stressed Iran satisfies the domestic needs for foodstuffs, farm produce, fuel and others by itself and has increased production of medical facilities to contribute to the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

Zimbabwe

Emmerson Mnangagwa hits out at West's interference

In a speech delivered to mark the Day of Africa on May 25, Emmerson Mnangagwa Zimbabwean President asserted former colonial powers are disqualified to preach "democracy" to the continent which won the present-day democracy through struggle.

He said that his country continues to suffer from Western countries' unjust interference and sanctions.

Russia

Russian FM blames US for undermining strategic stability

An official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry said on a 1TV programme on May 24 that the missile defence treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the treaty on the opening of airspace have been broken systematically by the US.

Nothing is left at present, except the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty-3, he added.

China

Beijing rejects US interference

No country has the right to interfere in the legislation issue of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry on May 22.

The spokesman stated that the Chinese government is steadfast in its determination to safeguard national sovereignty, security, development and interests, implement the policy of "one country, two systems" and reject interference of all external forces in Hong Kong affairs.

Europe

Israel urged to drop annexation plan

Belgium, France, Germany, Poland and Estonia in a joint statement on May 20 rejected the Israeli plan for annexing part of Palestinian territory.

It said they would not recognize any changes in the boundary before the Six Day War in 1967, strongly demanding Israel cancel the unilateral plan to annex the occupied territory.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

MIDEAST

Iran resolutely defies US' military threat

The US navy issued a warning on May 19 that it would take a relevant measure if any vessels sailing through the Persian Gulf fail to keep the distance of 100 metres from its vessels.

Reuters reported that the warning seemed to be a message to Iran.

Last month, too, the US had threatened to fire at Iranian warships and other vessels if they made trouble for it in the water area.

Its incessant threat has sparked a strong backlash of Iran.

As they demanded the US discontinue anti-Iranian conspiratorial manoeuvres

it made almost every day, the Iranian President, the national welfare council and the general staff of the Iranian armed forces stated that the Iranian armed forces and people would continue to reliably safeguard the country's territorial integrity as well as its waters in the Gulf.

That Iran's declaration of its stand is not a bluff has been proved by the measures it has taken to build up its defence capabilities.

The Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps launched the country's first military satellite in late April.

The satellite was launched

from the desert in the country's middle part to successfully enter the orbit at an altitude of 425km.

The commander of the navy of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced that it increased the range of a missile launched from ship to 700km.

The Iranian army also unveiled a self-developed radar system.

The new air defence system is equipped with a three-dimensional satellite control system and has an operational radius of 400-800km.

It is reportedly able to detect small targets incorporating conventional and stealth

issue related to war crimes.

According to south Korean internet newspaper *Jaju Siboo*, members of the students' council for democracy and independent unification waged a demonstration in front of the US embassy in Seoul on May 20 in demand of withdrawal of the US forces in south Korea.

Recently, south Korea waged a north-targeted combined aerial drill with the US, they said, adding there is no need for the US forces to remain in south Korea any longer.

South Korean Yonhap

on May 20 clamoured for the removal of the statue of a girl sexual slave and discontinuation of the rallies for the settlement of the sexual slavery issue, the editorial said.

The media impudently interfered in the internal affairs of south Korea as it urged the authorities to clarify their stand towards the solidarity organization, it said, adding the issue of sexual slavery is an

What's on in s. Korea

South Korean newspaper *Hangyore* in an editorial on May 21 denounced Japanese far-right media for being shameless in dealing with the issue of sexual slavery.

The Japanese media, inclined to faultfinding with the work of the south Korean Justice Preserving Solidarity for Settling the Issue of Sexual Slavery for the Imperial Japanese Army,

RESERVE

Primeval forest boasting distinctive natural scenery

The Ogasan Nature Reserve is located in the boundary area between Kim Hyong Jik County in Ryanggang Province and Hwaphyong County in Jagang Province.

Mt Oga includes hundreds of hectares of primeval forest, well over a thousand species of animals and plants, and many rare living monuments.

The growing condition of trees in the mountain, which is in the limelight of the world, is very good, and it is thickly wooded with rare species of tall trees that can only be found in subtropical forests, especially over a thousand-year-old linden, pine-nut tree, fir, spruce and Mongolian oak, and tara vine, rice-paper plant and other creepers which are over 40m long and more than 10cm in diameter are twined round them.

The reserve unfolds unique

natural scenery as it is placed in the border between the distribution areas of temperate and boreal plants. Growing there are polar plants like thuja and rhododendron as well as southern temperate plants including *Sasamorpha purpurascens* and *Phyllitis japonica*, with such northern temperate plants as pine-nut tree, fir, basswood tree and white birch forming the main part of the flora.

According to botanists, most of the primeval forests in the world are pure forests and it is hard to find such a mixed forest of needle-leaf and broadleaf trees as in Mt Oga, which is on the boundary line between boreal and temperate plant distribution areas.

The reserve is also blessed with such plants of economic value as wild *insam* (ginseng), forest asiabell, anise and

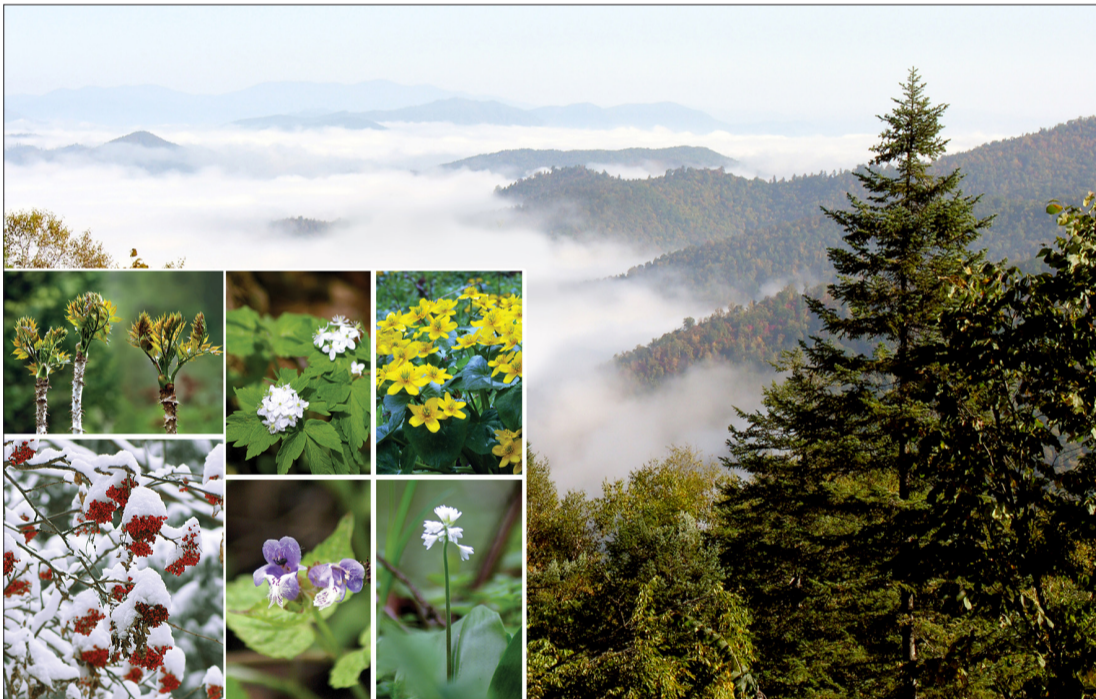
Schizandra chinensis, mushrooms of medicinal value including *Fomes japonicus*, agaric and *Lnonotus obliquus*, and many lichens and mosses.

For its green foliage and diverse natural and geographical conditions, it also provides a favourable ecological environment for animals. It is home to many animals and well over a hundred species of birds.

The fact that more than half of animals in residing Korea inhabit the reserve shows the abundance of fauna and flora there.

The Ogasan primeval forest covering an area of 800 hectares was registered as the living monument. And over 1 100-year-old yew, some 700-year-old linden and pine-nut and other trees are in good protection as living monuments.

By Om Ryong PT



The Ogasan Nature Reserve is comprised of dense forests of broadleaf trees and conifers.

FOOD

Special dishes of Pyongyang

Pyongyang abounds in traditional dish heritage elements.

Among them, Pyongyang's four signature specialities are acclaimed for their unique tastes and aromas.

They include world-famous Pyongyang cold noodles, Pyongyang *onban*, mung-bean pancake and Taedonggang grey mullet soup.

The Pyongyang cold noodles are a national food favoured by Koreans since olden times.

Sallimgyongje, an old book compiled around 1715, says that pheasant stock is well suited for the meat juice of Pyongyang

cold noodles. They rose to fame for their singular strips, meat stock, minced meat, garnish and bowl.

The Pyongyang *onban* is served by putting a certain amount of boiled rice in a large bowl and then pouring chicken stock seasoned with salt on it before being garnished with chicken, mung-bean pancake and mushroom saute. It is easy to prepare in families as its cooking method is simple and it is highly nutritious.

A special dish for holidays, banquet or memorial service, the mung-bean pancake is made by milling watered mung beans

and frying them in oil.

The dish tastes good and is good for liver, especially for removing substances detrimental to the body.

The grey mullet soup which is cooked with fresh grey mullet from the Taedong River is famous for its delicious taste and high nutrition. Pyongyang citizens have regarded it as their courtesy to serve honoured guests with the soup, signature dish of Pyongyang.

Pyongyang also boasts dozens of varieties of foods including fish porridge, meat dumpling soup, dog-meat soup, watery radish kimchi, and roast eel.

FOLK GAME

Korean tug-of-war passed on for thousands of years



A scene from a tug-of-war match at the National Inter-provincial Games-2018. Tug-of-war is one of the popular mass sports in the DPRK.

Tug-of-war is a traditional sport of the Korean people tracing its history back to ancient times.

The game has widely been spread in Korea since the period of the Three Kingdoms.

According to the historical records including *Tonggukyojisungnam* and *Rimhaphilgi*, tugs-of-war were held in splendour on folk holidays such as Jongwoldaeborum or first full moon day by the lunar calendar and Chusok or harvest moon day.

On Jongwoldaeborum every year, in particular, tug-of-war games were enjoyed in all parts of the country as a conventional event, unfolding spectacular sights.

At that time, the games were played between villages and regarded as important occasions for showing off

the unity of villagers. They believed that winning the games would bring the village a good harvest that year, which in turn aroused their competitive spirit.

The tug-of-war game of the year started with the "baby tug-of-war" played by children early in January and climaxed with the adults' game on Jongwoldaeborum. There were also some special events in different areas.

As it has been developed into a popular national sports event in the DPRK with the dissemination and training methods systematized and the rules and apparatuses standardized, now the tug-of-war has become a more interesting and sight-worthy sport.

By Min Chol PT

As the rice-gruel cooked with fresh fish, the Pyongyang fish porridge tastes very good. The history of cooking the food traces back to the custom of boiling rice into gruel with corbicula or fishes caught in the Taedong River after taking a bath in it on the 15th day of the sixth month by the lunar calendar or midsummer.

The watery radish kimchi is made in early summer. It is cooked in all parts of the country as it has refreshing and savoury tastes and sharper tang,

but the one made in Pyongyang is particularly well-known.

A dish grilled after applying spiced sauce to eel, the roast eel is good for protecting the body and invigorating energy in the hottest period of summer.

Pyongyang Kamhong-ro is also noted.

According to old records, locals drank the famous liquor in spring, and it was reportedly taken on holidays and other significant days.

By Song Jong Ho PT



Four special dishes of Pyongyang (from left top clockwise): Pyongyang cold noodles, Pyongyang *onban*, Taedonggang grey mullet soup and mung-bean pancake.

KIM YONG CHAN

