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

The First Enlarged Meeting of the Eighth Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea took place at the office building of the Party Central Committee on Wednesday.

The meeting was conducted by Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK.

It was attended by Ri Pyong Chol, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, its members, commanding officers and relevant officials.

The meeting referred to a series of shortcomings revealed in the military and political activities and moral life of KPA commanding officers, and mainly discussed the issue of strictly imposing revolutionary morality and discipline within the army.

The General Secretary said that to impose revolutionary morality and discipline within the KPA is a

crucial issue related to the existence of the KPA and success or failure in army building and military activities, adding that it is necessary above all to intensify education and tighten control designed to make the commanding officers of new generation have a proper political consciousness and view of morality.

The meeting stressed the need for

all Party organizations and political organs of the KPA to carry on the work of establishing revolutionary discipline and moral traits in an intensive way by setting it as a major task at the present time for establishing the command system of the Party Central Committee, increasing combat capability and giving full play to the noble spiritual and moral

superiority of the revolutionary army.

Then the meeting discussed an organizational matter of dismissing or appointing major commanding officers of the armed forces organs.

The Central Military Commission of the WPK appointed Kim Song Gil as commander of the KPA Navy and conferred the title of Vice Admiral on him.

Kim Chung Il was appointed as commander of the KPA Air and Anti-Aircraft Force and awarded the title of Lieutenant General.

The meeting also adopted a decision on raising the military ranks of leading commanding personnel.

According to the decision, the title of KPA Vice Marshal was conferred on Kim Jong Gwan, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, and Kwon Yong Jin, director of the KPA General Political Bureau.

KCNA



LEAD

WPK's political ideal, fighting principle

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea proposed keeping deep in mind once again the three ideas of "The people are God", "single-hearted unity" and "self-reliance" in place of the slogan of the Party congress.

These are the political idea and fighting principle of the WPK whose validity and vitality have fully been demonstrated in the practice of the protracted and arduous Korean revolution.

The whole course of development of the Korean revolution is a history of putting forward and holding in high esteem the people as God, a history of unity and cohesion of the Party and revolutionary ranks, and a history of advancing the revolution while breaking through a multitude of difficulties by the nation's own strength.

President Kim Il Sung, who embarked on the road of revolution with the

determination to build a genuine people's country, enforced the agrarian reform before anything else after Korea's liberation in consideration of the long-cherished desire of peasants to have their own land, thereby making sure that land was distributed to them free of charge, freed his people from taxation and established a free medical care system.

Korean socialism peculiar to the DPRK, in which everything serves the people, was built, popular policies were enforced on a constant basis and popular polices of the state did not disappear nor diminish even in the period when the country was on the Arduous March.

The slogan of "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" intensively shows the view on the people of the WPK, and herein lies the core of the leadership idea of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The politics of the WPK for the people gave birth to the one and only single-minded unity in the world.

As all the people are single-mindedly united around the leader in light of ideology and will and morality and obligation, the DPRK could build socialism while performing miracles through generations and is staunchly advancing towards greater victory at present when anti-socialist and anti-DPRK moves by

hostile forces are maximized. Self-reliance underlies the victorious history of the Korean revolution. The DPRK has come to this day by running a hundred steps when others took ten steps, by adhering to the line of building an independent national economy as lifeblood, because though dependence is an easy way, it compels it to abandon

its sovereignty and dignity and though self-reliance is difficult and toilsome, it does not compel it to study other's faces. It is philosophy taught by the history of the Korean revolution spanning over 70 years that once one gets a taste for others' things, one will be reduced to a slave of others.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



The poster reads "All out for the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress!" And "The people are God", "single-hearted unity" and "self-reliance" at the centre epitomize the political ideal of the Workers' Party of Korea.

GFTUK TO CONVENE EIGHTH CONGRESS

The Eighth Congress of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea will take place in Pyongyang late in May 2021.

The congress will comprehensively analyse and review the work of the

federation during the period under review and discuss the tasks and ways for fulfilling the mission and duty of the federation as the transmission belt and peripheral organization of the Workers' Party of Korea

in the struggle to implement the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK and bringing about a fundamental turn in the work of the federation.

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Nationwide

Birthday spreads sent to centenarians

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent birthday spreads to Ryu Hae Dok living in Suphung Workers' District of Sakju County and Ko Kum Nyo living in the township of Kwaksan County, North Phyongan Province, on their 100th birthdays.

They had worked hard for decades in the agricultural sector and voluntarily did jobs conducive to the prosperity of the country even after retirement.

Wangjaesan Art Troupe starts performance tour at giant iron producer



The artistes of the Wangjaesan Art Troupe, who set off on a local tour to contribute to arousing the revolutionary enthusiasm of working people who are out in the first year's campaign

to carry out the new five-year plan for implementing the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, gave the first music and dance performance at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex on February 20.

The performance that started with music *Song of Socialist Advance* included a variety of numbers.

Female quintet *Toward Another Upsurge under the Uplifted Banner of Self-reliance* and mixed group singing *We Travel the Road to Socialism Only* were acclaimed by the audience as they fired the workers, scientists and technicians of the complex with revolutionary and patriotic zeal.

After the performance was over, the viewers presented entertainers with bouquets as they congratulated them on their successful performance and offered their thanks for invigorating the working people who are on a general onward march for implementing the tasks set forth at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Aquatic birds fly over

Taedong River



A large number of water birds are coming to the Taedong River that meanders round picturesque Moran, Mansu and Mangyong hills through the centre of Pyongyang.

The view of birds flying over the river against the background of modern apartment houses standing along the riverbanks adds beauty to the scenery of the Taedong.

Factory conducts huge blasting



The Hyesan Cement Factory conducted a 100 000-cubic-metre blasting on February 19, making a breakthrough for mass mining.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

CELEBRATION

Day of Shining Star celebrated abroad

Celebrations took place in Russia, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland and Finland from February 10 to 15 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the Day of the Shining Star.

They were attended by personages of political parties and organizations and other people in those countries.

The chairman of the Ostfold County Committee of the Communist Party of Norway and the international secretary of the Finnish Communists' League praised Kim Jong Il as a great thinker and theoretician who enriched the immortal Juche idea, defender of justice who saved the destiny of socialism with his unique Songun politics, genuine popular leader who devoted his all to the wellbeing of people and father of the nation who made an enormous contribution to accomplishing the cause of Korea's reunification.

The chairman of the Denmark-DPRK Friendship Association and the chairman of the Sweden-Korea Friendship Association lauded the sacred life of Kim Jong Il who devoted himself to the happiness of the people, always giving top priority to their interests during the whole period of his leadership of the revolution.

The chairperson of the Iceland-DPRK Cultural and Friendly Society said that Kim Jong Il was a great revolutionary who dedicated his all to the prosperity of socialist Korea, reunification of the country and cause of global independence.

The chairperson of the Russian Association for the Study of the Juche Idea stressed that at the time when the imperialists had gone to extremes in their moves to stifle the DPRK, Kim Jong Il put forward the People's Army as the main force of revolution and made it perform world-startling miracles in all fields of socialist construction.

Congratulatory messages to General Secretary Kim Jong Un were adopted at the celebrations held in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Group for International Solidarity with the DPRK sponsored similar celebrations on February 10 and 12 respectively.

Foreign personages of various circles paid congratulatory visits to the DPRK missions in their countries between February 9 and 16 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

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RALLY

Iron complex appeals to carry out first-year tasks of five-year plan, followed by mass rallies

Workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex got together on Monday to vow to fully carry out the first-year tasks of the five-year plan true to the spirit of the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It was attended by O Su Yong, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Chung Gol, minister of Metallurgical Industry, Pak Chang Ho, chief secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the WPK, Im Hun, chairman of the provincial people's committee, and officials in the province and officials and employees of the complex.

Ri Song Chol, chief secretary of the Party committee of the complex, said in a report that the complex would set innovative and detailed goals this year

which is of key importance in fulfilling the mid- and long-term tasks of the metal industry sector, implement the monthly and quarterly plans without fail, speed up the technical remodelling and modernization of production processes and encourage recycling by holding fast to science and technology to surely attain the goal of iron and steel production for this year.

He was followed by other speakers.

An appeal to the working people across the country was adopted at the meeting.

The appeal said that this year the complex should produce twice more iron and steel than last year and it is not an easy task to hit the highly increased production target while pressing on with such huge projects as the overhaul of oxygen blast

furnace, extension of the large oxygen plant and construction of an energy-saving iron blast furnace to expand its production capacity.

It said the workers of the complex would unconditionally attain the intended targets for this year by faithfully carrying on the baton of patriotism passed by the previous generations who created a miracle by completing the construction of a blast furnace, which was believed to take over two years only to design it, in a matter of 10 months.

It called on all the working people in the fields of metal, chemical, electric power and coal-mining industries, rail transport, machine-building and construction and building-materials industries, agriculture, light industry, science and

technology and munitions industry to make proud achievements this year, which is connected with important matters related to the dignity and authority of the WPK and the future of the state, in order to proudly greet 2022 on which fall the 110th birthday of President Kim Il Sung and the 80th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Then a mass demonstration took place.

Working people's organizations held joint meetings in Pyongyang and all provinces to pledge to carry out the first year's tasks of the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Speakers at the meetings called upon officials and members of the working people's organizations to

successfully implement the decisions made at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, expressing their will to make a breakthrough for victory in this year's struggle through new innovations, bold creations and constant advance under the banner of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, bearing deep in mind the main idea and spirit of the plenary meeting.

The speakers referred to the need to further intensify the campaign against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices.

Letters of pledge to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un were adopted at the meetings.

Then there were demonstrations of the participants in the joint meetings.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



Workers and officials of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex hold a meeting to pledge to carry out the first-year tasks of the five-year plan on Monday. It is followed by joint rallies of working people's organizations in Pyongyang and other parts of the country.

Big efforts channelled into greenhouse vegetable production

Locals benefit from greenhouse vegetable production



AN CHOL RYONG / PICTORIAL DPR KOREA

Leafy vegetables are produced in large quantities at the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm.

The history of greenhouse vegetable farming in the DPRK is unthinkable apart from the immortal leadership of the peerlessly great men.

On his visit to the Jangchon Cooperative Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, in April 1982, President Kim Il Sung gave an instruction that would serve as guidelines in bringing about a new turn in greenhouse vegetable production and abundantly producing and supplying fresh vegetables to the people in all seasons.

Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the farm on several occasions and led farmers to do

farming properly while always cherishing the benevolence of the President in mind.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un gave field guidance at the farm in June 2014 and saw that a civilized rural town was built in less than a year after getting familiar with the actual conditions of the farm.

While providing field inspection tour of the farm in June the following year, Kim Jong Un underscored the need to boost vegetable production and properly manage and operate the farm and do business activities.

The change in Jangchon

has kindled fierce flames of greenhouse vegetable farming throughout the country.

In the last few years, arch-style and semi-arched vinyl sheet greenhouses were built on a large scale throughout the country, a sci-tech symposium of the greenhouse vegetable sector took place and a socialist emulation drive was conducted between provinces, cities, and counties to increase greenhouse vegetable and mushroom production.

In 2019 alone, Pyongyang rebuilt dozens of blocks of vegetable greenhouses according to the standard design and carried out a soil ameliorant project for hundreds of blocks of vegetable greenhouses, and thus increased greenhouse vegetable production.

Yomju County in North Phyongan Province produced over hundreds of tons of greenhouse vegetables, while Songchon County in South Phyongan Province turned out a large quantity of fresh vegetables even in winter.

In December 2019, a modern vegetable greenhouse farm sprang up in the Jungphyong area of Kyongsong County in North Hamgyong Province.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

New functional varieties bred

The Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science has bred productive and nutritious vegetable varieties.

“Our institute has recently registered 10 functional vegetable varieties in eight crops with high edible and medicinal value as national agricultural crops,” said Jo Nam Sok, director of the institute.

Newly-bred yellow Spanish paprika is green when it is unripe and dark yellow when ripe. It can increase per-hectare yield by over 10 percent while reducing cultivation area as compared to the previous variety. It is very good for promoting digestion and blood circulation, treating frostbite, preventing and relieving obesity, strengthening cardiopulmonary functions and removing environment stress, while acting as anticancer material and invigorant.

According to researcher Kim Un Ju, the pepper is highly resistant to viral diseases.

The institute has brought out a

dessert radish in simple variety that can be used as dessert for its high saccharine and watery contents. This radish looks like an apple, its skin is green, its surface is glossy and it has soft flesh. It can be taken raw in place of fruits, feels fresh for its chewy sense and improves digestive function. It can be cultivated outdoors by sowing seeds, and is highly resistant to



CHAE MYONG RIM

Researchers work on a new variety of vegetable at the Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute.

Factory runs soilless greenhouse on rooftop

The Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory in Songyo District, Pyongyang, has been successful in vegetable farming at a soilless greenhouse.

“We didn’t select the site for the greenhouse on the ground but built it on the roof of the production building,” said Ri Chun Hwa who is in charge of the greenhouse.

The greenhouse employees grow different species of vegetables by making rational use of the limited space.

At the centre of the soilless greenhouse, there are some shelves in several tiers which provide the conditions suitable for the growth characteristics of various kinds of vegetables. Arranged along each wall in multiple layers are the pipes

that are used for hydroponic cultivation. In addition, it has some growth promoting lamps that maintain a favourable environment for the growth of vegetables.

“Our greenhouse is not a big one, but as we use every unit area in a rational way, we produce a variety of vegetables like tomato, red pepper, lettuce and crown daisy,” said Choe Hak Chol, worker at the greenhouse.

What is distinctive about their greenhouse is that it has several tanks on the floor for breeding catfish, Ryongjong fish and tilapia.

They also grow some nutritious mushrooms in the greenhouse.

By Kim Il Jin PT



PAK KWANG HUN

Growers tend vegetables in the soilless greenhouse of the Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory.

Farm focuses on anti-blight solutions

The Taesong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm under the Rural Economy Committee of North Hwanghae Province directs efforts to exterminating harmful insects.

According to experts, as the temperature in vegetable greenhouses is always high, various diseases often develop, reducing crop yield.

The farm solves the problem in various ways.

“We are eradicating plant lice by using yellow attractive adhesive plate to prevent mildew,” said chief engineer Min Hyong Jun.

According to him, if mildew breaks out, vegetable leaves turn yellowish brown and so they cannot photosynthesize.

The farmers paste different kinds of adhesives on the surface of yellow plates to kill

plant lice like cabbage butterfly, diamondback moth and turnip sawfly which have relatively high taxis to yellow colour.

They also treat excrement of cattle and effectively use it to wipe out different diseases.

Various germs are found in cattle excrement and some of them have sterilizing effect. They exist under the atmospheric conditions in a certain period of time, secreting antibiotic substances. The cell walls of *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* and true mildew fungi are surrounded by many fibres and the antibiotic substances of these fungi act to dissolve cellulose and kill the fungi.

Besides, soil disinfectant, natural bio-activator and others are used.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

HEALTHCARE

Household doctors instrumental in healthcare at grassroots level



PAK KWANG HUN

A household doctor from the Puksong Polyclinic in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, gives a check-up at a family in her charge.

Shortly ago, residents were seeing off a woman, who was leaving an apartment house with a first-aid bag on her shoulder, in front of the entrance to a neighbourhood unit of Puksong-dong No. 2, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

“She is our household doctor. When I rang her since an elderly man living on the fifth floor was not well, she came at a breath and gave medical treatment with sincerity,” said Ri Hyang Ok, head of the neighbourhood unit.

Household doctors are found everywhere in the DPRK. They all devote themselves to their jobs with the consciousness that they are responsible for the health of residents and

the benefits of the socialist healthcare system reach them by their efforts.

Household doctors at the Sopho Polyclinic in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang, have found out an effective method of treating an incurable disease by combining Koryo medicine with modern one after making painstaking efforts.

Under the well-knit system, the doctors take timely preventive measures by keeping up with the health conditions of the residents.

Such activities of household doctors show well the spirit of serving the people of the country’s healthcare system.

Decades have passed since the DPRK established the section

Section doctor system

The Public Health Law of the DPRK, which was promulgated on April 3 1980, provides a legal guarantee for the district doctor system.

The district doctor system is a kind of medical service system in which doctors take charge of relevant residential quarters and give preventive and curative measures for the locals in their sections, while taking good care of their health.

It is implemented by medical workers at the lowest medical service units dispatched in residential quarters. They, or household doctors, usually offer medical service to outpatients in the morning and visit the locals in their charge in the afternoon to learn about their health and take preventive and curative measures on a regular basis.

doctor system.

Such a system helps the doctors of clinics, a terminal institution for medical treatment and prevention, and ri people’s hospitals grasp the health conditions of residents and take necessary prevention and treatment measures to prevent the outbreak of diseases in advance and cure them in time.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

and dance, learning the mother tongue through word games and matching colours with different toys are highly appreciated by parents for they develop the cognitive power of children.

The education through abacus calculation also proved effective.

“First we give them a general idea about numbers with wooden cubes and then teach them how to use an abacus. Now, even four-year-olds can calculate seven-digit numbers,” said nursery teacher Jong Hye Suk.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



RYU KWANG HYOK

Teachers at Sopho Nursery No. 1 in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang, hold a workshop to improve their skills.

NURSERY

Teachers work to develop children’s mental capacity

Sopho Nursery No. 1 in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang, has achieved good results in upbringing and the intellectual development of children.

“It is not an easy job to promote concentration of children at nurseries and develop their intellectual capabilities, and therefore nursery teachers should be well qualified and capable,” said Hyon Myong Hui, head of the nursery.

Kids in that age group have a great dependence on mothers and find it very hard to recognize their feet in an unfamiliar environment.

They arrange a demonstration and storytelling lesson on the day of technical study every week.

According to Hyon, every teacher at the nursery has their own special techniques in intellectual development education and they constantly improve them through in-service training.

They can play one or more musical instruments and sing and dance. Some of them invented visual aids and intelligence-promoting toys that are conducive to developing intelligence and concentration of children.

Such teaching methods as understanding of rhythms through combination of song

EDUCATION

Teaching methods innovated

“We are steadily innovating teaching methods to meet the world trend of educational development as befits an institution for training teachers for all junior and senior middle schools in Pyongyang,” said Sonu Hyok, section chief of Kim Chol Ju University of Education.

The university invented 40-odd new teaching methods last year, of which 19 of them have been introduced throughout the country.

A method of tutoring junior and senior middle school students in hobby groups according to school subjects, in particular, is a teaching method which makes it possible to admit students into different groups.

According to teacher Kim Kyong Mi, the teaching method helps students acquire knowledge of relevant subjects in such groups according to their hobbies, aptitudes and hopes. It aims to develop their creative abilities as well as thinking, application, intellectual, expressive, inquiry and conceiving faculties.

For example, the method

of tutoring hobby groups to improve the students’ writing abilities is designed to develop their literary thinking faculties by presenting a new situation for developing their creative imagination, while applying a compound teaching method of combining group exercises differentiated according to grades with a comprehensive review to enhance their practical work production abilities.

And the new teaching method for hobby groups created by the department of physics helps apply the CDIO education method to make students conceive and design various types of robots and production environment management system and to operate them in virtual production environment into which mixed reality technology has been introduced.

In addition, the university is pushing the development of teaching methods for making the students consolidate what they already learned in correlation with adjacent subjects.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



RYANG KUM CHOL

Lecturers hold a panel discussion on a new teaching method at the History Faculty of Kim Chol Ju University of Education.

DEED

Positive deeds encouraged among health workers

It was February last year when a register was launched to record the positive deeds of doctors, nurses and practical nurses at the Kim Man Yu Hospital.

“The register is inspirational as it tells us both the beautiful deeds and minds of masters. Everybody strives to do good things while taking it as the pride to be listed on the register,” said Kim Uk, a department chief of the hospital.

Among them are the facts of voluntarily treating and caring for an emergency case sitting up all night and making tonic to stimulate the appetite of a patient and the successes

made by introducing advanced treatment methods and medical sci-tech findings into treatment. Such a register is kept at every department.

“I reflect myself on the deeds displayed by my colleagues. Yong Hui, a nurse working with me, often finds out and does work for the good of patients. I redouble my efforts to take my cue from her,” said Han Kum Sun, a nurse of the hospital.

With such positive deeds encouraged at the hospital, cooperation between doctors and between doctors and nurses are further intensified.

By Pang Un Ju PT

UNIVERSITY

Effort goes into training sci-tech talents

The University of Sciences in Unjong District, Pyongyang, is a scientific personnel training base for the basic science sector.

It was founded on January 17 1967 according to the state measure to systematically select and train students with outstanding aptitude and talents.

It has eight faculties including mathematics, physics and chemistry, dozens of courses and departments, four research institutes and scores of laboratories.

“Though the university started with only nine lecturers

and 34 students in four courses, it produced tens of thousands of sci-tech personnel in the past and has now developed into a ‘pedigree farm’ for the training of scientists, staffed with hundreds of lecturers and researchers and teaching thousands of students and postgraduate students,” said Kim Ryong Sung, vice-president of the university.

According to him, the university is staffed with over 700 experienced lecturers holding academic degrees or titles including People’s Scientist, academician, candidate academician, professor and doctor.

Lecturers and researchers of

the university have contributed to developing the country by making numerous scientific research hits and published them on the SCI-class international journal.

Many graduates of the university make successes in the country’s scientific research sector.

The university flexed its muscle in the ICPC between 2007 and 2019 to win seven gold, four silver and two bronze prizes and came first in different international contests including the Codechef Challenge.

Today, it makes constant efforts to improve the quality of education.

Developed teaching methods have recently been generalized to universities across the country, including the interactive teaching support system between lecturer and students and the teaching method for improving the cognitive and conceiving faculties for VR and AR technologies.

“In the present times of making a leap forward by dint of science, the role of sci-tech talents is very important. We will make further efforts to train such talents,” said Kim Ryong Sung.



JON KWANG HUN

Lecturers and researchers of the University of Sciences work on an interactive teaching support system.

By Pak Song Min PT

KECCDB

New plans afoot for the deaf and blind



The Korea Economic and Cultural Centre for Deaf and Blind takes it as its mission to provide the deaf and blind with favourable social environment and conditions for their economic and cultural activities and has new plans to be carried out for them this year.

It is going to set up a model unit for integrated education in order to provide deaf and blind students with education of higher quality. The integrated education is to involve such students in the normal education system in the form of classes.

At present, they are taught at deaf and dumb and blind schools under a special education system.

If they are integrated into the normal education system, it will be possible to improve the level of their education and provide them with an opportunity to get closer to and familiar with the normal student community.

According to the director of the centre Ro Kyong Su, a scheme is being pushed at the final stage to set up model

units at primary and junior middle schools in Pyongyang, in a collaboration between the Education Commission and the relevant government organ.

A course for training disabled teachers is to begin from this year.

“Education for the disabled will produce better results when it is given by persons with disabilities, as such teachers might be friendlier to handicapped students and teach them more efficiently,” said O Jun Gol, president of the Deaf Association of Korea.

He said all the conditions have been created for training disabled teachers, including the collection of lecturers, the furnishing of the training centre, and what remains to be done is to screen candidates for competent teachers.

An automatic sign language translation app will be developed and a training course for sign language interpreters will be given this year, so as to fling the door to communication wide open for the deaf.

Excellent program developers in the country are pushing the development of the app and a sign language translation app for smart phones as well. The former interprets sign language into Korean and vice versa by dint of image and character recognition. It also includes the curricula for primary school pupils.

The SL interpreters training course is intended for the relatives of handicapped persons and their normal fellows and is planned to be held in Pyongyang and local areas on a short-term or long-term basis.

In addition, a vocational service centre for the deaf and blind will be completed this year.

At the centre they will be able to acquire techniques of manufacturing various articles, beauty art, hair-cutting and culinary skills and the like as preparation for getting employment, while conducting relevant service activities.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

EXHIBITION

Bridge built between producers and consumers



RYU KWANG HYOK

Technical exchange activities are conducted at the advanced sci-tech exhibition hall of the Grand People’s Study House.

The advanced sci-tech exhibition hall run by the Grand People’s Study House in Pyongyang is drawing special interest of local people.

It is dedicated to information dissemination and relay and public relations, increase of utility value of information and educational and cultural promotion of knowledge, said Kim Kuk Il, researcher at the Grand People’s Study House.

What is distinctive about the exhibition hall is that it provides an exchange environment which enables people to have access to the exhibited sci-tech hits through various communications networks without actually going to the hall and also forges connection between developers and producers and consumers.

The exhibition hall brings together research achievements in the cutting-edge, basic,

applied and cross-disciplinary science sectors, hi-tech and new technical products, technological developments, contrivance and discovery information, achievements in educational science and technology, operation and management information, supplies and products exchange and trade information.

According to Kim Kuk Il, the hall’s high potential for exchange is encouraging many people to bring out intellectual creations.

“For example, many units presented waters with different uses and properties including nano-correction water, nano-activated water and anion cell activated water, but their values will be determined by the estimation of customers,” he said.

By Ri Sang Il PT

SAMARITAN

Kind-hearted girl

On the evening of January 12 this year, a disabled soldier could not take steps due to severe pain in his leg.

At that moment, a girl rushed towards him and took him to a nearby hospital for treatment. But he and his family members could not know who she was. Later, they came to know that she was Rim Song Yon living in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

Rim works at the institute of public health business economics under the Ministry of Public Health.

She always looks after war veterans and disabled soldiers whenever an occasion offers. On rest days or holidays, she often visits their homes to get familiar with their inconvenience and provides them with nutritious foodstuffs.

“My daughter’s first birthday costume and a padded clothes favoured by my wife are

associated with her warm sincerity,” said Choe Jae Sik, a special-class disabled soldier.

“At first, we did not know about her deeds. Every evening after day’s work, she would go somewhere hastily. When I asked her where she was going, she would say that she was going to her elder brother’s or grandfather’s home,” said the director of her institute. Several years later, employees of the institute came to know her deeds and realize that she helped many disabled soldiers and war veterans.

“We can now lead a happy life as war veterans and disabled soldiers fought self-sacrificingly and worked hard for the country. It is the natural obligation of our young people to respect and take good care of them, I think,” said Rim Song Yon.

By Kil Chung Il PT

JAPAN

Overseas dispatch of SDF vessels drags on, causing vigilance

Recently, an escort ship belonging to Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force left the port of Maizuru for the sea off Somalia. It was the third time that a warship set sail for the sea at the naval base from March 2019, as well as Japan's 38th dispatch under the signboard of "coping with piracy".

Meanwhile, another escort ship of the Maritime SDF returned to port after finishing its duty in the Gulf of Oman and the northern Arabian Sea. The Japanese authorities decided to extend the term of activities in the region for one year until December this year under the

pretext of continuing tension in the Middle East.

Japan's bid for prolonging activities of its warships in the sea off Somalia under the cloak of "escorting" its vessels cannot be tolerated as it is a dangerous move of the war criminal state which is rushing headlong to overseas expansion.

Japan has constantly been expanding the operational waters of the Maritime SDF on the basis of the law on coping with piracy enacted in 2009 and the "defence programme" initiated in late 2013 shifting the emphasis from homeland security to international security.

Now, many Japanese war

vessels including the escort ships are taking turns to roam around the Gulf of Oman, the northern Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

What cannot be overlooked is that the Maritime SDF vessels operating overseas are maintaining full combat readiness according to the guidelines approved by the authorities, specifying that use of weapons is possible in case of unpredictable situation. It is more than clear that if a battle really takes place, Japan would openly launch an overseas invasion taking advantage of the situation.

Though Japan heavily

advertises that the dispatch of vessels is intended to safeguard the "artery of world economy" and "peace" and "security" in the Indo-Pacific region, it is just a trick for covering up its wild ambition for overseas expansion. Its present behaviour calls to mind the Japanese militarists who had provoked wars in the Indian and Pacific oceans clamouring for "peace in the East".

Therefore, a French institute has denounced Japan, saying it unhesitatingly enforces military actions that go against the constitution under the pretext of "anti-pirate fight".

By Om Ryong PT

PALESTINE

Intl community back up Palestine's cause

Shortly ago, the League of Arab States held a minister-level emergency meeting in Egypt.

Confirming that the cause of Palestine was a major cause of the Arab world, the participants called on all Arab countries to support the legitimate rights of Palestine including the rights to self-determination and repatriation and to found a state with East al-Quds as the capital and solve the problem of Palestinian refugees fairly

according to UN General Assembly resolution No. 194.

They rejected the one-sided plans and measures of Israel to infringe the sovereignty of Palestine and destroy the two states solution, and demanded implementation of the UN Security Council resolution on discontinuing the settlement of Jews in East al-Quds and other places completely and immediately.

Not only the Arab world but also African countries are

raising their voices in support of Palestine and against Israel.

In the recent 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the member nations promised to strive to realize the founding of the state of Palestine with the boundary line before the 1967 Six-Day War in collaboration with the international community.

The UN secretary general recently told the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People that the Israeli authorities should stop all moves for settlement in the Palestinian territory, adding it was necessary to put an end to the occupation according to international law, corresponding UN resolutions and bilateral agreements and

realize the "two states solution" based on the boundary line before the Six-Day War.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs urged the Israeli army to stop removing Palestinian villages in the West Bank.

Under these circumstances, the International Criminal Court, asserting the Gaza Strip, East al-Quds and West Bank were under its jurisdiction, announced that it approved a plan for legal investigation into war crimes committed under the Israeli occupation.

The more aggressive Israel becomes in its settlement moves infringing the territorial sovereignty of the Palestinians, the greater the opposition and rejection of the international community will become against it.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Briefly

Cuba President calls for enhancing foodstuff industry

Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez has recently said at the working meeting with officials of the Ministry of Food Industry that the food industry sector should strengthen socialist state enterprises, positively introduce state measures for the implementation of arrangement work and solve all the problems by their own efforts.

He added that they should remove the way of thinking that relies on import but work to encourage export.

Gambia National unity called for

The Gambian president on February 18 called for achieving national unity as he addressed a rally held on the occasion of the country's independence day.

Independence brought dignity, freedom and right to self-determination to Gambia, he said, adding that everyone should unite and serve the country and consolidate the independence. The Gambian people should reject division by factionalism and racial dispute and oppose all kinds of lawbreaking, he noted.

China FM spokeswoman expresses stand on sexual slavery

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, in a regular news briefing on February 19, said that the forcible drafting of "comfort women" is a grave unethical crime committed by Japanese militarism against the Asian and other victimized nations during the period of the Second World War and a historical fact recognized by the international community.

China demands Japan have a correct understanding of their history and make soul-searching, she noted, saying her country opposes all wrong acts of glorifying war of aggression and denying and distorting history.

Russia FM rebuffs European court's interference

The UN Secretary General urged the Israeli authorities to discontinue without delay all kinds of settlement activities which constitute a major obstacle to achieving the "two states solution" and establishing just, permanent and comprehensive peace, at a recent meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

EFFORT

It's high time to take action in response to climate change

An Australian media outlet recently reported that the western part of Sydney might turn into a place where people could not live in the future.

At present, the average temperature of the area is about 5°C higher than the city centre and it is expected to go up in the years to come.

In January Spain was hit by the heaviest snow in 100 years and Japan also had the heaviest snowfall since 1986.

In early February, large masses of ice melted suddenly due to high temperature and caused a glacial slide in the northern mountainous area of

India, claiming many people's lives.

Experts said that such facts highlight the seriousness of abnormal climatic conditions, expressing concern that such natural disasters might happen more frequently in future.

It is well known that abnormal weather conditions are generated by the depletion of the ozone layer and global warming caused by greenhouse gas emission.

According to data available, the average concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere hit record levels across the world in 2019 and 2020.

Experts predict that the

concentration would continue to rise this year.

On the other hand, the area of the ozone layer hole in the sky over the Antarctic had grown 50 percent larger than that a year before to a record high on September 20 last year. And the depletion of the ozone layer over the North Pole has also reached an unprecedented level.

The World Meteorological Organization said that though the ozone layer over the North Pole was observed to have been severely depleted in 2011, it was not as serious as in 2020. Reality demands that humankind stay on high alert to it, it added.

In December last year the EU

set a goal to cut carbon dioxide emissions by at least 55 percent as against the 1990s' level by 2030.

At a recent international meeting over twenty countries presented a target of "carbon neutrality" and some 40 countries pledged to make positive efforts against climate change.

Environmental experts are now calling on the international community to have a clear understanding of abnormal weather conditions and their aftermath and turn out for building a "healthy globe".

By Min Chol PT

ARCHAEOLOGY

Bird fossil in Mesozoic age unearthed in DPRK

A bird fossil in the Mesozoic age was unearthed in the Paektho-dong area, Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province.

In the course of intensifying investigation and research into newly establishing the position of the Paektho-dong fossil reserve, the palaeontology research group of the geology faculty of Kim Il Sung University found out a rare fossil of bird vividly preserving its head, toe bones, 11 primary flight feathers of wings and small plumes at the third layer of the Sinuiju formation that belongs to the lower part of the Cretaceous period of the

Mesozoic age distributed in the Paektho-dong area.

The researchers have ascertained that it was a bird adapted itself to flying in view of its formal and structural characters of its feather.

They also unearthed other fossils, and conducted research into the discovered fossils of vertebrate and invertebrate animals and plants to prove scientifically that the area is the place where all vertebrate animals made their appearance in the Mesozoic age in the DPRK.

And they newly set up the Sinuiju biological group

representing the lower part of the Cretaceous period in the Mesozoic age and reconfirmed again the Paektho-dong fossil reserve which is of academic significance in the research into the ecological environment of the Mesozoic age.

The national sci-tech deliberation evaluated that the research results are a great research achievement of academic value in deepening research into the Cretaceous biological group of the Mesozoic era in the DPRK, and named the bird fossil "Paektho bird".

KCNA



1. Bird fossil preserving feathers 2. Detailed structural map of the bird fossil preserving feathers 3. Feather branch and small one of the bird fossil preserving feathers 4. Fish fossils 5. Fossils of dinosaur's tooth and primitive mammal 6. Fossils of the progenitor of frog and pterosaur 7. Insect fossils (Hymenoptera) 8. Insect fossils (Blattidae) 9. Insect fossils (Odonata) 10. Insect fossils (Cicadidae) 11. Equisetum hiemale 12. Pteridium aquilinum species 13. Seed bracken species 14. Cycasrevoluta 15. Baiera

SCENIC ATTRACTION

Sinphyong Kumgang

In Sinphyong County, North Hwanghae Province, there is a scenic spot which is beautiful enough to be called small Mt Kumgang for the fantastic rocks and waterfalls.

There are 72 picturesque sites here.

In the Chongsokjong valley which is just the first gate to Sinphyong Kumgang, the Sinphyong resting place nestles, adjoining a lake and mysteriously-shaped cliffs.

Across the lake, there are Chottae Rock in the shape of a candle that stopped melting halfway and Kwi Rock that resembles a human ear.

The beauty of gorge in the Tohwa valley is so breathtaking that an oversight would be a regret.

As the place forms a narrow ravine and is surrounded by cliffs and mountains, it looks as if there is no way ahead at a glance.

There are many other scenic sights including Jumok (fist) Rock standing in defence of beautiful scenery of Tohwa valley, Sujong (crystal) spring from which different kinds of water gush out, and four Tohwa swamps frequented by fairies from heavens.

Mt Huiryang, which stands opposite the Tohwa stream, is beautiful in all seasons, but it has been noted for its snowscape since olden times.

The acme of Sinphyong Kumgang is the Nounpho valley.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

Viewing



RYU KWANG HYOK

Citizens view the year's first full moon at the Kamchan Pavilion on Moran Hill in Pyongyang.

FOLK DISH

Special dishes on first full moon day

February 26 this year is *Jongwoldaeborum*, or folk holiday which falls on the fifteenth day of the first month by lunar calendar.

Since olden times, the Korean people have celebrated the day on a large scale as folk holiday next to the lunar New Year's Day.

They have cooked and eaten such typical foods as *ogokpap* (a dish made with all five grains) and dishes made of nine kinds of dried greens.

Ogokpap is made of five kinds of grains, especially rice, millet, kaoliang, soybean and adzuki bean, and the grains differ according to localities.

The nine-dried-green dish is prepared with hot pepper leaf, bracken, osmund, goosefoot and others in Pyongyang, and platycodon, *Codonopsis lanceolata*, aster, brown seaweed and others in the area of Hamgyong province.

They were called "black edible herbs" as the colour of dried edible greens is black.

Folk have said that such dishes on the day make people highly resistant to intense heat and diseases as well that year.

The custom of preparing and eating *ogokpap* and nine edible greens is associated with the love for their native land of the Korean



PANG UN SIM / KUMSUGANGSAN

Ogokpap, or a dish made with five different grains.



PANG UN SIM / KUMSUGANGSAN

Nine dried edible greens.

people, who have created the way of dietary life of their own and developed food culture by using different food materials which are available in their localities.

It also contains the idea of the principle of taking care of their health that they can live in good health only when they have *ogokpap* and a variety of dried edibles evenly without having an unbalanced diet.

Such a custom is still carried on today to add national flavour.

By Sin Pyol PT

Jongwoldaeborum

In Korea, the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar is celebrated as a folk holiday called *Jongwoldaeborum* or First Full Moon Day.

On this day, Korean ancestors held various ceremonial events out of a simple desire for fortune and a good harvest in the New Year.

The events usually started on the 14th of the first lunar month, which they called the small full-moon day as compared with the big full-

moon day, another name for *Jongwoldaeborum*. The small full-moon day events were mainly intended to signal the start of the year's farming. On the evening of the big full-moon day, they welcomed the full moon.

They climbed up hills or other high places near their villages and made wishes for a good harvest and fortune in the New Year looking at the round full moon. At that time, they believed that many good things would happen to the first person to see the rising full moon in that year.

