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GREETING

Kim Jong Un sends greetings to Bashar al-Assad

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, sent a message of greeting to Bashar al-Assad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on March 8 on the 58th anniversary of the March 8 Revolution in Syria.

In the message he extended warm greetings to the Syrian President, government and people on behalf of the DPRK

government and people and said that the March 8 revolution was a historic event through which the Syrian people brought about a great change in their struggle for achieving independent development, adding that the Korean people extend invariable support and solidarity to the Syrian counterpart in their just cause for national

sovereignty, territorial integrity, peace and development.

He expressed conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries with a long history and tradition would grow stronger on the road of defending independence, justice and peace.

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INSPECTION

Premier visits different sectors in South Phyongan

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, inspected different sectors in South Phyongan Province.

At the Sunchon Cement

Complex, he encouraged officials and workers of the complex in their efforts to increase production by waging a brisk mass technical innovation movement for implementing the first year's tasks of the new five-year plan set forth at the

Eighth Congress of the WPK.

Looking round different places of the complex, he stressed the need to prioritize the repair of equipment, strengthen connections between processes and take thorough scientific and technological steps for raising productivity.

At the organic compound fertilizer factory and the Yakjon Farm in Sukchon County, he urged leading agricultural officials to break with formalism and bragging and do their work with stress placed on boosting grain production on low-yielding fields and increasing the proportion of farm work done by machines.

The field consultative meetings discussed the measures to lay a foundation for revitalizing cement production by mapping out immediate and long-term plans and promoting the updating of equipment and technology and to step up the preparations for this year's farming in the agricultural sector and properly enforce the field assignment system within the framework of the sub-workteam management system.

KCNA



Premier Kim Tok Hun (middle) talks with officials on his inspection tour of the Sunchon Cement Complex.

ECONOMY

Economic sectors witness production growth

The Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes and other metallurgical factories are increasing the production of iron and steel while ensuring the normal operation of oxygen-blast furnace and oxygen plant by tapping reserves and potentials to the maximum.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and February 8 Vinalon Complex are boosting fertilizer production as they widely explore the possibility of rational working methods.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex and other

thermal power stations are increasing power production as they press on with the repair of generating equipment and current production at the same time and operate all equipment at full capacity.

Such hydropower plants as Hochongang, Jangjingang and Pujongang power stations ensured high water level and highly-efficient operation.

Coal mines in the coal industry sector introduced advanced blasting and efficient hewing methods to meet lithological conditions so as to step up coal

production.

The mining industry sector is speeding up the expansion of production capacity as it increases mineral ore production in different mines.

The Anju Insulator Factory overfulfilled the plan for producing insulating paints to be sent to the agricultural sector in the first quarter and various units of the machine-building industry sector make good results in the production of farming materials and spare parts.

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau is fulfilling its transport

EMULATION

Socialist emulation drive spurs economic construction

The Korean people, who have turned out to fulfil the first-year tasks of the new five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, are conducting an active socialist emulation drive.

The drive is now under way on a nationwide scale embracing workteams, workshops, enterprises, farms and research institutions in all sectors and units.

This is a socialist emulation drive which working people or groups conduct among them as they help one another forward with an eye to raising labour productivity and further speed up production and construction on the basis of the self-consciousness, activeness and creativity of socialist working people.

The DPRK has always attached importance to the drive in reenergizing the economy and boosting production.

The drive that was conducted along with the dynamic march of the Chollima movement, which began and instantly spread throughout the DPRK in the 1950s, enabled the country to make a giant leap to do what others did in centuries, thereby carrying out the historic task of socialist industrialization in a matter of 14 years, and usher in a heyday in all fields of production and construction under the slogan of "speed campaign" in the 1980s.

And in the 2000s, it helped significantly boost national power and bring about a heyday of construction and a great golden age of construction when modern streets, dwelling houses and cultured activity bases were built. Last year, despite the unprecedentedly rigorous conditions and environment,

the drive gave free rein to the spiritual strength of the people and service personnel, thereby making it possible to successfully complete the reconstruction of the areas that were afflicted by natural disasters in a few months.

Last February, workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex appealed to all other working people across the country to go on an all-out offensive and all-out death-defying campaign to accelerate national rejuvenation and development and bring the people a happy life earlier by implementing the decisions of the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In response to the call, all the working people across the country kindled the flames of collective emulation drive.

Amid the drive, the revolutionary zeal and creative activity of the producer masses are being raised to spur continuous innovation, creation and advance.

In this course, workers at the key sectors of the national economy executed their national economic plans for February and news of innovation is reported everywhere in succession.

In keeping with the growing zeal of the masses, profitable economic management methods are found out and applied to practice.

The socialist emulation drive, which has fully demonstrated its might in the past and at present, has become an undertaking of the masses themselves and stimulates the first year's march for implementing the new five-year plan.

Ji Myong Chon

plans at 103 percent every day as it keeps abreast of the movement of engines and freight cars and the amount of freight and scrupulously composes trains and organizes traffic. Thus, they have carried thousands of tons of more freight than planned.

The general salt production enterprise dynamically carries on the work to readjust and reinforce the drainage canal operating system of saltworks and ensure the rational use of reserve evaporating ponds.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

STATEMENT

That rapprochement three years ago is most unlikely to come back

Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, issued the following statement on Monday:

I heard the news that the south Korean authorities, who had long been suffering from stress in a fix, launched a war game against our Republic on March 8.

In other words, they dared to send us a serious challenge. It seems as if they are capable of dealing with the consequences to be entailed by the war drill they started despite our just demand and all the fellow countrymen's unanimous protest and denunciation.

Our Party Central Committee already clarified the stand that whether or not inter-Korean relations return to the new starting point of peace and prosperity as witnessed in those spring days three years ago depends on the attitude of the south Korean authorities.

Everyone might know that it pointed to the hysterical frenzy for war drills that comes round in the south every March and August and served as a meaningful warning that it might be the last chance for repairing north-south relations.

The south Korean authorities, accustomed to paying lip-service, are busy billing the exercise as "annual" and

"defensive" drill in character and a computer-based simulation drill involving no actual manoeuvres with its scale and content drastically "reduced". They seem to expect from us "flexible judgment" and "understanding", but theirs is, indeed, puerile and shameless absurdity.

They seem to be inborn idiot or to have become stammerer bereft of judgment as they always waver, which makes us think once again.

We have opposed the joint military drills targeting the fellow countrymen, but never argued about their scale or form.

Because the essence and nature of the aggressive war games against the fellow countrymen in the north never change despite any change in their form—whether they are staged behind the scene or whether they involve only 50 or 100 personnel due to the malignant epidemic.

Could they be still so ignorant of the fact that we are not taken in by such gibberish which is as good as asking us to see a mad dog as a meek sheep?

To be frank, we feel pity for the south Korean authorities who obstinately stake their lot on hostility against the fellow countrymen even by resorting to pointless war games although they are in a quagmire

War games and hostility can never go with dialogue and cooperation.

... Every action has its own result.

of political, economic and epidemic impasse.

Perhaps, they are suffering from an extreme persecution complex resulting from abnormal hostility and distrust towards us.

They stealthily staged over 110 big and small war drills in 2018, more than 190 in 2019 and some 170 in 2020 although they promised to discontinue the drills. We have long been aware of them and intended to make them pay dearly for that in time.

They might know better than anyone else about what will happen on north-south relations if they continue to be hell-bent on north-targeted war games this way in a double-faced manner. We have pointed to that repeatedly and offered them ample opportunity, exercising patience.

Nevertheless, they have opted once again for "March of war" and "March of crisis" under the eyes of all the Korean nationals, instead of "March of

warmth". They mean to bring a biting wind, not a balmy breeze hoped for by all in the spring days of March.

The south Korean authorities should be aware that they have overstepped the mark against their wish.

Their morbidly ingrained confrontation complex and hostility against the fellow countrymen in the north have become incurable and we have come to a conclusion once again that there is no point in talking with them over anything.

War games and hostility can never go with dialogue and cooperation.

Given the current situation where the south Korean authorities persist in hostile acts of denying dialogue and work to completely destroy the foundation of trust through ceaseless war games, we have become compelled to put on the agenda the issue of dissolving the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country as there is no *raison d'être* for the organization for dialogue with the south.

And we are examining the matter of dissolving the Kumgangsan International Tourism Administration and other related organizations as no cooperation and exchanges with the south Korean authorities hostile towards us are needed any longer.

Such crucial steps have already been reported to our supreme leadership.

We will watch the future attitude and action of the south Korean authorities and we are envisioning a special measure of resolutely abrogating even the north-south agreement in the military field as they may dare to commit more provocative acts.

Every action has its own result.

What is clear is that the south Korean authorities in the closing days of their term of office may find themselves in extreme distress and uneasiness for their recent grave challenge.

As clarified at the historic Eighth Congress of our Party, they will receive as much as they have tried and paid.

We take this opportunity to warn the new US administration being eager to give off powder smell on our land. If it wants to sleep in peace for coming four years, it had better refrain from unseemly seeking any job that will make them sleepless from the beginning.

Whatever and however the south Korean authorities may do dictated by their master in the future, such warm spring days three years ago, which they desire so much, will not come easily again.

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Nationwide

North Hwanghae Province focuses on spring tree planting

Millions of trees of good species have recently been planted in a little over ten days in mountains and fields of North Hwanghae Province.

Yonhan County is overfulfilling by over 10 percent its daily plan for planting wild fruit trees including chestnut and black chokeberry on the principle of planting right trees in the right soil.

Minor power stations hit Q1 production targets in Jagang

The medium- and small-sized power stations in Jagang Province carried out their plans for the first quarter of the year at 117.9 percent by March 10.

Those of the Hungju Youth Power Station repaired the blades of water turbines to produce hundreds of kilowatts of more momentary power and double the power generation over the same period of last year.

Hwaphyong County is pushing ahead with projects to

technologically upgrade minor power stations in it and thus turn out more electric power with the same amount of water.

Lots of tractors maintained, farm machine parts produced

The agricultural sector has maintained tens of thousands of tractors and turned out various kinds of farm machine parts this year.

North Hwanghae Province overfulfilled daily plans for maintaining tractors by over 10 percent and South Hwanghae Province finished the repair of tractors more than 20 days earlier than scheduled.

Kaesong City introduced rational working methods to complete tractor repair and Pyongyang, Nampho and other cities are pushing the maintenance of vehicles at the final stage.

The Haeju Tractor Parts Factory overfulfilled its production plans for engine block, crankshaft, various kinds of gears and others by over 30 percent every day.

Production of major custom-built equipment pushed as

planned

The Tacan Heavy Machine Complex has overfulfilled its processing and assembly plans for major ordered equipment by over 20 percent every day.

Such equipment included facilities for establishing the C1 chemical industry and generating equipment to be sent to medium-sized and small hydroelectric power stations and giant power plants.

Railway bureau overfulfills daily plans

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau is carrying out its daily transportation plans at 103 percent.

The Suncheon railway branch bureau is leading others, overfulfilling its quota by over 20 percent every day.

Its branch in Pukchang is increasing the passing quantity of goods in the sections with steep slopes to transport large quantities of coal to leading electricity producers each day.

The bureau has transported thousands of tons of more freight than planned so far in March.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Over 120 young men and women in North Phyongan Province volunteer to work on major fronts of economic construction.

Seventh Congress of Socialist Women's Union of Korea to be convened

The Seventh Congress of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea will take place in Pyongyang in mid-June.

The congress will comprehensively analyse and review the work of the women's union during the period under review, and discuss tasks and ways for making a tangible

contribution to the all-round development of Korean-style socialism by further strengthening the union into a powerful political organization, true to important tasks set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

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Thaechon paves way for local development



Located in the inland area of North Phyongan Province, 70 percent of Thaechon County consists of mountains and there are few large factories and enterprises.

But its appearance has undergone a sea change as compared to a decade ago and locally-run factories have been revitalized to contribute to the improvement of the people's living standards.

County town area spruced up

Visitors can see wide roads spreading here and there when they enter the county town.

Many buildings stand in rows along the roads, including low-storey houses painted with acrylic coating materials, a noodle house with Korean-style gabled roof, the county gymnasium, modernly refurbished county people's hospital and Undok Health Complex equipped with a variety of public service facilities. The Mirae e-library built as a base for making all the people well versed in science and technology stands on a picturesque hill that commands a bird's-eye view of the county.

Electronic screens are set up in different places of streets to tell pedestrians time and weather.

Last year, the county built a large-scale waste disposal factory and detachable laystalls in a dozen residential quarters in order to protect its ecological

environment. The blocks produced at the waste disposal factory are light and very hard and contributed greatly to the repair of buildings which were damaged by flood last year.

The county is now making preparations for rebuilding its town area as wonderfully as Samjiyon in Ryanggang Province and its farm villages as the village of the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm in North Hamgyong Province in the period of the new five-year plan.

By relying on locally-abundant raw materials

Thaechon County is reenergizing locally-run industrial factories using locally-available raw materials.

It newly refurbished condiments production facilities of the county foodstuff factory into labour- and energy-saving ones to supply enough condiments to residents. It is also making achievements in modernizing and ensuring the domestic production of sugar and other confectionary production equipment and developing new products by relying on wild fruits.

The county paper mill turns out packaging, cardboard, writing and other paper for different purposes with rice straw as raw materials.

The county produces laundry soap using locally-abundant Korean evodia fruits, and it is in

great demand in neighbouring counties for the high quality.

Among specialities of the county are cushion and hat made of sedge by the county grasswork production cooperative. They win popularity at the annual national August 3 consumer goods exhibition for the smartness and high quality.

A mandarin fish breeding base was built in the area of Tokhwari with good water quality and abundant water resources and large numbers of mandarin fish fries were released in Lake Thaechon last year.

The county also built an organic compound fertilizer factory which is conducive to the increased production of grain.

Giving full play to existing power-generating capacity

The economic revitalization of the county is unthinkable apart from the Unhung Youth Power Station in the county. The county has a high average annual precipitation and rivers are distributed densely.

The power station, which is located on the banks of the large Taeryong River generates electricity by using the water of the Chonbang River, a tributary of the Taeryong. A characteristic feature is that the power station is unaffected by seasonal influence.

"Because it is not frozen even in mid-winter as the water of the Chonbang River flows down

ceaselessly along hundreds of metres of waterway tunnel cut through mountains. That is why we produce electricity all the year round," said Pang Chang Bong, manager of the power station.

Last year, it increased the number of hydraulic turbine blades as compared to previously to boost turbine output while reducing the loss of water. It also remodelled the excitation transformer to generate voltage with less residual current.

The power station pushes ahead with the repair of generating facilities, dam, floodgate, waterway and other hydraulic structures and technical upgrading as well.

"We are planning to generate more electricity by improving the efficiency of generating equipment and putting water conservation on a scientific basis," said the manager.

Production of livestock products with low cost

The cosy and clean Thaechon Youth Rabbit-breeding Farm stands at the foot of a mountain about eight kilometres away from the county town.

"Our farm was inspected by Chairman Kim Jong Il," said manager Choe Jong Sun.

During his visit to the farm in July 2008, the Chairman said that rabbits should be bred on a large scale since it is easy to raise and has economic efficiency and, to this end, seed

rabbits should be produced in large numbers, and spoke highly of the achievements made by the farm.

The farm's business mode enables them to increase livestock production with less costs.

"One of the secrets is the effective use of mountains," said the senior engineer.

The farm nestles in a place surrounded by mountains on three sides. The mountains are over a hundred hectares in area and the valleys are deep. They were naked over 20 years ago.

Employees planted mixed forests using acacia, chestnut, pine-nut, bush clover, bristle-tooth oak and hazel, and then created fodder fields and a herb garden with nutritious grass and medicinal plants including arrowroot, orchard grass, alfalfa and windflower.

"We secure dozens of tons of powder grass by cutting hundreds of tons of tree leaves and fresh grasses growing between May and June every year and drying and pulverizing them. The powder grass includes different kinds of nutritious substances with high digestion and absorptivity and it does not change even if it is kept for a long time," said the manager.

The powder grass is mixed with cultivated fodder at the certain rate before reprocessing to feed it in the rainy season and the period between winter and next early spring.

As the feed with high nutritive substance content is fed all the year round by properly combining fresh and dried grass according to seasons, the proportion of grain feed has been halved as compared to before.

The farm works hard to prevent diseases by developing and producing traditional veterinary medicines with lots of herbs growing in mountains every year.

At present, the farm breeds tens of thousands of healthy young rabbits every year and sends good strains of breed rabbits to cities and counties in the province.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

RECYCLING

Waste materials bring benefits to communities

A research team of the Environmental Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences solved scientific and technological problems arising in the recycling of plastic waste.

As there has been a rapid increase in the production of plastic products worldwide, plastic waste became a major contributor to the pollution of global ecological environment.

According to Kim Mun Nam, section chief of the institute, the research team found out the pyrolytic properties of various

plastic high polymers contained in plastic waste, worked out methods of decolorizing and deodorizing the pyrolytic oil and established pollution prevention measures in the pyrolysis process. They also set up a rational process for improving the quality of pyrolytic oil and developed a refining method.

Their research result contributed to the prevention of environmental pollution caused by burying and burning plastic waste that destroys ecological environment and to the recycling

of energy resources.

It has been introduced to building materials production cooperatives and other units.

The Hungdok waste disposal factory is located in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province.

The factory recycles waste to benefit the economic life of Hungdok District.

"The biggest challenge for us was to deal with the environmental pollution caused by the waste that piled up for decades on the banks of the Rungyon Stream. So we decided

to adopt a step-by-step approach like an ant gnawing at a bone," said manageress Han Song Ok.

The factory made slag blocks by mixing cinders from household refuses with carbide slag from the February 8 Vinalon Complex.

The high quality blocks are said to be enjoying an increasing demand. They produced 500 000 slag blocks in one year and supplied them to several construction sites in the district and others across the country.

They also make substitute fuel from plastic waste. Therefore, the farms near the factory operate farm machines on the substitute fuel to do such farm works as tilling of paddy and dry fields.

With plastic bottles and wrappers, they produce floor

tiles for salt fields and reel glass yarn from broken pieces of glass to make slates.

According to Ri Sok Jin, head of a workteam, the factory turned out tens of thousands of slates with some ten tons of glass yarn.

The factory which took the first step as a producer of slag blocks is now equipped with a variety of machines and facilities and over ten production processes and diversified into more than 20 kinds of products.

"The factory turned the heaps of waste that remained for dozens of years into valuable things and, furthermore, reduced environmental pollution remarkably," said an official of the district people's committee.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

DEVICE

Exhaust purifying device unveiled



KIM YONG CHAN

Researchers at Kim Chaek University of Technology are engaged in an experiment on reduction catalyst.

The applied chemical engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology has recently developed a device that can effectively purify the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles.

With the increase of car and other means of transportation in the world, harmful ingredients in the exhaust fumes discharged by them are exerting harmful effect on life activities of humans and ecological environment.

Research has been conducted on a wide scale to purify the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles.

There are various ways for improving the quality of fuel and increasing combustion efficiency by rationally improving the structure of working organs and working environment.

“No matter how much the quality of fuel is improved or combustion efficiency is increased, it is impossible to

fully remove the discharge of harmful ingredients like carbon monoxide. But the use of catalyser can purify almost all the harmful elements in exhaust fumes,” said developer Jong Song Chol.

Researchers conducted an experiment to verify application effect by using selective reduction catalyser which is a locally abundant material.

In the course of this, they thermodynamically stabilized the performance of catalyser and increased activity, irrespective of the rate of rotation of engine and load, in the way of coating porous carrier with catalyser material.

According to the results of dozens of rounds of running tests after installing the purifying device at petrol-engine motor vehicles, it almost got rid of harmful ingredients including carbon monoxide and nitrogen compound in the exhaust gas and increased the lifespan of catalyser over two times as compared to before.

By Kim Il Jin PT

TESTER

Portable testing device proves effective

The portable lung-function testing device (pictured) developed by a hospital is reportedly helpful to its health workers for medical service.

“Compatible with computer, the device can be used at any time and in any place and the results are stored in a database,” said Kim Kwang Myong, chief of the respiratory internal medicine department.

The new device is only a fifth of a notebook computer in size and uses 12v DC.

It can check 27 lung-function examination indexes including forced lung capacity, breathing capacity and amount of spontaneous draft and display



the results in numerical value or graphically.

In particular, it shows the normal estimated values of related test indexes against actual measurements on the

basis of sex, age, weight and height of the patients to help users judge whether their lung function is normal or abnormal.

According to doctor Choe Son Hwa, the medical device can widely be used not only at clinic-level medical institutions but also in the households as its production cost is low and it is easy to operate and highly accurate in measurement.

The device, which proved fully effective during clinical application, was highly appreciated at the 34th national sci-tech festival.

By Pang Un Ju PT

APP

Application helps promote national martial art

The Korean Taekwon-Do Committee has unveiled a three-dimensional app for education and amusement contributing to popularizing Taekwon-Do.

“The program makes education in Taekwon-Do down-to-earth and helps users have a better understanding of the traditional martial art

of the Korean nation through sparring training and matches in virtual reality,” said Ham Jong Gi, department chief of the committee.

It is designed to make users acquire and practise various hand and foot techniques for sparring and play simulated matches with foreign Taekwon-

Do aces.

As they reproduce different movements, they will be able to have a better understanding of their technical requirements and experience them in virtual reality.

They can also study historical knowledge related to Taekwon-Do through a quiz.

“The app which is greatly helpful for Taekwon-Doists and fans will also contribute to stimulating public interest in the sport,” said Ham.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

FERTILIZER

Organic fertilizer developed

Earthworm compost and nutritive solution developed by a research group of Kim Il Sung University is drawing particular interest in the agricultural sector.

The compost is a biological humus produced by earthworms after consuming a large amount of organic waste.

“The earthworm compost promotes the growth of plants 1.5-2 times faster than ordinary compost and 1.3-1.4 times faster than chemical fertilizer,” said Kim Chol Song, head of the research group.

Kim and the research group have carried out extensive research on earthworm for decades.

In the past they extracted and separated glycolipoprotein G-90 pertaining to earthworm and developed an effective medicine for vascular system diseases and a plant physiology activator that improves the growth rate of plants.

Research results showed that earthworm digests any organic materials except metal, glass and rubber and decomposes them into substances that do no harm to people before excretion.

In particular, when the earthworm compost is applied

to edible plants, it helps raise their harvest and improve the taste and nutritive value incomparably higher than when applying chemical fertilizers. So it is widely encouraged throughout the world.

The research group chose a strain of breeding earthworm with high productivity of compost by intensifying research on thousands of native earthworm species and widely bred it to establish a production method of quality earthworm compost and nutritive solution.

Last year, the earthworm nutritive solution was sprayed for trial to the vegetable fields of the Sosamjong Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Ryokpho District, Pyongyang, which was hit by flood and typhoon last year. The result was surprising: the farm harvested two times more vegetables than the previous year in the field.

“The earthworm compost will produce an important effect if it is applied to all farmland across the country. We are now working on the improvement of the method of producing earthworm compost,” said Kim Chol Song.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



JON KWANG HUN

A researcher analyses ingredients of earthworm nutritive solution at the functional and biological products development company of Kim Il Sung University.

FOOD

Nutritious foods made by traditional recipes

The demand for the products of the Rangnang Jihyang foodstuffs production company is now increasing among commercial service bases.

There are dozens of kinds of products made from natural materials. They can instantly or easily be cooked in families or at any other place.

“We produce tasty foodstuffs containing rich nutritive substances by applying a variety of processing methods developed by Korean ancestors,” said Kim Chun Ok, director of

the company.

Purchasers often seek the kaoliang taffy made by boiling meat hard and other kinds of taffy made by harmoniously adding such materials as perilla and glutinous rice and others made from wild fruits and medicinal herbs including the fruit of matrimony vine.

Freshwater fish powder, combined vegetable powder and vegetable oil products are also popular with users.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

BENEFITS

Tax-free mechanism put in place for over 40 years



Tax, by which some of incomes are received compulsorily from individuals or groups to provide funds necessary for maintaining and managing states, came into being along with the birth of states.

In all countries tax is the fundamental source of financial incomes of the states, irrespective of any type of social system, as they cannot be maintained without tax.

However, tax does not exist in the DPRK.

The law on completely abolishing the tax system was adopted at the Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on

March 21 1974 with unanimous approval.

President Kim Il Sung set forth the idea of abolishing the Japanese imperialists' anti-popular tax system in the Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland he published during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and established a popular and democratic tax system after founding the DPRK.

The new tax system played their part in laying the foundations of the self-supporting national economy by restoring and developing the country's economy, accelerating the socialist transformation of relations of production in urban and rural areas and promoting the people's well-being.

Conditions and possibilities were provided to abolish the system as the socialist transformation of relations of production was completed in the late 1950s and the solid foundation of socialist industrialization was laid.

Afterwards, when economic conditions were ripe enough to get rid of the tax system with the rapid development of the socialist economy, the DPRK government started to abolish tax system by stages. Between 1964

and 1966, the agricultural tax in kind was totally eliminated and the ordinance of the Supreme People's Assembly on totally abolishing the tax system was adopted in 1974.

Thanks to the law, which came into effect from April 1 1974, the Korean people could be freed from all kinds of taxes.

Since then on, the state has fully guaranteed the material and cultural life of workers, farmers and other people in a responsible manner in the DPRK, and working people are rewarded according to the quantity and quality of work done and provided with basic living conditions, thanks to its popular policies.

The socio-political and economic basis for the complete abolition of the tax system was the socialist state economy and cooperative economy which constitute the economic foundations of the state, the unity and cooperation of working people which make up the mainstay of social relations and the independent national economy which is unaffected by external environment and influence.

Ryang Yu Jin, *department chief of the Law Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences*

State benefits on the increase



RYU KWANG HYOK

A doctor from the Puksoong Polyclinic, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, does a regular checkup in a household in her charge.

The Korean people have enjoyed lots of social benefits from the state since the true people's government was established in their country over 70 years ago.

There are many state benefits related to food, clothing and housing. Especially, thanks to housing benefit, they are provided with houses gratis.

As the universal free compulsory education system was enforced in 1959, young people learn to their heart's content without paying a penny and university students study as they receive scholarship from the state.

And the online education system enables working people to get university education for free while working.

According to the ordinance of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK which was promulgated in 2012, free 12-year compulsory education is legally guaranteed for all children and other young people aged from 5 to 17.

The state takes full charge of education for all children throughout the country as it provides them school things.

All the people enjoy the benefit of universal free medical care.

Any patient can go to hospital to undergo treatment for free and have preventive vaccination the moment they are born.

Under the well-organized district doctor system, doctors visit families in their charge for regular checkups and take thoroughgoing steps to prevent the influx and spread of epidemics.

According to Jo In Su, director of the Okryu Children's Hospital, although medical facilities in the hospital are very expensive in the world, local people do not know how much each of them costs, how much foreign people pay for a checkup with such a facility in their countries and how great the benefits of free medical service the Koreans enjoy are.

In addition, all working people in the country get the benefits of treatment and health promotion through such systems as of social security, social insurance, recuperation and relaxation, and maternity leave.

By **Ri Sang Il** PT

People's homes

As every bird needs a nest to feather, every man needs a home to lead a normal life.

A lot of houses and streets were built in all parts of the DPRK from the period of postwar reconstruction when the Pyongyang speed was created to the period between the 1970s and 1980s when the "golden age of Pyongyang" was ushered in. Among them are Pulgun, Chollima, Changgwang and Kwangbok streets in Pyongyang.

The modern dwelling houses were given to common working people free of charge.

In the new millennium, common educators and scientists moved into new homes on Unha Scientists Street, Wisong Scientists Dwelling District, Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street which were newly built in and around the capital city.

In 2016 when natural disasters hit the North Hamgyong provincial area and last year when floods and typhoons seriously damaged several areas at the same time leaving many people homeless, the Workers' Party of Korea regarded the reconstruction of their houses as the most urgent matter and saw to it that miracles of construction were performed in the disaster relief efforts.

As they received new houses

which were built more splendidly in their home towns and villages where the traces of calamity were completely removed within a few dozen days, the disaster victims could hardly repress their mounting excitement.

"We have to pay for the use of our flat every month but it is so trivial that my husband doesn't ever bother with it and my children even don't know what it is," said Kim Pok Sil living in Mirae Scientists Street.

Ri Ok Gum, a resident of Ryomyong Street, said that

foreigners who visited her flat said such a flat might cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in their country and the Korean people are the happiest in the world as they are free from rents.

Most Koreans do not even think about how much money people have to earn to pay the rent for their houses in other countries. This is just one segment of the reality in the DPRK society where they do not even know the word "rent".

By **Pak Song Min** PT



An educator's family enjoy the nocturnal view of Pyongyang from the balcony of their flat on Ryomyong Street provided for them by the state gratis.

EDUCATION

Abacus-based education helps enhance intellectual faculty

“Ryang Chong Song, Choe Kwang Mu and Ri Ryu Mi of our school have excellent numerical calculation faculties. Their quick speed of calculation and memory is admirable,” said Yun Kyong Hui, teacher of Kwangbok Primary School in Mangyongdae District which is affiliated to Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

They are 11 years old this year, and they can promptly do sums not only in addition and subtraction of the number of six figures but also in multiplication and division of the number of four figures.

Ryang Chong Song won the computer-aided five dimensional robot designing contest on several occasions.

Choe Kwang Mu has an amazing super speed reading ability.

He excelled in the image faculty of space diagram and mathematical thinking, thus establishing a new record in the school-wide Rubik's cube contest.

Ri Ryu Mi won the literary prize two times by contributing her poetical works on several occasions to the Juvenile Literature journal favoured by schoolchildren.

She recites poems as she calculates numbers simultaneously.

A noticeable thing is that they are not gifted with such talents.

According to their class teacher Yun Kyong Hui, they were ordinary pupils common in scholarly performance or other aspects.

They acquired such an ability as they received about a year-long extracurricular experimental education as objects of pedagogical research by Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

Their parents attribute it to the “benefit of abacus education”.

“Kwang Mu used to be reproached by his teacher as he was too mischievous to concentrate on lessons. But as he received the education

“

The intelligent development method based on abacus ... proves effective in improving the faculties of thinking of schoolchildren.”

Kim Jong A, section chief of Pyongyang Teachers Training College

for intelligent development through abacus, he could improve cathexis. So once he is engrossed in study, his cogitative faculty and concentration are not disturbed even if TV is switched on in his room,” said his mother Kim Ok Gyong.

“The intelligent development method based on abacus is a method of developing the right brain in combination with various games including songs, skipping rope exercises and Rubik's cube. The method proves effective in improving the faculties of thinking including the concentration, memory, power of observation and imagination of schoolchildren by making fingers, eyes, ears, mouth and brains in action at the same time. This method is applicable to all primary and preschool children, I think,” said Kim Jong A, section chief of Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

By Sin Pyol PT



CHAE MYONG RIM
Choe Kwang Mu (left), Ri Ryu Mi (middle) and Ryang Chong Song (right) from Kwangbok Primary School in Mangyongdae District which is affiliated to Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

BOOK

Life stories about famous martial artists enjoy appeal

Biography of Korean Martial Art Masters is now all the rage in the DPRK.

The five-volume book started to be published in 2004 and the fifth volume was completed in 2009. Later, at the request of readers, the contents of the book

were rearranged by historical periods and new materials were added to them, and thereby the enlarged edition began to be published in 2014.

Kim Kwang Jin, student at Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry

and lover of the book, said he often has debates with his classmates about illustrious persons recorded in history, adding that to delve into the past along with their names is a great help to study.

The book includes the stories about lots of famous persons such as Pubunno who was loyal to King Tongmyong, founder king of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668); General Ondal who had been despised as a “fool” but rose to fame as an eminent commander; Ulji Mun Dok, an illustrious commander who brought about the “great victory in the Salsu River” against foreign invaders; Admiral Ri Sun Sin who was renowned as a “god of naval battle”; and Jang Po Go who held sway over the seas in the East.

Vol. 4 deals with the growth of Kung Ye who established the State of Thaebong (901-918), Kyon Hwon who built Later Paekje (900-936), and Wang Kon who founded Koryo, the first unified state of Korea that existed between



Book *Biography of Korean Martial Art Masters*.

SONG YONG SOK

REMEMBRANCE

Writer remembered with national anthem



“

Our country is really a beautiful country. ... The instructions of General Kim Il Sung were literally a poem and a song of patriotism.”

Pak Se Yong, former poet at the Central Committee of the Writers Union of Korea

Pak was born in Koyang County, Kyonggi Province, in 1902.

Having aspired to literary honours in childhood, he took up a job in the newspaper industry after graduating from an elementary school in Seoul in 1922. Later, he joined the Korean Artists' Proletarian Federation and started writing progressive poetry.

After Korea's liberation in August 1945, he published lyric poems reflecting thoughts and feelings of people in south Korea, but his dream and hope were completely shattered due to foreign occupation of it.

At last, he chose to come to the north making the turn of the destiny.

The happy looks of the people who turned out to build a new Korea and the introduction of democratic reforms including the land reform and the promulgation of the Law on Sex Equality and the Law on Nationalization of Industries set his heart on fire.

Especially, he was sleepless all night after meeting General Kim Il Sung one autumn day in 1946.

“Our country is really a beautiful country. It is sea-bound on three sides, and the mountains are imposing and sublime and the fields and gardens are full of all kinds of cereals and fruits. It has inexhaustible deposits of underground resources and treasures. Our people are the resourceful people who have a long history of five thousand years and glorious cultural traditions. ... The instructions of General Kim Il Sung were literally a poem and a song of patriotism,” Pak wrote in his diary that day.

Overwhelmed by great excitement, he wrote the words for two songs at a stretch burning the midnight oil. They were later named *Patriotic Song* and *The Glorious Motherland*.

He was a war writer during the Fatherland Liberation War between 1950 and 1953 and after the war he produced many masterpieces extolling the motherland until the advanced age of over eighty.

Many people recently visited the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery to lay bouquets at the grave of Pak Se Yong (pictured) to mark the 32nd anniversary of his death.

Pak wrote the words for *Patriotic Song*.

Since the national anthem of the DPRK came out more than 70 years ago, it has been sung at national ceremonies and international sporting events. When the national anthem reverberated at the military parades in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October last year and the Eighth Congress of the WPK last January, it specially imbued the Korean people with a surge of great pride and dignity.

As it impressively decorated the opening of the military parades which provided a glimpse of the dignity and weight of the powerful country, the song evoked a special memory of Pak Se Yong as well as pleasurable excitement among the people.

918 and 1392, the founding of the feudal states and their downfall.

“They all excelled in martial arts and founded countries, but as they took different views as to power and nation, the outcomes were different, ruin and prosperity. The story about them tells us a lot indeed,” said Ri Jong Chol, worker at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

There are also stories about Jo Mak Jong and An Kyong Mu who were noted for extraordinary jumping ability and agility and Kim Jung Myong who killed a tiger with only two kicks.

Jo Chong Un, writer at the Korea April 26 Animation Studio, said he wrote the book in order to tell readers about famous martial artists recorded in Korean history and help them realize that the worth of life gets different markedly according to for what such outstanding martial art skills are used.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

By Kim Rye Yong PT

RELATIONS

Agreement serves as starting point for DPRK-Russia cooperation

The DPRK and the USSR inked an agreement on economic and cultural cooperation on March 17 1949. It was the first entente between the DPRK and Russia, which heralded the start of diversified cooperation between them.

They further expanded and developed relations of cooperation through the conclusion of such pacts as the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation and the trade and navigation treaty.

Chairman Kim Jong Il and

President Putin met with each other on several occasions in the 21st century and adopted the DPRK-Russia joint declaration and the Moscow declaration, which served as historic occasions in promoting the development of bilateral relations.

The tradition of friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries has now entered a new stage of development.

President Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs of the DPRK met and held talks with President Putin in Vladivostok

of the Russian Federation in April 2019, which constituted an important event that laid a cornerstone for developing afresh the bond of the traditional friendship.

The ties of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries are getting closer at present. They are expanding the scope of relations in politics, the economy, culture and different other fields, while strengthening bilateral support and cooperation in their common interests. A variety

of events have been held in the two countries on the occasion of major anniversaries common to them and diversified cooperation developed in different sectors.

To steadily cement and develop the traditional DPRK-Russia friendship fully conforms to the aspirations of their peoples.

Their relations will constantly be cemented on an independent and equal basis in the future, too.

By Song Jong Ho PT

STATEMENT

We'll counter the US on principle of power for power, goodwill for goodwill, says Choe

We've already clarified that we will counter the US on the principle of power for power and goodwill for goodwill, said Choe Son Hui, first deputy minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The statement was made as the US has tried to contact the DPRK since mid-February through several routes including New York.

According to her, the US requested a contact with the DPRK by sending e-mails and telephone messages and sent a message imploring the latter to respond to its request through a third country even on the evening of the day before it staged the joint military exercise.

"We have already declared our stand that no DPRK-US contact and dialogue of any kind is possible unless the US rolls back its hostile policy towards the DPRK and, therefore, we will disregard

The DPRK makes it clear that it will not give the US such opportunities as in Singapore and Hanoi again and it will readily react to the sanctions leverage which the US is so much fond of...

such an attempt of the US in the future, too," she said.

In order for a dialogue to be held, an atmosphere for both parties to exchange words on an equal basis must be created, she said.

But what has been heard from the US since the emergence of the new regime is only the lunatic theory of "threat from north Korea" and groundless rhetoric about "complete

denuclearization", she noted.

Referring to the fact that the White House, the Department of State, the Department of Treasury, the Department of Justice and others reeled off a spate of rhetoric that the US is still very much concerned for deterring north Korea and it is now examining what kind of means are to be used including additional sanctions and diplomatic incentives, she said the US has maintained a high-handed posture, convening an international conference against the DPRK, issuing a "joint alert" and bringing an indictment against the DPRK.

She said that the US military keeps stealthily presenting military threat to the DPRK and is committing spying acts against it with the involvement of lots of reconnaissance assets and has openly started aggressive joint military exercises targeting the DPRK in disregard of the unanimous public concern and opposition at home and abroad.

Briefly

Cuba

President stresses need for domestic production of building materials

Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez on March 11 called for ensuring the domestic production of building materials.

He said that the construction sector should actively introduce science and technology into the production of building materials and make innovations to replace imported materials with locally available ones.

He also stressed the need to increase productivity in the construction sector so as to make further progress.

UN

Experts warn against Japan's effluence of radioactive water

Experts of the United Nations in a recent statement warned Japan against discharging radioactive-contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific.

The contaminated water remaining in the plant poses a grave danger to ecological environment, the statement said, adding it is inadmissible to let it flow into the ocean.

Since the Fukushima nuclear disaster caused by a massive earthquake in March 2011, rain and underground water flowed into reactors making a large amount of contaminated water. The Japanese authorities are trying to discharge it into the Pacific, which invites criticism from the international community.

Germany

Sexism rampant

Discrimination against women is getting serious in Germany.

Such practice is especially severe in pay. According to the country's federal bureau of statistics on March 10, working women's wages were 18 percent lower than men's last year.

Africa

Refugees die in obscurity

Many African refugees have been drowned to death while crossing the Mediterranean to seek asylum in Europe.

According to information jointly released by the International Organization for Migration and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on March 10, around 190 African refugees were confirmed to have died in the sea this year.

On March 9, two vessels sank with refugees on board, leaving 39 dead.

JAPAN

Hell for women

Last February, the president of the Tokyo Olympic Games organizing committee resigned over the blame for making a sexist remark in a meeting.

His misogynous remark left people dumbstruck when he ruthlessly said "a meeting attended by many women takes time".

Japanese women experience blatant discrimination in their socioeconomic life as well as in families.

In Japan, one of the countries with the largest wage gap

between men and women, female workers receive 26 percent less pay than men with the same jobs.

Giving birth to a baby entails the firing of the mother in the country. In August 2018, a Japanese institute reported that some 200 000 women are losing jobs on maternity leave every year.

Such social and institutional contradictions are making the conditions of women more miserable.

Since most of Japanese working women are employed by hotels, restaurants and

shops, many were dismissed from their jobs in the recent staff reductions imposed by many businesses due to economic recession.

A jobless woman in her forties reportedly attempted suicide four times as she could not afford the rent and cover the living expenses with her income.

"Women have always been disregarded in Japan. When anything bad happens to this society, the weak are the first to be forsaken by the society," she said.

According to statistical

information released by the Ministry of Welfare and Labour, the number of suicides in Japan in October 2020 reached 2 153, which is over 40 percent higher than the corresponding period of the year before and the suicide rate of women has gone up sharply over the period.

The root causes of the plight of the Japanese women are the contempt for women deeply rooted in all domains of the Japanese society including the political circles and the reactionary nature of the social system.

Japan is indeed a living hell which tramples on the dignity and rights of women.

By Om Ryong PT

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

SPORTS

Associations set themselves ambitious goals

Sports associations of the DPRK are organizing their work meticulously to achieve the goal of raising sports techniques a level higher this year.

The weightlifting association organized a short course to improve capabilities of coaches and give them a clear understanding of rules and regulations revised and supplemented by the IWF. It teaches them techniques needed in practice like the ways to improve the lifting skill in jerk, the necessity of balanced development and method of evaluation of records in snatch and jerk events and the method of accelerating the fatigue-relieving process, so that they can apply them in instructing practice.

The association also strives to upgrade the weightlifting instructing and training support system.

According to Kim Il, secretary general of the wrestling association, it calls upon coaches to grasp the worldwide trend of wrestling development and bring their guidance over training into step with it, while putting efforts to ensuring scientific accuracy in training.

After doing an analysis of physical and technical conditions attained by players during the winter, it is concentrating efforts on training for improving their maximum strength with the main stress on endurance training and to teaching them successive movements so as to make the best use of special abilities of each player.

It also organizes trial and training matches and addresses the shortcomings through the match analysis.

The canoeing association

gives priority to improving abilities of the players involved in the general training course. At present, it is trying to enhance their physical abilities and technical and tactical skills using various training aids.

In cooperation with researchers, it brought together the information about the composition of each sports club, their instructing and training practices and the evaluation of abilities of their players and, on that basis, worked out training plans that suit the characteristics of the players and intensified both individual and team training.

Meanwhile, it works to develop programs and training aids and introduce them into training practice in collaboration with sports science research institutes.

By Kil Chung Il PT

DISH

Kimchi stimulates appetite and restores vigour in spring

There are dozens of kinds of kimchi which is largely classified into spring, summer, autumn and winter kimchi.

Giant garlic kimchi made in early spring has very unique taste and flavour. The perennial plant belonging to allium grows in hills and fields in Korea.

People pick it in spring and autumn to make food.

It tastes sweet and hot and has spicy flavour to increase appetite. It is seasoned with peppered bean paste or soy sauce mixed with vinegar, preserved in bean paste or soy sauce and used as seasonings. The ingredients of giant garlic kimchi include 0.5kg of radish, 25g of ground red pepper and 30g of salt when using 1kg of the plant. There is no need to add garlic and Welsh onion.

To prepare the kimchi, wash giant garlic with its roots and chop up radish.

Put them in a vessel to mix



The fragrant and tasty giant garlic kimchi is good at the turn of season.”

Kim Ok Ju, resident of Phyongchon District, Pyongyang

them evenly with ground red pepper and salt, before putting them into a pot by pressing.

Kimchi develops taste within four to five days. Then it is preserved in cold places to prevent it from turning sour. Such kimchi is also sweet and refreshing when the mixture of giant garlic and radish is preserved in plenty of kimchi juice.

“The fragrant and tasty giant garlic kimchi is good at the turn of season. So I make haste with preparing it every spring,” said Kim Ok Ju (pictured) living in



neighbourhood unit No. 21 of Kansong-dong, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

Watery kimchi made of sliced radish mixed with various seasonings and aralia shoots kimchi are also made in spring and each of them has its unique taste and fragrance and is very appetizing.

By Min Chol PT



Giant garlic kimchi (left), watery kimchi made of sliced radish (middle) and aralia shoots kimchi (right).

SCENERY

Scenic beauty of Mt Jongbang



Mt Jongbang in spring.

Mt Jongbang in Jongbang-ri, Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, is one of scenic beauties in the DPRK.

It is called Jongbang (regular square) as the mountain ridges are linked with each other to form a square shape, and it is 481 metres above sea level.

The area is the only traffic route leading to the northwestern region of Korea. Singular natural and geographical conditions of the mountain add more dignity and spirit as a natural fortress. Mt Jongbang is conspicuous in the area since it is higher than the surrounding mountains and adjoins a boundless expanse of Jaeryong Plain.

Consisting of quartzite and schist, the mountain boasts curious peaks formed by the long action of the weather and mysterious rocks and cliffs rising over 100 metres stand one after another. And beautiful scenes are unfolded by a mineral spring telling many legends,

various species of flowers and thick forests that go well with each other.

There are many historical relics and remains in the mountain. There are a 12-kilometre-long fort on its ridge which was built in the period of Koryo (918-1392) as well as the South Gate of Jongbangsan Fort showcasing the fine features of architectural skills of Korean ancestors.

The gateway to the Mujigae Gate, which was built in the lower part of grand walls, with its gate tower built in the upper part, looks strong and blends in well with surrounding beautiful natural environment. The South Gate was built for the first time in the period of Koryo, rebuilt in 1632 and restored in 1968 after it was burnt down by aerial bombing in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953). There is a sluice gate 30 metres westwards from the lowest place of the walls of the South Gate and the water from different valleys in the fort gathers there to flow down.

In the fortress there is also the Songbul Temple, a famous temple built in 898, and there are the Ungjin Hall, other wooden buildings and a five-storey pagoda at the temple.

Today, Mt Jongbang has turned into a cultural recreation area and pleasure ground.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

NATURAL MONUMENT

Clear and limpid Kumgang crystal

Kumgang crystal is found in the area of Sujong (crystal) Peak in the world-famous mountain of Kumgang in Kosong County, Kangwon Province.

The limpid quartz crystal exists in the intrusive rocks of Tanchon rock group belonging to the Mesozoic age. It is hidden in the holes formed along the crack of rock.

Old beautiful amethyst, smoky quartz and white crystals are limpid and in the shape of hexagonal pillar and vary in size.

In Sujong Peak there is a rare crystal weighing over one ton. The largest quantity of crystal is found in the area of Sujong Gate.

Kumgang crystal is under good protection as a natural monument as it is of great academic significance in adding beauty to the celebrated mountain of the DPRK and studying the lithological features including that of crystal lying in the shape of stem and efflorescence.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

