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Kim Jong Un gives blessings to Cuban Party leader

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, sent a congratulatory message to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, on Monday.

He in the message offered the sincerest congratulations and warm comradely greetings to Miguel Diaz-Canel on the successful holding of the Eighth CPC Congress and his election as first secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

He expressed his belief that the fraternal Cuban people would firmly defend the gains of the revolution and surely build an independent and prospering socialist state by waging an all-out drive for implementing the decisions of the CPC Congress, closely united behind the CPC Central Committee headed by the First Secretary.

He said that the relations between the two parties and the two countries established on the basis of deep friendly relations and comradeship between Kim Il Sung and Fidel Castro, the great leaders of the peoples of the two

countries, have grown stronger and closer in the course of weathering all tempests of history and developed into special comradely and strategic relations century after century and generation after generation.

He reaffirmed his will to further develop the traditional friendship and unity and comradely cooperative ties between the two parties and the two countries along the road of the struggle for advancing the joint cause under the banner of socialism, as agreed with the First Secretary during the meeting in Pyongyang in November 2018.

Kim Jong Un also sent words of warm congratulations to Miguel Diaz-Canel on the same occasion.

Upon authorization of the General Secretary, Kim Song Nam, director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the WPK, paid a congratulatory visit to the Cuban embassy in Pyongyang on April 20 to convey the words of congratulations to Cuban Ambassador to the DPRK Jesus De Los Angeles Aise Sotolongo.

Kim Jong Un, as a genuine comrade, once again warmly congratulated Miguel Diaz-

Canel on taking the heavy responsibility as head of the CPC with absolute support and warm expectations of all the Party members and other Cuban people.

Saying that he will always join hands with the Cuban Party leader on the road of foiling all sorts of challenges by the hostile forces and perfecting socialism, he clarified the steadfast will of the WPK and the Korean people to further develop special comradely and strategic relations with Cuba on a new high level as required by the new era.

He affirmed that the Korean Party and people will stand side by side with the Cuban counterparts forever.

He sincerely wished Miguel Diaz-Canel good health and great success in his responsible work of leading the Party and the state.

The Cuban ambassador offered his heartfelt thanks to Kim Jong Un for sending the words of congratulations to the CPC leader and expressed the will of the CPC and the Cuban people to further boost the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and two countries in the future.

KCNA

Congratulations sent to Raul Castro on CPC Congress

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, on Monday sent a congratulatory message to Raul Castro Ruz on the successful holding of the Eighth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

He said in the message that he was very pleased to see that under the energetic guidance of Raul Castro the Eighth Congress of the CPC provided a sure guarantee for carrying forward the socialist cause of Cuba generation after generation, faithfully upholding the idea of Fidel Castro.

Saying that the Cuban people have strenuously advanced along the road of socialism,

safeguarding the sovereignty and dignity of their country in the face of trials and tempests of history under the correct guidance of the CPC headed by Raul Castro, he hoped that the Cuban Party and people would achieve great successes in their efforts to build a prosperous socialist state, closely rallied around First Secretary Miguel Diaz-Canel.

He expressed his firm will to add shine to the comradely and fraternal ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and the two countries forged and verified in the struggle for achieving the common cause.

KCNA



Citizens enjoy a three-day illumination festival "Wonders of Light-2021" that started on April 18 in Pyongyang to celebrate the Day of the Sun.

ANNIVERSARY

First revolutionary armed force of the DPRK

President Kim Il Sung said in his reminiscences *With the Century* about the founding ceremony of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army:

"On the morning of April 25, 1932, we held the founding ceremony of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army on the tableland at Tuqidian. The guerrillas, dressed in their new uniforms and with their guns on their shoulders, lined up in unit order in the clearing on the tableland surrounded by larch trees, and the people from Xiaoshahe and Xinglongcun

were buzzing, as they stood in a group at one edge of the clearing.

"Feeling an irresistible urge to summon all the comrades and people who had sacrificed themselves for this day to this tableland at Tuqidian, I made a speech, with strong emotion bursting out of my heart."

He said that day that the guerrilla army was made up of the workers, peasants and young patriots who opposed the Japanese imperialists and their stooges and loved their country and people and it was

a revolutionary armed force which would dedicate itself to protecting the interests of the people. The aim and mission of the guerrilla army was to overthrow the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism in Korea and bring national independence and social emancipation to the Korean people, he added.

While dealing a telling blow to the Japanese imperialists everywhere, the AJPGA rapidly grew in a matter of two years. It produced competent military officers and political cadres and expanded its operational theatre.

In 1934, it was reorganized into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army equipped with a regular armed system.

With infinite loyalty to the revolution, the commanding officers and men developed into armed ranks which firmly united in ideology and purpose, and became the genuine army of the people and revolutionary army which acquired military equipment by their own efforts by applying adroit guerrilla tactics, forged the ties of kinship with the people, protected their interests and established steel-strong discipline. The Korean People's Revolutionary Army won historic victory in the over 10-year-long arduous anti-Japanese war and brought freedom and liberation to the people.

The revolutionary character and tradition of the KPRA

were carried on by the Korean People's Army, regular revolutionary armed forces which succeeded the KPRA.

As it had the ever-victorious tradition which was created and developed in the flames of the anti-Japanese war, the KPA achieved great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s and has safeguarded the socialist country impregably while smashing the anti-DPRK military moves by hostile forces for over 70 years.

Demonstrating its might as invincible revolutionary armed forces at present, the KPA regards the revolutionary spirit of Paektu created in the days of the anti-Japanese war as the cornerstone for building up the whole army.

Yang Hyok

LEAD

Mammoth building project tells what

The Workers' Party of Korea intends to build houses on a large scale this year and is now dynamically pushing ahead with it.

A ground-breaking ceremony took place for the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang on March 23, followed by the launch of the project for 800 flats in the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District.

The large-scale housing project was decided at the Eighth Congress of the WPK in January and, accordingly, houses for 10 000 families are to be built every year in Pyongyang, 50 000 flats in total during the period of implementing the new five-year plan.

In the DPRK where the Party and state take full responsibility for the people's living, the construction of dwelling houses has always been regarded as their most important affair and houses built at the state's expense are provided to the people gratis.

Over the past nine years alone since the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was elected to the top posts of the Party and state, the DPRK has witnessed the construction of wonderful streets and apartment houses for educators. New houses also mushroomed in the disaster-stricken areas throughout the country.

But the large-scale housing project for this year carries special meaning in view of the recent years of awful conditions in the country.

The DPRK has been confronted with manifold difficulties including the wicked moves of the hostile forces, the emergency infectious disease prevention campaign against COVID-19 and recurrent natural disasters.

In fact, it is too much for the country to maintain the status quo now. So it is unimaginable that it has decided to build many dwelling houses, which would lead to a massive expenditure.

However, the WPK decided on the project and is now implementing it.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said in his speech at the ground-breaking ceremony of the project for building 10 000 flats in Pyongyang that building 50 000 modern flats in the city is something the WPK has long intended to do, made preparations for and aspired to do in order to provide the citizens of the capital city with more cultured and stabler living conditions, and that having accepted this colossal project willingly as an honourable revolutionary task which it must implement without fail however difficult

the conditions and environment may be, the Party Central Committee reaffirmed its plan of architectural development and construction policy on the principle of applying the people-first principle more thoroughly.

Embodied in his remarks are the politics based on the people-first principle of the WPK which exists for and serves only the people and conducts huge campaigns for creation for their happiness by believing in them and mobilizing their inexhaustible strength in any adversities.

In a word, the large-scale housing project vividly demonstrates the DPRK's feature as a genuine people's country. It is also a demonstration of the great fighting spirit of the Korean people.

That the DPRK has embarked on the ambitious and important construction project in the hardest time is itself a manifestation of its faith in sure victory, and through it the country's architecture would make a leap forward and progress a step higher and the fighting capacity of its people and foundations of its industrial bases be further strengthened.

In less than a month after the ground-breaking the excavation for the foundations was completed in the main for the construction of 10 000 flats and the overall project is pushed ahead in a three-dimensional way.

Technical innovations are being made in the units in charge of the manufacture of cement, structural steel and other building materials.

The leadership of the great Party and the passionate devotion of the people full of determination to shape a better future are producing a miracle.

The large-scale construction project is also marking another historic milestone in the history of the capital city construction.

The planned project for building 50 000 flats will widen the capital city to the eastern, western and northern directions and change its looks more magnificently with the application of modern architectural technologies and the building of stylish public buildings. When the project is completed Pyongyang will stand proudly as a monument symbolizing the 2020s.

The mammoth project to carry out the decision of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea is now in full swing, auguring well for the implementation of the new five-year plan and heralding a new era of upsurge and radical change in the cause of socialist construction in the DPRK.

INSPECTION

Premier Kim inspects mine, agricultural sector in South Hwanghae

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 the Unnyul Mine and the agricultural sector in South Hwanghae Province.

Looking round the Youth Mining Area and several other places of the mine, he referred to detailed issues for producing more iron ore to send them to large metallurgical industry bases, stepping up the development of the Sohae-ri branch mine and introducing advanced science and technology into production.

At several cooperative farms in Unnyul, Sinchon, Pyoksong, Chongdan, Pongchon, Yonan and Paechon counties of South Hwanghae Province, he underlined the need to actively introduce effective farming methods and markedly raise the proportion of farm work done by machines.



Premier Kim Tok Hun (centre foreground) inspects the Unnyul Mine.

He called on officials to work in an efficient way with main emphasis put on the production of organic compound fertilizers and increased production of grain in low-yielding fields.

The field consultative meetings discussed measures to boost the production of iron ore

through careful organization and control of the expansion of production capacity and increase the production of slow-action granulated fertilizer at organic compound fertilizer factories to supply them to farms.

KCNA

Tenth Congress of Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League to be convened

The Tenth Congress of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League is to be held in Pyongyang from April 27.

The congress will analyse in depth and review the successes and experience obtained in

youth league work during the period under review and also the causes of shortcomings and lessons and discuss the tasks and ways to give full play to the might of the youth league as the militant reserve of the Workers'

Party of Korea and the vanguard and shock brigade in socialist construction in its efforts to implement the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress.

KCNA

Nationwide

Mine conducts blasting to boost production

The Sunchon Limestone Mine carried out a 250 000-cubic-metre blasting on Tuesday.

While building up reserves with successive blastings, it pushes ahead with the transport organization and control scrupulously to ensure a sufficient supply of main raw materials for cement production.

Giant fertilizer producer increases output

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex is overfulfilling its daily production plans by an average of over 10 percent.

The complex has updated technical indexes of overall processes so as to maximize its fertilizer production efficiency and is ensuring the normal operation of equipment.

Thermal power station overfulfils daily tasks

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Station has overfulfilled its daily plans by over 9 percent in April.

The power station drastically

increases production by positively introducing new valuable technologies into the operation of generating equipment and repair while boosting the output per generator to maintain and reinforce production foundations.

Complex achieves growth in steel, rolled steel production

The Chollima Steel Complex has increased the production of steel and rolled steel by 19 and 56 percent respectively so far in April as compared to the same period of last year.

The complex scrupulously organizes and directs production so as to interlock different production processes including material charging and melting.

Smelters are actively conducting a drive for collective innovation like doing one more shift and helping next shift and responsibly maintaining and repairing UHP electric arc furnaces to help other workteams with their production, and thereby turning out more molten iron than planned every day.

Cement factory increases output over 1.2 times

The Sinwon Cement Factory

increased its output over 1.2 times as compared to the same period of last year.

The factory built an alternating-current contactor recycling base to increase its lifespan two times more than before, increased the operational rate of equipment and completed a cement production method based on ultra-anthracite to save lots of raw and other materials. It also invented a new dust collecting device, thus raising the actual yield in the drying process.

Pheasants under protection

In the DPRK pheasants are widely propagated for their high ornamental value.

Pheasants add beauty to landscape with their beautiful figures and ecological habit.

Projects have also been undertaken in animal reserves to provide favourable conditions and ecological environment for pheasants' inhabitation.

As a pure breed, Korean pheasant is the most beautiful among its species living on the earth. According to information available, it was spread to the world via Europe and the American Continent from the mid-19th century.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

ENERGY

Exploitation of renewables gathers strength, spurring economic growth

Nation focuses on tapping such renewable resources as solar energy and geotherm

Rich, clean energy

“The world channels efforts into the development of natural energy that knows no depletion. This is an essential way to protect the biological environment of the earth and develop the economy in a sustainable way,” said Ri Myong Son, chairman of the Korean Natural Energy Development and Utility Association.

The country, which is bounded by the sea on its three sides and has many alpine regions, has rich natural energy resources and conditions favourable for their development.

The solar energy field is drawing interest more than other fields.

As research into the manufacture of solar panels and the development of application products are being intensified, production processes have been built, which makes it possible to competitively conduct the work of establishing the solar power generating system linked to the national power grid according to units and regions.

The standard vacuum glass pipe solar collector developed by the Solar Heat Equipment Distribution Agency in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, has been introduced into many units including farms, hotels and other units to ensure the supply of hot water for life by using only solar power.

Different capacity wind turbines have been installed to be used in coastal and mountainous areas.

In recent years, a modern



Geothermal heating and cooling system is applied to Mirae Scientists Street (left) and Ryomyong Street (right).



The Mokran Kwangmyong Technology Company building covered with solar panels (right). An employee operates a facility in the solar panel line.



RYU KWANG HYOK

geothermal pump was developed and the geothermal heating and cooling system has widely been applied.

The system has been introduced into individual buildings and public service facilities including the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp, Sci-Tech Complex, Munsu Water Park, Ryomyong Street and Mirae Scientists Street. And such already-built buildings as Kim Chaek University of Technology and Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace are making switchover to the geothermal heating and cooling system.

Methane gas generation and its utility technology are also making progress.

The Pyongyang Pig Farm installed large methane gas fermenting and pocket gas storing tanks and generated hundreds of kilowatts of electricity and gas on a normal footing to ensure the supply of necessary electricity and operate

vehicles while producing a large quantity of compound organic fertilizer.

Efforts are being made to build a tidal power station. In the DPRK, where many of its boundary lines form the coastline of the country, to develop and utilize tidal power resources provides another condition favourable for giving impetus to stable and sustainable economic development.

Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, University of Sciences and Hamhung University of Hydraulic Engineering established the well-knit talents training system in the field of natural energy, and they promote technical exchanges with partners in different countries.

Zero-carbon architecture

Plate glass covers the whole building of the Mokran

Kwangmyong Technology Company located in Kallingildong of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

“It is not coloured glass but filmy solar panel. The multi-storey square building group is completely covered with the panels,” said Kim Chung Song, chief of the renewable energy products workshop under the company.

According to him, the panel is made by coating a thin layer of silicon semiconductor on glass and is widely used in the world as it produces electricity even in cloudy days and can be employed as a decoration for walls and a material for roofs. He added that its cost is half that of coloured glass which is commonly used as a finishing material with aesthetic effects.

Such solar panels are manufactured at this workshop.

Thin-film and polycrystal solar panels are manufactured at its production process which is equipped with such modern

equipment as ultra-pure water production facility, glass grinding and washing machine, laser cutter, ultrasonic cleaner, automatic joining machine, laminating machine and module detector. The products are in great demand as they have high quality indices including high levels of maximum output and optimum voltage and current and smooth chips.

“We have established a system-parallel photovoltaic generating system in different parts of the country with these products since we applied them to the sanatorium of the company for the first time in the country several years ago. At present, thousands of square metres of outer walls and roofs of the company have turned into a solar farm,” said deputy director Paek Il Myong.

He said that the outer walls are covered with thousands of filmy solar panels and the roofs with over a thousand polycrystal solar panels.

The workshop installed solar panels in different units and provides their management.

In addition, it turns out different kinds of relevant devices including a system parallel inverter, charging inverter, mobile photovoltaic power supply unit, solar cell charging unit, charge discharge controller, portable solar cell and vanadium battery. The Mokran Kwangmyong Technology Company is the one and only inverter quality certification unit in the country.

“Amid nationwide interest in renewable energy, more and more people pay attention to its development. It is a global trend to construct zero-carbon and zero-energy buildings at present and such structures are unthinkable apart from the development of renewable energy resources. In line with this trend, we will direct big efforts to producing goods by using domestic materials and technology,” said Kim Chung Song.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

FERTILIZER

Bioactive fertilizers developed

Researchers of Kim Il Sung University have recently developed a highly-efficient plant growth promoter.

The growth promoter designated as “Jungsan 2” is simple in structure and composition.

A collaborative research project with the scientists of Pyongyang University of Agriculture proved that the growth promoter hastens the

germination of seeds of paddy rice, maize, bean, potato, wheat, barley and vegetables, promotes the growth and root propagation of seedlings and heightens their resistance to cold, while effecting earing three to five days earlier and speeding up the ripening of crops, thereby increasing the per-hectare yield. The finding particularly confirmed that it is very effective in double

cropping.

It was introduced into the areas hit by typhoons and floods last year to bring about the earing of paddy rice earlier and markedly reduce the drop in crop yields.

Meanwhile, researchers of the Academy of Agricultural Science developed high concentration activated liquid fertilizer “Kaengsaeng 1”.

The fertilizer, mainly

composed of different amino acids, enzymes and fulvic acids, contains composite nutrients and functional physiological activators made from macro and trace elements, rare-earth elements and plant growth stimulants.

Its application to such grain crops as paddy rice, maize and bean, vegetables and industrial crops showed that it promotes their root development and enhances their photosynthetic capacity and resistance to the unfavourable influence of drought, high temperature, agrochemicals and cold

weather, thus increasing per-hectare yield and improving crop quality.

Its introduction into rice paddies in the Taechong-ri area of Unpha County which was severely damaged by typhoon and flood last year proved its effectiveness by increasing the thousand-kernel weight.

“Kaengsaeng 1” is now much sought-after in the agricultural sector as unfavourable climatic conditions have persisted in recent years.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

RECYCLING

Reuse ensures production growth, environmental protection



RYANG KUM CHOL

From left: Partial view of a vinyl printing process in the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory. Two workers hold a discussion at workplace.

The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, has overfulfilled monthly plans by over 20 percent so far this year by putting efforts into recycling of materials.

The factory collects any recyclable materials that can be used in production.

To this end, it has established a well-regulated system for collecting and recycling plastic waste from Pyongyang and other areas as well as byproducts from its production processes and applying them to the production.

It also solved scientific and technical problems arising in the use of plastic waste so as to ensure product quality.

Its technical team, in collaboration with scientific research institutes, built the machines for recycling plastic waste and introduced plasticizer, thermal stabilizer and other additives into the production.

According to chief engineer Kim Tuk Su, they newly made two material crushers and washing and dehydrating facilities and remodelled a plastic processing extruder.

They also invented a melt

index measuring instrument that can analyse properties of materials according to kinds of products and built an electromotor protective device.

The factory's plastic products including delivery containers, pipes for electric wiring and vinyl sheets are much sought after by customers.

Its recycling efforts have turned out to serve two ends: it overfulfills index-wise plans every day and contributes to the prevention of environmental pollution by plastic waste.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

COSMETICS

Unhasu products recommended to youth, beauty seekers

"Basic cosmetics are much sought after by women in this season as they have great moisturizing and whitening effects," said Ryang Myong Ho, researcher of the cosmetics research institute of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory.

Its skin cell growth-promoting cosmetic products comprising a lotion and two kinds of cream enjoy great popularity among middle-aged and old women.

The main ingredient of the cosmetics is a cell growth-promoting agent made by applying bioengineering technology and nanotechnology.

According to their developers, they have outstanding ageing-retarding effects as compared to ordinary beauty products.

They constantly maintain skin gloss and elasticity, remove blotches and freckles, root out senile plaque and pigmentation and make horny layer smooth to reduce wrinkles.

"Blotches began to appear on my face as I got on in years. But they started to diminish 15 days after I set about applying the cosmetics," said O Sun Hui, 48-year-old woman living in Ryonghung-dong No. 3, Taesong District, Pyongyang.

Multifunctional cosmetics with pronounced whitening,

moisturizing, nourishing and ageing-retarding effects can be said to represent the factory.

Such Unhasu-brand products are characterized by the use of renowned Kaesong Koryo insam which contains saponin with strong moisturizing and function-reinforcing effects and other substances.

By extracting such valid elements through the application of advanced technology, the factory developed skin-protecting cosmetics for all types of skins, aloe moisturizing cosmetics good for dry skin, ageing-retarding cosmetics classified by age groups, serum cosmetics containing the valid elements good

for moisturizing, whitening and retarding ageing, and healthcare and hair-smartening cosmetics.

Several years ago, 25 kinds of Unhasu functional cosmetics won quality certification from the Eurasian Economic Union, an influential regional economic organization in Asia and Europe.

"Our factory pursues a business strategy of developing natural, less stimulative and functional cosmetics which produce no harmful but good effects on skin. Our Unhasu products promise women eternal youth and beauty," said chief engineer Kang Min Sim.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



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Different sets of Unhasu-brand functional cosmetics win growing popularity among female customers.

HOSIERY

Factory focuses on improving quality

The demand for products of the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory is now increasing.

Dyed thread, which was produced and used by the factory, had not clear colours in the past. But the factory produces a variety of socks by adding fluorescent powder to the pre-treatment processes of dyed thread so that it can present vivid colours. It conducted experiments according to the content of locally-produced caustic soda, processing temperature and time to produce dyed thread with florescent effect without affecting the tension of thread.

It also conducted research to remodel the water softening device in order to overcome the defect of dyeing process staining thread.

Kim Chung Hyok, section chief of the industrial technology institute of the factory, said that when the dyeing water contains lots of metal ions, different

colours appear and dyed thread is stained with colours. The technical group of the factory replaced the duct line of the water softening apparatus to overcome such demerits and refashioned the water softening device to manage soft water on a scientific footing.

They also solved the problem of the hasp which was stained by dyes for its high or low density by ensuring the rational density of thread in the high temperature pressure dyeing.

Besides, the factory introduced various technical innovation plans to improve the quality and quantity of production including the polyurethane tetron combined yarn production method to localize the imported neck fold of sheep so as to save time and lower cost of the production of neck fold of sheep.

By Jong Chol PT



KIM YONG CHAN

Employees monitor machines at the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

INSTITUTE

Research into new rice varieties in full swing

The rice institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science has recently bred new rice varieties, which can ensure high yield in low-yielding soils, before establishing their cultivation methods.

Researchers conducted research to breed varieties that are highly resistant to salt and suitable for tidelands and succeeded in breeding five high-yielding strains of rice. Especially, the F1 rice variety is estimated as a high-yielding F1 rice variety with high resistance to salt which is two to three tons greater in yield than ordinary rice varieties under the same salt condition.

They also bred a rice variety which is highly resistant to cold-weather damage.

In the wake of breeding four high-yielding F1 rice and ordinary rice varieties suitable

to cold and damp soils, they laid foundations for breeding a high-yielding rice strain which is highly resistant to cold weather and whose yield is higher than the indigenous one in the paddy field affected seriously by cold weather.

"According to the trial production in the paddy field affected seriously by cold weather in Sangam-ri, Kangdong County, Pyongyang, the yield of a new rice variety was over six tons per hectare in the cold and humid soil whose per-hectare yield was only 2 to 3 tons," said Kang Yong Ho, section chief of the institute.

Researchers are also successful in breeding drought-resistant rice strain which can ensure safe and rich harvest in rain-dependent paddies.

By Kim Il Jin PT

HEIRLOOM

National flag newly added to war museum



Discoloured national flag with bullet holes is exhibited at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum. It was donated by Song Sun Gyong, wife of war veteran Kang Song Ik.

A national flag of the DPRK was newly exhibited at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum shortly ago.

The discoloured flag with several bullet holes was donated by Song Sun Gyong, a war veteran living in Tongan-dong No. 2, Central District, Pyongyang.

"It is associated with the 70-odd-year history of my family," said Song.

The flag was made by her father-in-law Kang Han Phil.

In 1948 when all the Koreans were revelling in the founding of the Republic, Kang dyed white cotton cloth to make a national flag and hoisted it on the roof of his house.

To Kang's family, it was a symbol of hope and happiness. It became a custom for the family to raise the flag with all its members gathering in the yard on every national holiday.

In 1950 when aggressors

launched a war against the DPRK, Kang Han Phil saw off his sons to the front. When youngest son Kang Song Ik joined the People's Army, he handed the flag over to him, telling him to keep it safe even at the cost of his life.

Song Ik fought bravely, true to his father's request.

He returned home after the war, carrying the flag pierced by bullets.

One of his elder brothers died in battle and another became disabled. However, his father showed no sorrow as they gave a good account of themselves for the country.

Afterwards Kang Song Ik worked hard in the railway sector and used to review his life before the flag.

He frequently unfurled the flag to show it to his growing children and tell them the stories of how the generations of their grandfather and father fought to defend the national flag.



My father put the flag into my rucksack as he told me to bear in mind that there can be family happiness and bright future of our generation when the country is secure."

Kang Mu Gwang, son of Kang Song Ik

"Seeing me off when I joined the People's Army, my father put the flag into my rucksack as he told me to bear in mind that there can be family happiness and bright future of our generation when the country is secure," recalled Song Ik's son Kang Mu Gwang.

After his demob, the national flag was handed over to Song Ik's great-nephews who joined the army.

With the passage of time, Mu Gwang's generation went grey and their later generations grew up to enter university or work in their jobs after demob.

"I wanted to tell not only my children and grandchildren but all the coming generations in the country that the happiness of every family is ensured only when the country is secure. That's why I presented the family heirloom to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum," said Song Sun Gyong.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

HEALTH

To turn country's healthcare into advanced one



advanced level and provide people with more hygienic and cultural environment by further developing the socialist public health.

Especially, it makes sure that thoroughgoing measures are taken for the prevention of various diseases by enhancing the role of household doctors.

And preventive and curative institutions at all levels are encouraged to introduce advanced diagnosing and curing methods as required by the development trend of modern medical science and improve the quality of medical services on a high level, including the first-aid medical service, by further completing the telemedicine service system.

All medical workers are inspired to have high skills and warm human love and give full play to the spirit of devoted service in their medical service activities for the promotion of the people's health.

The country makes sure that medicine and medical appliances factories push ahead with modernization, actively introduce biological engineering, nano-technology and other advanced technologies, ensure the domestic production of raw and other materials and mass-produce efficacious and useful medicines and medical appliances.

We are determined to develop the country's public health as the most advanced and superior one so that people can truly benefit from the socialist public health system.

Han Sok Chol, deputy department director of the Ministry of Public Health

The government takes responsible care of all people's health in the DPRK.

The fourth session of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly, which was held in April 41 years ago, adopted the DPRK Public Health Law to promote the people's health.

Thanks to the adoption of the law, the Korean working people live happily, free from worries over medical service as they enjoy the right to receive medical treatment to the full.

The essence of socialist medicine is preventive medicine, and the law requires that preliminary medical measures be taken to prevent people from contracting illnesses, the causes of diseases timely found and removed and constant efforts directed to preventing the inflow and spread of any infectious diseases.

Now, the public health sector is stepping up efforts to put the indexes of the public health including the average lifespan of population and the prevention rate of contagious diseases on the world's

COUTURE

Dressmaker with forte in promoting harmony of colours

The traditional Korean costume of *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) is noted for elegance and also diverse according to the quality of materials, arrangement of colours and patterns.

The exhibition displays best national dresses made by excellent Korean dressmakers.

Kim Myong Hwa (pictured), chief of the Central District General Tailor Shop, is the best maker of the Korean *chima* and *jogori*.

She is especially good at blending such soft and bright colours as white, light pale yellow and jade green. Her

chima and *jogori* always satisfy the tastes of clients.

She pays special attention to sustaining the national character and meeting the modern sense of beauty in making dresses.

"Best aesthetic effects can be achieved when colours are arranged as neutral. When different elements of the Korean dress including the cuffs are done in the neutral colour chosen by customers, a soft and beautiful colour scheme is achieved," Kim said.

Thousands of photos of flowers she shot are enough to tell how hard she worked



To meet their demands, we have to rack our brains to come up with new ideas."

Kim Myong Hwa, chief of the Central District General Tailor Shop in Pyongyang

to attain perfect colour combination.

The flower designs on her recently-made dress are of the same line as the ground colours of the clothes and yet they



are paler or slightly deeper, and the leaves and stems are unique in colour. "In order to enhance the elegance of *chima* and *jogori*, I tried to represent flowers in nature, not artificial ones. So I embroidered flowers, leaves and stems by adopting different colours according to incidence and reflective surfaces," said the

couturiere. The creation entered the rankings at the national sci-tech festival in 2019.

"Women constantly order the traditional costume. To meet their demands, we have to rack our brains to come up with new ideas," she added.

By Min Chol PT



Adding grace to Korean paintings

The Korean painting with good preservation boasts refinedness. The secret lies in the mounting of Korean paintings.

Korean paintings which were produced in the past centuries are preserved in their original state at the Korean National Art Museum.

“Centuries have passed since these works were produced and they are still preserved intact. The secret lies in the mounting of Korean paintings,” said Jang Yong Nam, mounter of the mounting office of the Korean painting production unit at the Mansudae Art Studio.



A carpenter uses a tool to make the mounting.

According to Jang, ancient Korean painting artists commonly believed that they took a 30 percent share of their artworks and the mounting the remaining 70 percent.

This carries the two meanings of display and preservation.

The Korean painting, which was developed along with the appearance of paper, was difficult to exhibit and preserve in the early period.

Ancestors kept pictures in scrolls and unrolled them to show and then rolled them up to keep. The damage caused by careless handling posed such problems as degeneration and discoloration caused by breakdown or the lapse of time.

In order to solve the problem, they papered the back of pictures and fixed a work on a flat board, and it just evolved into the mounting of Korean painting.

The term “mounting” was coined later as it made a rapid development in the way of gradually adding artistic character to the Korean painting.

The mounting of a Korean painting is similar to “clothing” that promotes the character and beauty, Jang said, adding that the mounted work helps have a better understanding of the national sentiment, aesthetic

demand and the aspect of culture and technological development in those days.

Traditional technology, materials and tools had been used for the making of mounting.

Since olden times, paper, silk, wood, adhesives and other ornamental materials have been used for mounting.

Sliding-door, pulp or moss-woven paper was used for the mounting instead of paper for paintings or calligraphy, and various silk fabrics were used according to grades of mounting.

Paper and silk fabrics took an important share in ornamental materials, but wood was also used. Wood was mainly used to make axial sticks in scroll, rod and stick for a scroll, and frame and inner frame. It was also employed to make covers and others.

The paste for mounting adhesives is the most important material.

According to an old document, there is a record that flour paste easily sticks to paper and silk fabrics and remains long, but, on the contrary, the protein in the flour acidifies paper, fosters the growth of mould bacteria or the inhabitation of moth and stiffens, warps or creases the surface of work as it has a strong viscosity.

The Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty says that the work mounted by unrefined paste was damaged after 13 years. The Enlarged Edition of Forest Economy written by Ryu Jung Rim in the late 18th century explains painstaking efforts and research findings to get a pure paste that suits the country’s climatic and soil conditions, has a good adhesive strength and can prevent damage by bacteria or insects.

According to it, the flour put in water was left intact for

seven or eight days in summer and 15 days in winter and then the floating dregs and water were poured away, pepper infusion was poured in to stir it and make a paste. When the paste cooled down to form a mass, it was soaked in lime water to boil it again when it was needed. After filtering it with hemp cloth, it was mixed with an appropriate amount of powdered alum and yellow wax in the paste bowl and filtered again to use.

Experts say that such a process helps prevent the influence of bacteria and humidity on the paste and easily restore it.

The mounting of Korean painting has developed into a study with practical and artistic value in modern times.

At present, a dryer and gluey heating squeeze machine are now used for mounting and not only wood but also metal, plastic, glass and many other materials are used. It also finds its way deeper into



Ancient Korean painting artists commonly believed that they took a 30 percent share of their artworks and the mounting the remaining 70 percent.”

Jang Yong Nam, mounter of the mounting office of the Korean painting production unit at the Mansudae Art Studio

the life of every family as well as museums, exhibition halls, national events and commemorative events at industrial establishments.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



The mounting makes a Korean painting look much better.

PROFILE

Dream of a medical worker



PAK KWANG HUN

Kim Yong Chol (right), director of the Chollima District People’s Hospital in Nampho, talks with his colleague.

Many patients visit the Chollima District People’s Hospital in Nampho City not only from the district and city but also from across the country. Because the hospital excels in curing various diseases including aseptic necrosis which is known as an incurable disease.

In recent three years alone, the hospital treated over 50 femoral aseptic necrosis cases and 30-odd thromboangiitis obliterans patients so that they could walk again.

Such achievements are much attributable to the effort of Kim Yong Chol, director of the hospital.

After graduating from Phyongsong College of Medical Sciences, he worked as a doctor of the limb surgical department of the Chollima District People’s Hospital in 1991. Through a long period of clinical practice, he made himself a master of the field. In 2008, he served as the chief of the limb surgical

department.

When a worker of the Chollima Steel Complex was hospitalized for the third-degree burn over 55 percent of the whole body due to an unexpected fire, Kim transplanted his skin for the patient during three times of operations and successfully performed the fourth grafting operation.

He donated over 840 square centimetres of his skin and hundreds of grams of blood to more than 280 serious cases while performing over 2 700 surgical operations during the past 30 years.

He published dozens of medical papers including the patent-winning essay and won over 20 certificates of national inventions, introduction of new technology and registration of sci-tech hits.

“I will work hard to become a health worker who makes sincere devotion,” said Kim.

By Yun Ki Song PT

HOSPITAL

Dental hospital applies research findings

The Ryugyong Dental Hospital is active in introducing new technical successes into treatment.

Among them is a complete denture prosthesis method.

Its medical workers made an in-depth study of the completely toothless old patients, and succeeded in developing a functional impression tray for edentulous jaw by overcoming technical limitations of impression, the first process in making artificial teeth. They also developed an advanced complete denture prosthesis method using it.

The hospital also introduced various analysis apps to increase the efficiency of orthodontic therapy by dint of radiograph.

A new app for assessing the ages of patients from the skiagrams of their hands makes it possible to select the suitable time for applying orthodontic therapy.

Dentists also introduced some advanced methods for treating children’s caries and applying implants.

In addition, the hospital developed some dental materials, medicines and small medical appliances.

It ensured the domestic production of alum-silk gingival retraction cord, a medical supply made from alum and silk thread, and MTA for protecting gingival nerves during treatment.

By Pang Un Ju PT

DPRK-RUSSIA

Friendship develops as required by new century

Two years ago, on April 25 2019, historic meeting and talks were held for the first time in Vladivostok, Russia, between the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and President Vladimir Putin.

At the talks, the top leaders of the DPRK and Russia clarified their firm stand and will to expand and develop the history and tradition of friendship onto a new higher stage as required by the new century and further strengthen strategic mutual understanding and tactical collaboration in the course of ensuring peace and security in the Korean peninsula and region.

The first Russia visit by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un

was a landmark event which demonstrated to the international community the solidness of bilateral friendship that has been continued through generations and made great contributions to ensuring peace and security in the Korean peninsula and region.

The relations of friendship between the DPRK and Russia have a long historical tradition.

President Kim Il Sung provided the historical roots of bilateral friendship by waging the struggle to defend the Soviet Union, the first socialist state, with arms in the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle in his early years. Chairman Kim Jong Il visited Russia on several occasions in his lifetime, thus developing the relations of

the DPRK-Russia friendship onto a new height.

Notable successes were achieved in the development of friendly relations between the two countries just after the 2019 DPRK-Russia summit.

In the past two years, they developed bilateral relations in politics, the economy, culture and other fields while improving mutual support and cooperation in their common interests and actively conducted multi-channel travels, contacts and exchanges.

A joint seminar of Russian political parties and organizations was held on April 8 2021 to mark the second anniversary of the historic visit to the Russian

Federation by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, followed by a book and photo exhibition on April 9.

The two countries with a long tradition of friendship have common aspiration to build powerful countries, safeguard sovereignty and struggle against pressure and interference in internal affairs by the imperialists.

The bilateral relations of friendship, which were provided by the preceding leaders and developed through years, will be strengthened and developed onto a higher stage to meet the desire of the peoples of the two countries.

By Song Jong Ho PT

CUBA

Communist Party of Cuba holds Eighth Congress, elects new leader

The Eighth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba took place in Havana between April 16 and 19 with 300 delegates in attendance.

Raul Castro delivered a report on the work of the Party Central Committee.

He said that the congress was convened at the time when they marked the 60th anniversary of Fidel Castro's declaration of the socialist nature of the Cuban revolution and the 60th anniversary of victory in the battle in Playa Giron and pointed to the successes attained and experiences and lessons gained during the period under review.

Economic development is a main mission of the Party along with the struggle to defend peace

and ideology, he said, calling on leading officials to break with force of habit and outdated ways of management and acquire creative and progressive traits to step up production onto a higher level.

Under the circumstances, the decisions in the economic sectors should not be made to result in undermining the validity of the revolution and hampering the unity of the people around the Party, he asserted.

Referring to the implementation of the socio-economic policies and lines of the Party and revolution, he noted that there was a trend of development as a whole.

The unity of an absolute majority of Cuban people

around the Party for the revolutionary cause and ideal is the main strategic weapon with which to successfully cope with all threats and aggression, he said.

The CPC, the top leadership force of the state that organizes and guides socialist construction, should inherit the cause of Fidel Castro Ruz, he stressed.

He also referred to the need for the Party to give precedence to political and ideological work in order to instil into all the Cuban people the confidence and optimism that they can overcome any difficulties.

He said in detail about the imperialists' more intensified ideological and cultural infiltration moves and emphasized that Cuba

could make progress thanks to social justice and the socialist system based on the people's unity around the Party.

He also spoke about the recent years of consolidation and development of the good relationships with the Parties and governments of the DPRK, China, Vietnam and Laos, which had historically been forged through friendship and solidarity.

The congress adopted resolutions presented by three panels and elected the Party's new central leadership body.

Miguel Diaz-Canel, president of the Republic of Cuba, was elected as first secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

KCNA

JAPAN

Ocean is not 'well' of island nation

The international community has directed positive efforts to protecting whales for a long time. However, the maritime ecosystem has severely been damaged by various factors in recent years, which in turn has negative effects on them.

A typical example is that the whales beached themselves in group recently, arousing serious concern among environmental protection organizations. Biologists say if the whale becomes extinct in the sea, the consequences to be followed will be beyond imagination.

The International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling in 1986 and other

positive measures have been taken across the world to protect whales that are on the verge of extinction. However, only one country presents a direct challenge to the global efforts.

Japan continued hunting whales in the Antarctic and the Northwestern Pacific on the pretext of "scientific research". In 2006 alone, it hunted more than 870 whales to instigate Australia to bring it to the International Court of Justice in 2010.

Even after the ICJ branded Japan's whaling as an illegal act for commercial purpose and ruled that it should be stopped in 2014, Japan kept on whaling under different pretexts.

The insular nation declared its official withdrawal from the IWC at the end of 2018. At the same time, it announced that it would resume commercial whaling which had been suspended for over 30 years. And it restarted commercial whaling in its neighbouring waters and exclusive economic waters in July 2019.

It openly announced a plan to hunt over 380 whales this year and two whaling ships left Hachinohe of Aomori Prefecture shortly ago.

Five whaling ships would reportedly be involved in hunting 120 minke whales in the waters off Hokkaido and Sanriku.

Such behaviours of Japan spark strong criticism and denunciation from the international community.

In July 2019, the Australian foreign and environment ministers issued a joint statement to demand Japan return to the IWC as early as possible. The New Zealand government also expressed its dissatisfaction with the resumption of "anachronistic and unnecessary" commercial whaling.

Japan is committing shameless acts that are peculiar to it under the pretext of "preserving" its own "culture" and "tradition" in utter disregard of the global efforts to protect animals on the verge of extinction, and they are overstepping the mark.

The ocean is not the private "well" of Japan.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly

Laos

President calls for striving to build prosperous country

Laotian President Thongloun Sisoulith appealed for making redoubled efforts to build a prosperous country in his New Year address to mark the new year of Laos.

He said that the country has a heavy duty to implement important tasks set forth by the Party and state including the elimination of poverty and achievement of green and sustainable development till 2030.

Namibia

Hage Geingob calls for supporting country's development

Namibian President Hage Geingob, in his speech at the parliament on April 15, said that everyone should pool their efforts to find a way to overcome difficulties and properly do their share in state building.

China

FM slams Japan for being set to discharge radiation contaminated water

A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued on April 13, denounced the Japanese authorities for having decided to discharge nuclear contaminated water into the sea.

China strongly demands Japan correctly recognize its responsibility for the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the statement said, urging the country not to release the contaminated water into the sea.

Syria

Terrorist attacks against Iran denounced

As to the recent attacks on a vessel and other objects of Iran, the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates said on April 15 that such terrorist attacks could never affect Iran's industrial abilities but make it further harden its just stand.

The ministry stressed that Syria extends full support to Iran in its efforts to defend its interests and achieve greater sci-tech successes.

WHO

Concern over spread of world pandemic expressed

The director-general of the World Health Organization, in a news conference on April 19, expressed concern over the ever-worsening spread of COVID-19.

Saying that infected cases reached 5.2 million in the world during the past week to set a new record in the number of infections, he added that the infection rate increased among the people aged between 25 and 59.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

WEIGHTLIFTING

Remarkable sisters eye further glory in weightlifting



Rim Jong Sim (left) and Rim Un Sim (right) are called Hercules sisters.

DPRK weightlifters Rim Jong Sim and Rim Un Sim can creditably claim to be on a par with them.

In 2019, they both achieved brilliant successes in the IWF World Cup.

The Rim sisters bagged three golds respectively by winning first places in snatch, jerk and total of the 76kg and 71kg categories of the event.

"The year 2019 was one of the happiest for us sisters," recalled Merited Athlete Rim Un Sim, the younger sister. "I can never forget the time when I stood on the winner's rostrum with my sister who is a double Olympic gold medallist. It was the moment when my long-held dream of becoming a world weightlifting star like my sister came true."

The elder sister Rim Jong Sim who holds the Asian and world

titles has a glittering playing career.

She is one of the nation's few players who was awarded the title of DPRK Labour Hero after winning an Olympic gold in her teens. At that time, the whole nation lauded her success and inspired her to attain greater achievements. Later she lived up to their expectations and became two-time Olympic gold medallist and Asian and world champion and renewed world records several times.

With an ambition to become a weightlifting ace like her elder sister, Rim Un Sim trained hard and produced good results at international games.

She won the first places at the 2014 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, the 2016 World Junior Weightlifting Championships,



Weightlifting is everything for us."

Rim Un Sim, Merited Athlete and player of the Kigwanha Sports Club

the 2017 Asian Weightlifting Championships and the 18th Asian Games.

The sisters have so far collected over 70 medals and cups.

"Of course, Rim Jong Sim and Rim Un Sim have good physical preparedness as weightlifters, but they would not have been able to produce such brilliant results without the instruction by a good coach," said Kim Kwang Dok, secretary general of the DPRK weightlifting association.

Kim Chun Hui, women's weightlifting coach of the Kigwanha Sports Club, has been training the sisters for over a decade.

Under the guidance of Kim, who has the ability to scout promising players and make players fully display their physical and technical abilities, they grew up to become national champions in a short time and, finally, world weightlifting stars.

"Weightlifting is everything for us," said the younger Rim.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

FOOD

Insam dishes find favourite with Pyongyang people



Samgyethang, special dish of Kaesong.

Kaesong Koryo insam, speciality of Korea, has been known as an "elixir of life" in the world since olden times.

It has long been cultivated in Korea's local city of Kaesong and was named after Koryo, a feudal state that existed from 918 to 1392.

Originally, the word insam derives from the shape of its roots that look like a human. Kaesong Koryo insam is cultivated only in Kaesong with

the most suitable climatic and soil conditions and has widely been known for its unique medicinal efficacy.

Therefore, it is no wonder that every visitor to the city shows great interest in the products processed with it.

The dishes made with it are now winning growing popularity among the diners in Pyongyang.

The restaurant of the Ragwon Daesong Shop in Ragwondong of Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, serves a variety of such dishes to attract lots of diners.

According to the manageress of the shop Jon Kyong Ran, raw insam and tonics made from it produce excellent medicinal effects, but cooked insam is the best in invigorating people.

Insam foods that take special therapeutic effects on various diseases are in growing demand as it protects the five viscera and has beneficial influence on cerebral and vascular systems to promote metabolism, she said.

She added that the restaurant prepares samgyethang, insam porridge and other insam dishes.

The special dish of Kaesong is made of a chicken which is four to five months old. Astragalus, jujube, glutinous rice and a six-year-old insam are filled in its stomach before sewing it and then it is boiled in a stone pot or earthenware bowl.

"It is brought to the boil over intense flames and then stewed over light fire for about an hour until the ingredients of insam soak out along with those of chicken. The fragrance is appetizing enough to make your mouth water," said chef Kim Yong Mi.

By Sin Pyol PT

SCENIC SPOT

Elephant Rock adds beauty to scenic attraction

Monggumpho in Ryongyon County, South Hwanghae Province, on the west coast is a finest beauty spot of the country noted for its beautiful coastal scenery.

White sand beach, crimson-coloured flowers of sweet briar and green pine forest stretch along the west coast of Korea.

Elephant Rock, Whale Rock and other mysteriously-shaped rocks standing on the seashore remind viewers of Manmulsang, or the Myriad-shaped Peaks, of Mt Kumgang.

One of them is Monggumpho Elephant Rock, a natural monument of the DPRK.

It is about 15m high, 10m long and about 3m round in the part of the "nose". Research data say that the vertical joint surface

of quartz porphyry underwent selective erosion of the sea, weathering action and abrasion through the long geological ages to form the shape of an elephant.

The attractive rock looks like a massive elephant strolling down to the waterside to drink water. At high tide it is just like an elephant drinking water in the sea with the long "nose" draping into the sea water.

A natural thing which visually shows the crustal oscillation, weathering action and abrasion, Monggumpho Elephant Rock was inscribed as a natural monument in 1980 as it is of great academic and educational significance.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



Elephant Rock in Monggumpho deserves the admiration of viewers for its lifelike look.

HAIRDO

Hairdressing custom of Korean women

"From ancient times, the Koreans have regarded it as elementary courtesy to arrange their hair neatly before attiring themselves finely. Women, in particular, arrange their hair beautifully as part of everyday dressing etiquette, feeling pride in their locks of dark, glossy hair," said Kong Myong Song, director of the Folklore Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Women kept comb holders containing a coarse comb, fine-toothed bamboo comb, pin for parting the hair and the like and used them in hairdressing.

They used the coarse comb first to tidy the tangled hair and then the fine-toothed bamboo comb to arrange it in a certain style.

"The braided hair of maidens and the chignon of married women went well with Korean costume. Especially, the smartly combed hair in a chignon held by

a rod-like hairpin shows Korean women's noble beauty reflecting their modest personality along with simplicity, cleanliness and integrity," said Kong.

Women boiled the leaves and roots of sweet flags growing in swamps in their villages to wash their hair with the water and made hairpins with the roots of the plant to hold their hair, which became a custom. Especially on Ryudunal, a traditional holiday which was spent on the fifteenth day of June by the lunar calendar, they washed their hair in the clear water of streams before having a good day.

Every morning women tidied their hair before doing kitchen work and wore headscarves to prevent hairs or dust falling into food.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

