

Eighth WPK Central Committee convenes sixth Politburo meeting



Political Bureau decides to celebrate the birth anniversaries of great leaders with splendour, recognizes the need to make more thorough preparations for long-term confrontation with US imperialism

KCNA

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea convened its Sixth Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee at the office building of the Party Central Committee on January 19 to discuss and decide immediate work and important policy issues of the Party and the state.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, was present at the meeting.

Attending the meeting were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un presided over the meeting.

The meeting first discussed the issue of celebrating with splendour the 110th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung and the 80th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

To most auspiciously and significantly celebrate the Day of the Sun (birthday of President Kim Il Sung) and the Day of the Shining Star (birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il) in this significant year is the bounden duty and moral obligation of the descendants of the President and the soldiers and disciples of the Chairman and also the boundless honour and pride of the Korean people who have struggled, remaining faithful to the cause of the President and the Chairman.

No holidays are more significant than the Day of the Sun and the Day of the Shining Star for the WPK and the Korean

people struggling to carry forward and accomplish the revolutionary cause of the President and the Chairman under the uplifted banner of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. And the very existence of the dignified Party and state is unthinkable without the immortal exploits performed by the President and the Chairman in the glorious course of the Korean revolution.

The meeting called for making the Day of the Sun and the Day of the Shining Star in this historic year the important political occasions for further cementing the firm faith of the Korean people to carry forward and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered and led by the President and the Chairman under the guidance of the Party to the end, and also for demonstrating to the world the high

enthusiasm and revolutionary mettle of all the Party members and other people to glorify the second decade of the second century of the Juche era as the annals of victors bringing about the overall development of Korean-style socialism.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee gave detailed assignments to the organs of the Party and the state to celebrate with splendour the 110th birth anniversary of the President and the 80th birth anniversary of the Chairman as the great festivals of victory and glory that will shine long in the annals of the country.

The meeting adopted a resolution of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee "On celebrating with

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splendour the 110th birth anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the 80th birth anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il".

The meeting heard a report analyzing the current situation around the Korean peninsula and a series of international issues and discussed the orientation for countermeasures against the US for the future.

Also communicated to the participants were the US recent moves of recklessly faulting for no reason the DPRK's legitimate exercise of sovereignty.

In the last few years alone after the DPRK-US summits the US staged hundreds of joint war drills which it

committed itself to stop and conducted tests of all kinds of strategic weapons, while shipping ultra-modern attack means into south Korea and nuclear strategic weapons into the region around the Korean peninsula, seriously threatening the security of our state.

The US viciously slandered our state and committed the foolish act of taking over 20 independent sanctions measures. Especially the present US administration persists in manoeuvres to deprive the DPRK of its right to self-defence.

All the facts clearly prove once again that the policy of hostility to the DPRK will continue in the future, too, as long as there is the hostile entity of US imperialism.



Assessing that the policy of hostility and military threat by the US have reached a danger line that cannot be overlooked any longer despite our sincere efforts made for maintaining the general tide for relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula since the DPRK-US summit in Singapore, the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee unanimously recognized that we should make more thorough preparations for a long-term confrontation with US imperialism. It concluded that a practical action should be taken to more reliably and effectively increase our physical strength for defending the dignity, sovereign rights and interests of our state.

The meeting of the Political Bureau

reassigned the policy tasks for national defence to immediately bolster more powerful physical means which can efficiently control the hostile moves of the US against the DPRK getting ever more serious day by day. It gave an instruction to a sector concerned to reconsider on an overall scale the trust-building measures that we took on our own initiative on a preferential ground and to promptly examine the issue of restarting all temporarily-suspended activities.

The decision of the meeting is a timely and rightful step for reliably guaranteeing the existence and sovereign rights of our state in view of the urgent requirements of the developing revolution and under the prevailing situation.

Programme heralds new era of socialist rural development

By Kim Chol Nam PT

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made the historic report *Let Us Open up a New Great Era of Our-style Socialist Rural Development* at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea

In the DPRK, the solution of the rural question in socialist construction which has entered a new stage of switching over to overall development presents itself as a very important task in achieving prosperity and development of the country and welfare of the people.

Only the correct solution of the rural question makes it possible to further strengthen the internal force of the revolution, solidify the material and economic foundations of socialist construction and steadily consolidate and develop the socialist system.

construction.

The WPK has attached importance to rural question since its founding and energetically pushed forward rural construction in each period and stage of the developing revolution under the banner of the great Theses on the Socialist Rural Question.

In the report, General Secretary Kim Jong Un concretely analyzed the present situation of the countryside and emphasized the need to put the country's agriculture on a definite upward stage and open up a new great era of effecting drastic development of the socialist countryside by pushing forward the rural development under the uplifted slogan of "For the new victory of socialist rural construction!"

The Party's goal for socialist rural construction is to model all the rural communities across the country on the Juche idea and make them materially affluent, and the target to be attained in the DPRK's rural development is to raise the level of ideological awareness of agricultural workers,

make a rapid development of agricultural workforce and bring about a fundamental change in the living environment in the countryside.

The undertaking to attain this goal is a gigantic and serious revolution and it is necessary to set stages and goals on a scientific basis and wage a purposeful struggle according to year-on-year plans in order to successfully solve the rural question that assumes protracted and multiple characters.

So the report comprehensively and concretely clarified guidelines for turning all the farms in the country into socialist paradise wonderful enough to be proud of in the world, including the issues of powerfully expediting the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—in the countryside and increasing agricultural production of the country in a sustained way, policies and plans for increasing the state investment in agriculture and radically consolidating the material and technical foundations of the rural

economy and the tasks of drastically transforming the appearance and environment of farms.

The report constitutes a great fighting programme heralding a new era of socialist rural development in the DPRK.

Upholding the new programme for socialist rural construction, a further development of the Theses on the Socialist Rural Question, the Korean people are now out in the vigorous struggle to accelerate the comprehensive rejuvenation of socialism by kindling the fierce flames of the rural revolution.

As there are the powerful material and technical foundations for socialist rural development, which President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il laid with great efforts throughout their lives, and the invincible might of all people who are firmly rallied behind the WPK, big strides have already been made in the historic undertaking to put the country's agriculture on the track of steady development and bring about great changes in the countryside.

Efforts to increase variety of products and raise quality

By Pak Song Min PT

Different sectors of the national economy are striving to increase the sort and variety of products and raise their quality to meet the daily increasing cultural and aesthetic demand of the people.

They waged a vigorous campaign for technical renovation and development of new products to produce quality products with locally available raw and other materials last year, the first year for the implementation of the five-year plan.

In the course of this, the December 15 Medal of Quality was awarded to 19 items of products from seven units.

Among those products there are bifid yogurt from the O-il general health drink factory, Angungshyang from the Korea Oriental Instant Medicine Centre, Angunghwanghwan from the Sogam Pharmaceutical Factory, anti-aging lotion and aqueous cream from the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory and a flexible PVC plastic methane tank from the Hamhung Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory.

Last year larger numbers of units received quality certification by striving to put production processes on a scientific basis.

Over 120 units of the food industry sector received food safety management system

certification for production processes, and many units of the public health sector received GMP certification for over 320 medicine production processes.

Amid the competitive technical modernization for producing more various and better goods with locally available raw materials, wonderful production processes were established in many units.

Consistent efforts have been made to raise the quality of goods with the demand and appreciation by the people as a yardstick, thus increasing the production of products that win the title of February 2 Product.

Among such products are primary schoolboys' bags from the Pyongyang Bag Factory, yeast bread, soya milk and Omija makkolli from the Sonhung Foodstuff Factory and the Kalma Foodstuff Factory and nutrition cream from the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory.

Factories and enterprises across the country are now waging a competitive drive to produce famous products and commodities conducive to the development of the national economy and the improvement of the people's living standards, in order to implement the tasks set forth at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Innovations continue to be promoted in economic sectors

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Notable achievements have been made in succession in different economic sectors, true to the idea and spirit of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex concentrates on building up its own technical force and ensuring high quality of products. The employees of the complex manage and operate induction furnaces as required by the standard regulations of operation to shorten the melting time per charge and produce castings with complex internal structures qualitatively, thus increasing the actual production rate of materials. The technicians and skilled workers have employed advanced pipe-making and welding methods to overfulfil their daily assignments over 1.2 times.

The Sunchon Thermal Power Station increases power generation by enhancing the combustion efficiency of boilers and

raising the power output of generators.

The Huichon Power Station expands the production results with continuous innovation and advance without resting on its laurels of having fulfilled its first 10-day plan of the first month of the new year. Amid the vigorous mass technical innovation drive, it works to fix the standard water levels according to power output and increase productivity by rationally adjusting water volume and through high-water level and high-efficiency operation of generators. The workers of the power station units 1 and 2, which take the lion's share of its power generation, raise the rate of operation of generating equipment by carefully organizing equipment and technical management to hit their production target every day. The power station units 11 and 12 make effective use of deicers to suit the winter conditions in order to protect the dams safely and increase power production by carrying out circuit checking properly as required by the technical

regulations. Workers and technicians of power station unit 8 enhance their responsibility and role to find defects in time, intensify periodic checking and maintenance and achieve rational distribution of load according to technical specifications of generating equipment to ensure increased power production.

The Anju Pump Factory has set an ambitious goal to establish the peak production record this year. To this end, it ensures all production processes, from materials supply to processing of accessories and finishing of products, work in effective coordination, while stepping up the work to consolidate its material and technical foundations by relying on its technical development force. It pays close attention to introducing rational methods to increase productivity while reducing fuel consumption and improving the quality of castings of all sizes. And it accelerates the processing speed of spare parts through a collective

innovation drive including the multi-machine tending and the helping of next shifts, while solving scientific and technological problems arising in making products from locally available materials by its own efforts and technology. It also widely encourages the development of new products on the basis of the achievement and experience of having developed several kinds of high-performance centrifugal pumps.

The Sunchon Cement Complex conducts a vigorous technical innovation drive by relying on its technical development force, giving impetus to the cement production with a series of new ideas and technical innovation plans. The workers and technicians controlled and operated equipment and machines in line with the requirements of the standard regulations of operation and technical regulations to lengthen the working hours of cement kilns and raise productivity and improved the crushing capacity by applying a new technique to crushers.

Performance given to celebrate anniversary of youth league



A performance is given by the central youth artistic motivational team in the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang.

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The central youth artistic motivational team gave a performance in the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on January 17 in celebration of the 76th founding anniversary of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

The performance was seen by Ri Tu Song, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, youth league officials and youth and students in Pyongyang.

Put on the stage were colourful items fully demonstrating the infinite pride and self-

confidence of Korean youth who have added brilliance to the laudable history and traditions of the Juche-oriented youth movement.

Each of the items reflected the patriotic zeal of the hot-blooded young people who volunteered to work in the difficult and labour-consuming sectors of socialist construction with the one mind of supporting the intention of the Party.

The performance fully displayed the youth's unshakeable will to resolutely make breakthroughs for new victory in the gigantic struggle for implementing the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Tactical guided missiles test-fired for check



A tactical guided missile is test-fired for verification on January 17. That day two tactical guided missiles were launched and accurately hit the set target.

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Tactical guided missiles were test-fired for verification on January 17 under a plan of the Academy of Defence Science, the Second Economy Commission and other

institutions concerned. It was aimed at selectively evaluating tactical guided missiles being produced and deployed and verifying the accuracy of the weapon system.

The two tactical guided missiles launched in the

western area of the DPRK precisely hit an island target in the East Sea of Korea.

The Academy of Defence Science confirmed the accuracy, safety and operational efficiency of the weapon system in production.

HOME NEWS

KCNA

Writing Mass literature production activities get more intense

A growing number of people are taking part in the activity to produce literary works in the DPRK.

At present many people have entered the national mass literary work prize contest which is being held in celebration of the birth anniversaries of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Ordinary people across the country continue to present different kinds of literary works and the number of such works totalled well over 100 in the first 10-odd days of this year.

Renovation Traditional medicine factory renovated

The Kanggye Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory has been renovated in Jagang Province.

All its processes from raw material feeding to packaging have become germ- and dust-free, making it possible to put Koryo medicine production

on a higher scientific and modern level.

At present, different kinds of Koryo medicines from the factory enjoy general popularity for their good remedial effects.

Online education More farmers to be enrolled in online educational system

Entering the new year, enthusiasm for learning through distance education is growing higher among the agricultural workers in the DPRK.

In this regard, various universities across the country are pushing ahead with the work to further increase the number of students in the online educational system.

School supplies Production of school things stepped up

The employees of the Ryongbong school things

factory are working hard to increase production as they positively introduce advanced working methods into production of writing materials, crayons and pencil cases to be supplied to preschool kids across the country.

The Sonamu school things factory is hastening production of different kinds of school things set according to school curricula.

Motivation Art production units engage in motivational activities for increased production

Upholding the idea and spirit of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, creators of the art sector actively conduct motivational activities for increased production by means of visual aids in the major sites of socialist construction.

While working together with workers, artists put up sketches of innovators and working sites in a mobile way.

Such works have amounted to over 200.

To develop all rural villages into rich, cultured socialist fairyland

By Yun Kyong Il PT

A blueprint for bringing about great changes in all rural villages of the country was offered at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It is a task of utmost importance in socialist rural construction to drastically transform the appearance and environment of farms.

For the WPK, which sets it as the supreme principle of its activities to constantly improve the material and cultural living standards of the people, to transform the appearance and environment of farms is not simply an economic and technical matter of destroying old houses or public buildings and reconstructing them, but the people-oriented work wished for and welcomed by all the people and political work for effecting new socialist rural civilization in the era of the Workers' Party and creating a new world where the local areas change.

It is the WPK policy on rural construction to turn all rural villages in the country into rich and cultured ideal socialist villages at the level similar to those in the City of Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, in the near future.

Accordingly, the country plans to change the living conditions and cultural environment in all rural communities in the country by actively promoting and expanding advantageous experiences accumulated in the construction of Samjiyon, while looking ahead to 50-100 years hence, and remould the thought and consciousness of agricultural workers and step up the construction of civilized society in that course.

It is the intention of the WPK to build all rural villages perfectly to be compared everywhere and even in the distant future, and to be superior in all aspects.

To transform mountainous, plain and coastal areas in a way that they preserve their local features is the fundamental requirement to be fulfilled in rural construction.

Rural villages are laid out to go well with the surrounding scenery while making the most of natural undulations of the relevant areas and diversify the forms and shapes of dwelling houses and public buildings while ensuring unity of the whole.

Measures have been taken to select the sites of rural villages well so that they would not suffer natural disasters, to build every structure in high quality and to plant good species of trees around farmhouses and villages.

The WPK ensures that cement necessary for the construction is preferentially supplied to all cities and counties and that preference is given to dwelling construction.

Local areas work out annual plans for rural construction properly by defining the order of priorities correctly and strive to implement them.

State measures have also been taken to provide major and finishing building materials and local areas are encouraged to create their building materials production bases.

When all the farm houses are wonderfully built to suit the modern aesthetic taste and public buildings spring up in distinctive styles, all the rural villages across the country will take on fresh appearance in the near future.

Agricultural sector out for bumper harvest

New era of socialist rural development



RI CHOL JIN / PICTORIAL KOREA

Tractors transport organic fertilizer to fields on the Migok Cooperative Farm in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province.

Rural community bustles with farming preparations

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

All cooperative farms of the country are busy with preparations for the new year's farming. Upholding the slogan

of "For new victory of socialist rural construction!" agricultural workers in farming villages in South Hwanghae Province, a granary on the west coast, and those in east coast

areas are eager to put the country's agriculture on the ascending stage by pushing ahead with rural rejuvenation and achieve the rapid development of socialist rural community.

Strenuous efforts are made to achieve this year's grain production goals at any cost by producing one ton of more grain per hectare everywhere in disregard of plain area or mountainous area.

Calamitous abnormal weather has negatively affected agricultural production every year and such unfavourable farming conditions throw into further relief the importance of improving the fertility of soil.

All farms are directing main force to developing farm fields into high-yielding ones by taking the improvement of soil fertility as a key issue.

On the basis of detailed analysis of natural climatic and soil conditions, farms turn out efficient fertilizers in larger quantities.

And they spread dozens of tons of manure per hectare of paddy and non-paddy fields, introduce the organic farming method based on snail, properly distribute crops and varieties and introduce advanced farming methods and technologies so as to increase per-hectare yields.



Agricultural workers strive to increase per-hectare yields.

Agricultural province takes vigorous stride in new year

To ensure stable and sustainable growth in grain production

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

South Hwanghae Province, the largest agricultural province in the DPRK, has launched a dynamic advance of the new year to bring about a decisive turn in agricultural

production. As it makes an in-depth analysis of the past experiences and lessons, the province arranges work for achieving stable and sustainable growth in grain production. What is noteworthy

is that it organizes work scrupulously to bring about practical innovations with science and technology as the main motive power for agricultural development.



Officials of the South Hwanghae Provincial Rural Economy Committee get together to discuss how to increase grain production.



Officials discuss how to provide efficient online question and answer service for diffusing farming techniques at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Q&A service promotes boost in agricultural output

By Kim Il Jin PT

With the increasing enthusiasm of agricultural workers for large harvests, interest in an online question and answer service system for diffusing farming techniques is growing day after day.

Based on agricultural scientific research findings and experiences in high yields gained in recent years, the Ministry of Agriculture has added to the system the data to help solve the technical problems arising in this year's farming by fields, farming processes and

crops, and run services such as video conferencing, online lectures and real-time Q&A, thus making sure that all farming processes are definitely put on a technical basis.

The periodical online question and answer service for diffusing farming techniques offers data on prediction about growth of crops, gives lectures on technical problems arising in carrying out farming processes, provides Q&A sessions with competent scientists, technicians and university lecturers from the central and local agricultural field and vividly displays presentations

of high-yield units and farmers' excellent technical experiences along with relevant images and video data.

Especially, many methodological issues to help raise the fertility of soil are discussed and excellent experiences are spread through the service, drawing the attention of agricultural production units and workers.

Last year, through the service system, countless units introduced advanced agricultural technologies into farming to suit their own specific conditions, thus raising the fertility of soil and making an

evident stride in grain production. At present, the Ministry of Agriculture is putting in positive efforts to make the online question and answer service system keep taking great effect in the future.

Meanwhile, it regularly serves technical data through its homepage. Through the homepage, the relevant subscribers learn new technologies, and ask questions about technical problems arising in farming and get answers.

The data service is very popular as it quickly provides accurate technical data wanted by the subscribers.

disastrous abnormal climate and effective solutions are being worked out in that course.

The province also ensures that production is reenergized at organic compound fertilizer and compound microbial fertilizer factories and such organic fertilizers as Sinyang 2 fermented manure are produced in a scientific and technological way, while pushing the work to tap all sources of manure.

Masses are encouraged to take part in discussions for establishing a scientific farming system and method that can provide against

Phanryuk Cooperative Farm which has lots of fields with poor fertility, with the result that dozens of trucks and tractors carried large quantities of manure to fields," said an official in Anak County.

The province also presses on in a methodological way with the introduction of rational cultivation methods which can avoid the influence of calamitous abnormal climate by advancing the period of harvest and the establishment of a well-organized work system for timely disseminating advanced farming methods to farms.

"There is a saying that rice is produced as much as you manure the fields. Our county organized concentrated transport of manure to the

'We will speed up the improvement of quality of education'



The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said in his concluding speech at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea that the educational sector should set it as the main objective of the educational revolution in the new century to train all the schoolchildren

as genuine revolutionaries, competent and creative talents and reserves of socialism by developing our education into the most advanced and ideal one to which we can entrust our future.

The educational work has turned into an important task of Party and government organs and the interest and investment in the matter are increasing day by day in the flames of the revolution in education, all officials of the educational department of the provincial people's committee are redoubling their efforts.

Last year, the province put in great effort to raise the

quality of education and thus achieved a lot of successes.

All schools of the higher and general education fields conducted a dynamic movement to create new teaching methods, thereby creating a lot of unprecedented, new and innovative teaching methods, and they were rapidly generalized amid heated competition of teachers, schools and universities.

The province actively organized presentations of new teaching methods and relevant exhibitions divided into those of national- and provincial-level universities, vocational-technical colleges and factory and farm colleges, decided the rankings of universities, colleges and teachers and made it a rule to generalize the video of a highly appreciated teaching contest.

In the course of this, new teaching methods, which

help students develop their power of thinking and analysis to the maximum so that they can become active searchers and learners and which increase the effectiveness of teaching by introducing modern science and technology including artificial intelligence and image and voice recognition technologies, were created, favourably commented upon by juries and users and widely spread.

As the zeal for creating new teaching methods is increasing at educational units, the province methodologically pushed ahead with the work to make advanced units help backward units.

Remarkable progress was also made in raising the qualifications of teachers.

The province inquired in detail about teachers' ranks at over 40 colleges and some 640 middle and primary

schools there, and saw to it that teachers attended teachers' in-service training schools and online courses of central universities to further improve their qualifications.

The educational department also attaches importance to reducing the disparity of educational level among urban, rural and mountainous areas.

Understanding that the disparity between urban and rural areas is in essence that of teachers' qualifications, the department made sure that advanced teaching methods created at universities and middle and primary schools in urban areas were actively passed on to schools in rural and mountainous areas.

It also ensured that joint departments and joint branches were run between educational units in urban, rural and mountainous areas to find rational solutions to

problems arising in teaching.

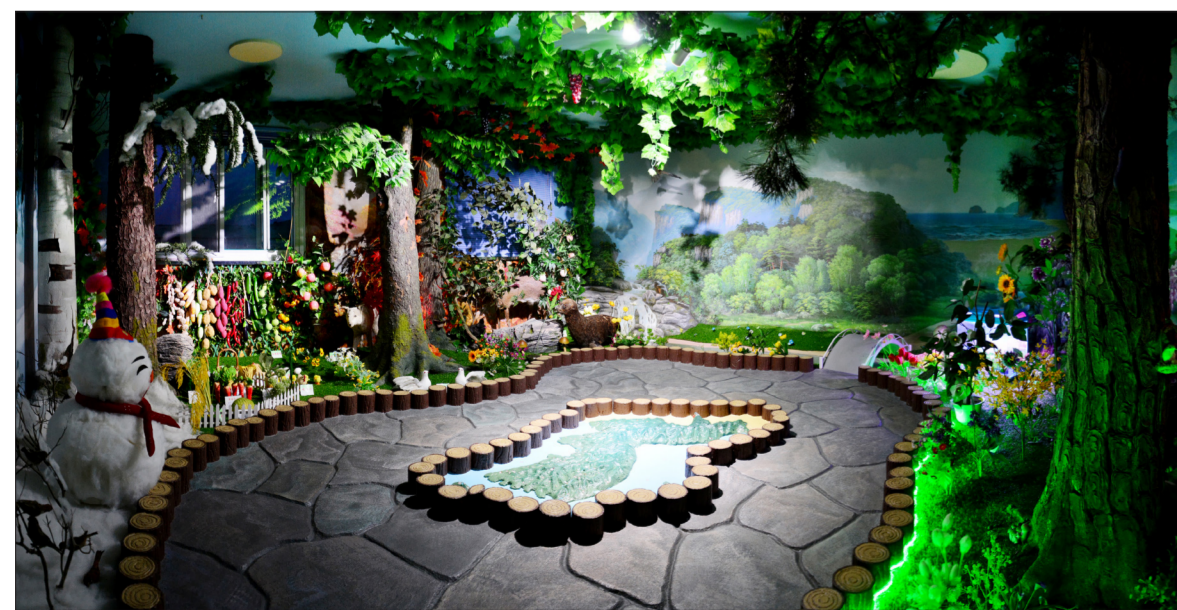
This enabled officials and teachers to keenly realize that teachers' spiritual strength and role constitute an important factor in overcoming the regional difference in educational level.

All achievements made last year serve as an asset and experience to achieve greater success this year.

This year, too, all educators in the province will turn out as one in carrying out the tasks set at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to improve the quality of teaching and train students into persons of ability wanted by the country.

Kim In Myong, deputy director of the educational department of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee

Province radically improves educational conditions and environment



PHOTOS BY HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Part of the interior of Jungdok Primary School in Pyongsong (top). The nature study room of Undok Kindergarten in the city.



Officials from the educational department of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee explore the way to provide better educational conditions.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Last year, South Pyongan Province built 16 schools and completely renovated 29 schools.

The schools, which were built splendidly on the best spots of the region, have multi-functional classrooms, laboratories, rooms for after-school activities and playgrounds, and all their environments inside and outside are arranged to be helpful to students' study.

A school renovation guidance team formed with senior officials of the region, with the support of Party and government organs and officials of the educational field, construction agencies and designing institutes in the province and in each of its cities and counties established a regular system of commanding the relevant projects in a unified way, and organized powerful construction forces.

The province saw to it that cities and counties established a principle of preferentially providing materials and funds for school construction and dynamically pushed ahead with the construction projects without interruption.

Senior officials of Party and government organs at all levels regarded the construction projects

as the most important, regularly got acquainted themselves with them and directly took measures to solve relevant problems.

"It is not easy to construct even a single building, and it is really difficult to build a school, which gives pupils all-round knowledge, as required by the trend of development of modern education. Still, officials made increasingly exact demands in the projects. Though always busy, they never failed to visit the construction sites once every day, even late at night or at dawn, greatly encouraging builders," said Kim Yong Chol, a school commissioner of the educational department of the provincial people's committee.

And all office and industrial workers in the province unsparingly provided materials and equipment for the projects.

"This year, too, the province continues to renovate educational conditions and environment. The designing is under way to make schools more distinctive and modern to meet the regional characteristics, children's psychology and the demand of developing pedagogy. This will provide better educational conditions and environment for students," said Kim Yong Chol.

Winners of national competition

By Kim Rye Yong PT

It is merely a few years since Undok Kindergarten in Pyongsong City was opened.

But the high teaching ability of its teachers and its good educational condition help develop all its children into little doctors and prodigies.

Jong Chang Won, a 6-year-old, amazes people with his talent for mathematics.

Chang Won is usually a calm boy but it is said that he is the best in the Rubik Cube and toy robot making.

Jin Kyong Hui, the boy's teacher, said, "Chang Won's forte is speculating about anything and applying a special method in his own way."

The teacher discovered his unusual aptitude, and put in a special effort to develop the application ability and memory of the child.

When explaining about a picture of the textbook, she asked him a question concerning practical life so as to make him speculate



Jong Chang Won



Kim Ryong Song



Ri Yon Ryon

about it, and made an effort to raise his memory using different programs.

He often worried the teacher as he would keep remaining silent. But under her warm motherly care, his talent developed amazingly in less than half a year.

In the intelligence sector of the 13th national excellent children's talent contest held last year, Chang Won was highly rated in all events including memory and picture puzzle games.

In particular, the jury highly praised him for perfectly

solving on the abacus the problems of addition and subtraction of 15 numbers of three figures and those of seven numbers of six figures displayed at intervals of 0.8 seconds.

Kim Ryong Song, another 6-year-old, has a special talent for making.

Once he has colour clay in his hands, it is said, Ryong Song uses it to make what he has seen and imagined unaware of the passage of time.

The teacher exerted herself to help him have a correct

understanding of things and develop his ability to conceive.

Jon Kum Hyang, another teacher, said, "Ryong Song found it most difficult to shape clay into a string. But his untiring effort finally bore fruit. Every viewer of what he shaped into animals are struck with admiration, saying they are not inferior to what experts make."

Ryong Song was also highly rated in the sector of making children's talent contest. And on December last year

he presented the collection of his works Interesting Fable to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Ri Yon Ryon, another six-year-old, is called little soloist in the kindergarten. Yon Ryon, who plays the treble jottae (a kind of Korean flute), can perform well solos of treble jottae for primary schoolchildren.

People find it hard to believe that her performance is a six-year-old's, for her nimble tongue hitting, deep breathing and strong depictive ability.

It is said that about half a year after she began to learn playing the instrument, Yon Ryon distinctively played by herself even new pieces of music the teacher had arranged for the instrument.

Yon Ryon was also highly rated in the 13th national excellent children's talent contest. She receives applause in performances held in the province and city.

The kindergarten now keeps producing talented children like Chang Won, Ryong Song and Yon Ryon.

Child with various talents



KIM KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Han Jong Ho PT

Kim Yu Ui (pictured) of Kansong Kindergarten in Pyongchon District, Pyongyang, is one of the children whose outstanding talents struck people with admiration.

The child admirably plays the piano with rich depictive ability and amazing technical skill. Furthermore, she easily solves three-digit addition and subtraction problems while playing the piano to people's surprise.

According to her mother Cha Song Ok, Yu Ui started to learn to play the piano at the age of four, and her teacher, too, was struck with

wonder by her accurate ear and conception of rhythm and her keen sense.

Her potential aptitude further developed in her kindergarten days.

Under the guidance of her kindergarten teacher Kim Un Hyang, Yu Ui became able to do sight-reading and hearing fourth-note chord and play any difficult piano solos flawlessly.

As she further developed the child's such merits as unusual cleverness and good memory, the teacher worked to develop her intellectual faculties.

She helped her develop the ability to visualize things by dint of abacus teaching, got her to solve four rules of

arithmetic without abacus in a short time and then solve addition and subtraction problems while playing the piano.

"In the beginning, these practices failed to interlock properly. She failed to play the piano properly while solving addition and subtraction problems, and her calculations were wrong when she concentrated on playing the piano. But I controlled her psychology to encourage her to pass through the critical stage," the teacher said.

Yu Ui finally became able to display her amazing ability.

While playing the piano, Yu Ui correctly solved one-, two- and even three-digit addition and subtraction problems which were displayed one by one in a second.

As a result, Yu Ui was highly appreciated at a contest of children with outstanding talents held last year.

Now she plays paduk (go) well and writes well with brush under the guidance of the teacher.

"I'm really glad to have taught a child with outstanding talent like Yu Ui. But it is my dream and our duty as kindergarten teachers to bring up all other children in our charge into talents," said the teacher.

Support programs help education for juveniles

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Programs are researched and developed to actively introduce them into educational practice in the DPRK.

The geographical study support program, which was jointly developed by the central teaching training centre and Minhung Junior Middle School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, helps recognize natural and geographical objects including major mountains, rivers and lakes of the country with the feeling of seeing real ones by applying the three-dimensional VR technology.

With the help of the program, students can see photos and videos about necessary objects like mountains, rivers, lakes and roads in relevant areas and observe them three-dimensionally while zooming them in and out.

Kim Chung Gun, student of the aforementioned school, said that geography lessons have become interesting after the introduction of the geographical study support program.

The Kwangmyong IT Institute of the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology developed math education support apps for smart phones and tablet PCs, drawing public interest.

An arithmetic study support program for children, with which preschoolers can solve problems as they make an exploration together with the kids in the amusement game, is not only interesting, but helpful to developing independent study abilities so that children can study arithmetic by themselves, without the assistance of an instructor or parents.

Ku Song Il, section

chief of the institute, said that it is aimed at making children have a general idea of numbers and develop their basic arithmetic abilities, while overcoming difficult and "dangerous" moments of exploration, and at giving them the knowledge of units often used in daily life like quantity, weight and size.

In addition, a math formula browsing program, known as a mathematic formula treasure trove, is popular among students and users since it enables them to rapidly and correctly browse lots of math formulas and edit numerical formulas by themselves to get results.

A child studies arithmetic with the help of a mathematics study support program.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

To develop public health into advantageous, advanced one

By Han Kwi Hun PT

The DPRK has built lots of hospitals over the past decade, including the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital and Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital.

This is the full manifestation of the firm will of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government to contribute to the promotion of the people's health by developing socialist public health into advantageous and advanced one.

The country already set up public health institutions at all levels in every province, city, county and ri village a long time ago, as well as in

Pyongyang, and enforced such measures as the district doctor system.

Even during the hard-fought Fatherland Liberation War, the government enforced the free medical care system for promoting the people's health, and these policies were later reinforced along with the progress of socialist construction.

Today, it is the consistent resolve of the WPK and the government to develop it into more popular and advanced public health with the mind of starting everything afresh, without resting on laurels.

Last year, the first year of the new five-year plan, the public health sector made precious achievements, true to the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

The Myohyangsan and

other medical appliances factories turned out modern and convenient medical appliances to please the people, while pharmaceutical factories and units put production processes on GMP basis at a high level.

Model units were chosen in the efforts to informatize the public health sector, including the establishment of standard hospital information system in provincial, city and county people's hospitals and the introduction of the residents' health care system into ri people's hospitals and clinics, and achievements and experience obtained in that course were positively applied to all parts of the country.

The recent Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK stressed the need to

further improve the quality of medical service for the people this year and bolster up material and technical foundations of the public health sector.

The sector now aims higher by taking last year's experiences and lessons as a springboard for leap forward.

All doctors and nurses are encouraged to possess warm humanity and the spirit of collectivism and devote their sincerity to treatment while actively introducing the world's advanced medical technologies.

Many projects for building advantageous and advanced public health are being designed with the main force being directed to bolstering up material and technical foundations of the public health sector.

Medical institutions mount outreach health services across country



Medical workers from the Kim Man Yu Hospital are engaged in outreach health service for employees of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

By Sin Pyol PT

Since the beginning of the New Year, medical workers of public health institutions across the country have conducted brisk outreach health service activities.

According to Sin Jin Hyok, deputy department director of the Ministry of Public Health, the ministry and public health institutions organized outreach medical teams staffed with competent medical workers to dispatch them to major factories, enterprises and cooperative farms, while taking measures to provide necessary medicines and medical supplies.

Doctors and nurses from the Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences Hospital and the Kim Man Yu Hospital set up medical posts at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station and the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, which bustle with a drive for increased production, and give workers health check-ups and provide them with devoted medical services to encourage them to achieve innovative successes every day in good health.

Those from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, General Dental Hospital under the Ministry of Public Health, Ryugyong Dental Hospital and Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital engage themselves in medical service activities at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk textile and silk mills and other factories.

"I feel easier with my eyes thanks to doctors from the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital who came to check-up and apply eye drops. I want to express

my gratitude to doctors engaging in outreach health services by overfulfilling my assignment," said Han Chol Ok, spinner of the chemical fibre spinning workshop of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

Public health institutions in each province, city and county conduct outreach health service activities in a mobile way. Medical workers from curative and preventive institutions at all levels in North and South Hamgyong provinces are also actively involved in outreach health services at hundreds of units in the provinces, including the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and February 8 Vinalon Complex.

Health workers of the Nampho City People's Hospital give medical services with sincerity to employees in production sites of large industrial bases including the Chollima Steel Complex, Kumsong Tractor Factory and Taean Heavy Machine Complex, which turned out to be the struggle to glorify this year with proud production achievements.

With a high consciousness of taking charge of workers' health, members of outreach health service teams in North Phyongan, South Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces improve the quality of medical services to contribute to production.

Public health establishments regard outreach health services as their natural duty, as the state takes responsibility for and care of the health of working people in the DPRK.

Employees look after war veterans, disabled soldiers as their children do

By Chae Myong Rim PT

It has not been long since the Pompit materials supply company was organized in Songyo District, Pyongyang.

But the company is known as a dear appellation to war veterans and honoured disabled soldiers in the district.

It is a duty for the company to take care of their life.

"Our company came into being thanks to the affection of the Workers' Party of Korea that puts them forward as treasures of the country and revolutionary seniors more valuable than gold. Backed up by the love, we made a big step forward with confidence from the outset," said Hwang Il Son, director of the company.

It started its work with offering the 90th birthday spread to a war veteran living in Jangchung-dong No. 1, Songyo District.

For the weak material foundation of the company,

the director and employees prepared materials with sincerity at their homes.

Afterwards, as they buckled down to laying the material foundation of the company, they built a land-saving animal shed.

As it was the first undertaking, they visited units and individuals that were renowned for doing animal husbandry well to learn and exchange experiences.

"The main thing in animal husbandry is the breeding stock. Our director did not mind walking out at night to purchase a good stock," said staffer Kim Myong Ok.

"My husband asked me to prepare a birthday spread for a woman war veteran a little after he was appointed director of the company. It was tough to do so, but I did what he said without complaint. However, I thought ill of him sometimes," recalled Hwang's wife Choe Kyong Suk.

According to her, she



“Whenever employees of the company visit my house, I feel like meeting my children by blood.”

War veteran Kang Yun Je

came to change her mind as she saw him very fretful for failing to fulfil his duty as an official in charge of the life of war veterans and disabled soldiers in the district.

At present, lots of such domestic animals as pig and chicken are grown in the



Officials of the Pompit materials supply company chat with a war veteran.

animal shed by introducing a food production cycle, so as to contribute to the dietary life of war veterans and disabled soldiers.

"Whenever employees of the company visit my house, I feel like meeting my

children by blood," said war veteran Kang Yun Je.

The dozens of war veterans and disabled soldiers in the district express their gratitude, but they do not know that the director has a disabled-soldier daughter.

"It is quite natural for us to do so at present when it is becoming a national trait to respect war veterans and disabled soldiers as revolutionary seniors and comrades and actively assist them," said Hwang Il Son.

Dental hospital applies research findings

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

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, who felt uncomfortable even after dentures were put in, 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.

According to doctor Ri Su Rim, the method ensures successful prosthesis for the cases with poor alveolar yoke.

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.

A solution for treating periodontitis made from rhubarb that is abundant in the country, a plaque indicator and a sinus lifting instrument also prove effective in practice.



PAK KWANG MIN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Medical workers are engrossed in the treatment of patients at the Ryugyong Dental Hospital.

Family work as procurement workers for generations



Choe Chun Hwa purchases waste materials from her neighbours.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

"Choe Chun Hwa's family has been working as procurement workers for three generations. All respect them as they have been doing the work through generations with pride in and attachment to their job," said Rim Kil Song, head of the office of Jangchung-dong No. 1 in Songyo District, Pyongyang.

Chun Hwa, a nearly 70-year-old woman, has worked as a procurement worker with branch No. 1 in the dong under the Songyo District daily necessities procurement shop for 40 years, and her mother, too, was a procurement worker.

Ri Pok Sun, Choe's mother, had been the head of her neighbourhood unit. After knowing that the dong had no other person who would work in place of the previous procurement worker who had retired as a pensioner, Ri volunteered to do the job.

Later, she was laid up with an incurable disease. Then her single daughter Chun Hwa, who was working with the Pyongyang Brewery, would go to the branch to help with her mother's work.

Sometimes, she saw local residents coming to the branch, bringing idle materials with them late at night. In the course of this, she came to know

that even a single kilogram of wastepaper and a single empty bottle could all serve as valuable wealth and resource.

"In her last moments, my mother said that procurement should not be neglected and that she wanted me to do the job in place of her," Chun Hwa recalled.

This is how Chun Hwa gave up her previous job and began to work as a procurement worker.

Though almost a stranger to the job, the results of her job were not inferior to veterans'.

She often went out to neighbourhood units to procure for the convenience of the residents, and to different places to collect scrap iron, wastepaper and waste vinyl.

So she often failed to take care of her family affairs. Still, she would keep working, remembering her mother saying that a procurement worker is also necessary for the sake of the country and asking her to take the job in place of her.

Many years have passed since then, and Chun Hwa's first daughter Kim Song Ok works as the third master of the branch.

"What matters to a man is not where he or she works but how he or she works, I think. Sometimes I find my job difficult, but I'll keep following in my grandmother's and mother's footsteps," said Kim Song Ok.

Restaurant wins fame for diverse services

By Yun Ki Song PT

The Mangyongdae Noodle House under the Mangyongdae District Restaurant in Pyongyang is crowded with diners on ordinary days as well as holidays and rest days.

It offers mouth-watering noodles.

The dish consists of a coil of savoury noodles contained in brassware topped with savoury, appetizing garnish and sweet meat stock and the mere sight of its agreeable arrangement makes diners' mouth water.

"As I was told that diners could relish tasty and cold noodles at the noodle house, I wondered whether it was true. It was really true," said Kim Hyang Chol, a resident of Konguk-dong in the district.

The district restaurant has other affiliates such as a corn dish restaurant, loach soup and *onban* (meat soup with rice in it) houses and rabbit restaurant, which are popular with clients for distinctive foods.

The most popular dishes of the rabbit restaurant are soup, roast

minced meat chops, hard-boiled meat chops with soy sauce, fried meat, steamed meat, thick broth and minced raw meat.

Diners heave a sigh of admiration as they take the first spoonful of the rabbit meat soup producing a savoury smell while giving out steam, and realize the true taste of rabbit meat as they take a piece of it after putting spices into the soup.

Open-air shaved ice stalls in the shadows of trees where wind blows gently serve sweet fold cake, tomato, red bean and strawberry shaved ice in summer.

Customers say in unison that the refreshing

shaved ice cools their bodies in an instant and the hospitable attendants make them very pleased.

"Our restaurant also provides service for war veterans and other persons of merit," said manager Kim Chol Min of the district restaurant.

A diary book of the restaurant contains the names and addresses of all the war veterans residing in the district.

The restaurant employees often provide special and mobile services for them. "We find our job rewarding as we see satisfied, beaming customers," said Kim Chol Min.



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Diners have noodles at Mangyongdae Noodle House.

Japan poisons Korean emperor to realize colonial domination

By Song Jong Ho PT

On January 22 1919, Emperor Kojong, the sovereign of the feudal Joseon dynasty, was poisoned by the Japanese imperialists.

The poisoning of the Korean emperor is a heinous crime committed by the Japanese imperialists to further impose colonial rule over Korea after militarily occupying the country.

Expressing his extreme antipathy to Japan's moves of aggression for reducing Korea to their colony that were getting undisguised day by day, the Korean sovereign endeavoured to check the Japanese manoeuvres at any cost.

When the Japanese imperialists forced the feudal Joseon dynasty to conclude the Ulsa five-point treaty in order to establish colonial domination over Korea, Emperor Kojong refused to recognize it from the beginning and finally did not sign and put the seal of the state in spite of Japan's tenacious threats and blackmail. After the treaty was fabricated, he made positive efforts to inform the international community that it was null and void.

Particularly, he sent personal letters bearing his signature and the seal of the state to the US, Russia, the UK, France, Germany and other powers. In the letters, he said that he as an emperor did not empower his government ministers to conclude the treaty and that

the Japanese side fabricated the treaty by confining the ministers, stating that it was invalid as the Japanese forced the conclusion of it in breach of public law.

He dispatched three emissaries to the Second International Peace Conference, which was held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1907 to disclose its illegality and invalidity to the world.

Afterwards when the Japanese imperialists forced the conclusion of the Jongmi seven-point treaty, he refused to give a prior consent, signature and the seal of the state.

His struggle to defend sovereign rights was a great obstacle for Japan trying to realize the complete colonial

domination over Korea. Therefore, the Japanese imperialists perpetrated a heinous crime of poisoning him, not content with forcefully deposing him.

The poisoning of the emperor of a country shows that the Japanese imperialists did not hesitate to commit any crime to colonize Korea.

The decades-long colonial rule over Korea by Japan is an unheard-of crime against humanity aimed at exterminating the Korean nation.

Japan has evaded any proper apology and reparations until today though it occupied Korea militarily and inflicted immeasurable human, material and mental damage on the Korean people.

For comprehensive development of socialist construction



So Song Il
Department director of the Academy of Social Sciences

Today, Korean-style socialist construction has entered a new age of vigorous advance and dynamism.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea declared the start of an all-people grand march to glorify 2022 as a watershed in the developing revolution and advanced strategic policies that will dynamically propel the overall development of Korean-style socialist construction.

It is the unshakable will of the WPK to build a powerful socialist country which prospers on the strength of self-sustenance and self-dependence in the near future by accelerating the comprehensive development of socialism.

Last year, the Korean people made great praiseworthy achievements by successfully carrying out enormous tasks in the face of the worst trials.

Achievements worthy of praise and evident stride forward hardening self-confidence were made in the agricultural field to which the Party gives top priority and the construction sector greatly demonstrated the development and potential power of Korean-style socialism making a leap forward by dynamically pushing ahead with huge construction projects. Meaningful and precious improvements and results were also produced in all fields.

It is attributable to all the Korean people who, with absolute loyalty to the leadership of the Party Central Committee, turned out as one with the zeal

for resolutely defending the authority of the Party Congress and dedicated their patriotic sweat to the implementation of the tasks for the first year of the five-year plan.

2022, which marks the 110th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung and the 80th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il, is a particularly important and significant year for the WPK and the Korean people.

Only when all fields and all units perform the crucial tasks for this year, can they glorify this year as a year of great victory.

This year, the Korean people have to wage an uphill struggle to definitely move to the next stage of the campaign for the comprehensive development in the building of Korean-style

socialism.

When fresh changes are brought about in all domains of social life to develop all sectors, units and regions evenly, a powerful socialist country that thrives by dint of self-sustenance and self-dependence can be built as early as possible.

By upholding the slogan "For the new victory of socialist rural construction!" advanced by the WPK, the agricultural sector has launched a dynamic drive to push forward with rural development and key industries and other economic sectors are making tangible improvement in production from the beginning of the year.

Working people in the fields of education, public health, and art and literature have also turned out with a renewed determination and resolution.

The Korean people are sure to emerge victorious again in their struggle of this year to bring forward the overall development of Korean-style socialism and the people's happiness.

OPINION

What is development of ultra-modern weapons aimed at?

By Ra Guk Chol

Moves are afoot in Japan from the outset of this year to buckle down to the study and development of an electromagnetic gun, a new-type weapon.

Not long ago, the Defence Ministry made public to the press that it would develop the one and only electromagnetic gun which is capable of destroying targets on the ground, in the sea and air.

Actually, the Japanese government included ¥6.5 billion (about US\$ 57 million) in its budget for the 2022 fiscal year as the cost for developing the new-type weapon. It has also set it as its target to deploy this weapon for action after 2028 by speeding up the study of securing energy efficiency and high-speed running fire technologies on the initiative of the Defence Ministry from this year.

The problem is that Japan is justifying itself linking the development of such ultra-modern weapon to hypersonic missiles being developed by our country, China and Russia, saying that the former is to counter the latter.

There is a proverb saying that "Who lives ill, fear attends him."

Japan is making a fuss about "threat" from its neighbouring countries without any reason. This is nothing but a mere show to cover up its hostile acts and wild ambition for reinvansion as it is a dangerous move of the Japanese reactionaries to become a military power without fail by accelerating the development of the ultra-modern weapon under the pretext of the "unprecedentedly deteriorated security situation of its neighbours".

Last year alone, Japan persisted in its moves to deploy ultra-modern strike weapons including development of long-range cruise missiles and new-type surface-to-air guided missiles, possessing of an aircraft carrier, building of new-type Aegis warship, and launching and commissioning of different classes of ultra-modern submarines.

This year, it plans to squander tens of billions of US dollars—the biggest amount ever—on military expenditure.

We have taken measures to strengthen national defence capability in order to actively cope with the security environment created on the Korean peninsula and in the region. They are quite natural as they are aimed at ensuring security of the state and people.

Japan, a war criminal state, does not need to worry about its own security if it approaches its history properly, makes reparations for its past A-class crimes against humanity and truly works for peace without committing any crime against its neighbouring countries.

Japan, with a stain on its name as a war criminal state, should be well aware that development of the new-type weapon constitutes an all too dangerous act which harms regional peace and security and brings its own self-destruction.

If Japan moves at full speed to become a military power while picking on others and resorting to the same old trick of inciting confrontation, it will only invite a terrible catastrophe.

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Cuban party increases leading role to defend revolution

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Cuba makes strenuous efforts to strengthen the leading role of the Communist Party of Cuba and defend the gains of the revolution.

The year 2021 was a year of arduous struggle for Cuba against the growing anti-Cuban blockade imposed by hostile forces as well as the world pandemic.

Shortly ago, President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez attended the general meeting of a district party committee in Camaguey to sum up its work and stressed the need for the party to attach importance to political and ideological work, always remembering the lessons drawn last year.

Referring to the experiences and lessons the country learned last year, he said that Cuba would overcome difficulties this year and that it is the most important to solve

problems that have accumulated in the socio-economic fields of the country as soon as possible.

The government directs a great deal of energies to achieving unity of patriotic people in the face of the hard reality.

The President called on all the patriotic people to maintain firm unity to cope with the enemy's ceaseless attempts to obliterate the national identity and undermine political stability of Cuba.

On December 27 last year, thousands of people from all walks of life held a patriotic march to support socialism in Camaguey. They expressed their will to fully support the Communist Party of Cuba and the government which lead the revolution to victory.

The Cuban people are working hard to safeguard the gains of the revolution they have achieved at the cost of blood from all sorts of schemes and moves of the hostile forces to isolate and stifle the country.

The Third Plenary Meeting of

the Eighth Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba was held in December last year.

The meeting had an in-depth discussion of issues on enhancing the role of the Politburo of the Party Central Committee, revising the party rules and others to strengthen the leading role of the party and defend the gains of the Cuban revolution.

The President said that the realities Cuba has now faced require them more than ever before to study and spread Marxism-Leninism, history of Cuba and the life, ideology and achievements of Fidel Castro. If they give up Marxism-Leninism, they would lose guidelines on socialist construction and if new generations do not know history, they would not have faith to defend the country and revolution, he stressed.

The plenary meeting adopted the "national plan for study, research and diffusion of ideology, life and achievements of Supreme

Commander Fidel Castro Ruz", whose main contents are to study and spread his life, ideology and achievements in a comprehensive way.

The main purpose of the plan is to contribute to attaining the goal of building an independent, socialist, democratic, prosperous and stable state.

The study of the ideology, achievements and life of Fidel in Cuba is prompted by the needs to continuously advance the revolution and aimed at building up the defence power of the country to the maximum, checking and frustrating every move of hostile forces to destroy the Cuban revolution and safeguarding the gains of the revolution.

The Cuban people are firm in their will to stoutly defend the gains of the revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The just cause of the Cuban people will surely bear good fruit.

Bangladesh demands US lift unjustifiable sanctions against its officials

By Kang Won

On December 10 last year, the Treasury Department of the United States imposed sanctions on seven current and former officials of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) of Bangladesh armed police under the pretext that they were involved in human rights violation. In this regard, the high-ranking officials of Bangladesh are requesting the lifting of the unjustifiable sanctions.

The Bangladeshi Foreign Minister expressed disappointment at the American sanctions and requested its lifting at his telephone conversation with the US Secretary of State on December 18 last year and in his letter addressed to the latter on January 1 this year.

In the letter, the Foreign Minister asserted that Bangladesh is taking strong measures to prevent terrorism and transnational drug trafficking and that its armed police as a law enforcement agency are playing a very important role in this fight. He therefore refuted the American allegations about forced disappearances and illegal killings by the Bangladeshi armed police, describing them as groundless.

He pointed out that while more than 1 000 people are shot to death every year by the police in America, these murder cases are termed as "mistakes while performing duty", but the deaths caused in the battles between the Bangladeshi armed police and terrorists and drug gangs are

publicized as "illegal killing."

The Law and Justice Minister and Information Minister of Bangladesh affirmed that RAB officials are doing their best to protect people's human rights and have not been involved in any sort of human rights violation. Highlighting the dismal human rights situation in the United States, they stated that it is a highly regrettable and prejudiced act that the US imposed sanctions on the RAB officials.

Human rights violations committed by the American police are in fact too despicable to talk about.

The American police criminals regard Afro-Americans as mere quarries and 99% of them are freely walking the streets with impunity,

exercising their authority as police officers.

The George Floyd case in particular, where this Afro-American was savagely strangled to death by a white policeman in Minnesota in May 2020, shocked the whole world as it was a shuddering atrocity of human slaughter only to be seen in the US, a country beset with racism and hate.

The US has neither justification nor face for poking its nose into others' human rights issues.

The US' attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries are doomed to be opposed and rejected by the international society.

The author is member of the Korea-Asia Association

BYWORD

In the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un ardently called upon the entire Party and all the people to vigorously accelerate the overall development of socialist construction by putting spurs to the spirit of courageous advance, and thus make 2022 a year of great revolutionary event to be significantly recorded in

Overall development of socialist construction

the history of the country and another watershed in the great struggle advancing toward the bright future.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK set forth the idea of achieving the overall development of socialism to meet the requirements of an era of building a powerful country. The idea of overall

development of socialism is that all domains and regions of the country should achieve the simultaneous and balanced development of all economic sectors.

It reflects the firm will of the WPK to accelerate the victorious advance of the revolution by hastening the prosperity of the state and

well-being of the people.

A shortcut to the overall development of socialism is to burn up everything backward, non-revolutionary and non-militant on all fronts of socialist construction with the fierce flames of three revolutions and bring about a fresh innovation, bold creation and steady progress.

Briefly

Palestine

President censures Israel's moves to seize territory

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a statement on January 17 to censure Israel's moves to seize territory.

The Israeli authorities are trying to forcibly dishouse the Palestinian residents of East al-Quds, and the statement branded and condemned the attempt as a blatant violation of international law and humanitarian laws.

It asserted that such moves of Israel as to forcibly dishouse the Palestinians and approve the construction plan for thousands of blocks of Jewish dwelling houses would exacerbate regional tension.

Cuba

Astronomical observatory built

An astronomical observatory was built at the geophysics and astronomy institute of Cuba on January 15.

Remote-controlled by a computer, the observatory is equipped with a wide-width telescope. With the help of the telescope, people will observe celestial sphere and monitor outer space.

It is reported that Cuba can collect meteorological observation data by itself, exchange relevant information and train specialists from now on.

Weather

Global mean air temperature rises

Last year was the fifth highest year in global mean air temperature in the history of observation.

According to a weather information institution of the EU, the temperature of last year was 1.1-1.2°C higher than the period between 1850 and 1900 and, as a result, such abnormal weather phenomena as heat waves, forest fires and flood-causing torrential rain occurred in succession in the world.

Meteorologists said that the atmospheric density of carbon dioxide and methane, the causes of global warming, keeps increasing, asserting that it shows no sign of moderation in the future.

Tonga

Massive volcanic eruption

A large-scale submarine volcano recently erupted in Tonga.

The volcanic eruption that lasted for over 12 hours on January 14 is said to be about seven times more violent than that on December 20 last year.

The ensuing tidal waves submerged surrounding islands, destroyed buildings, disrupted communications and beached ships.

COVID-19

Pandemic infects over 334 million people, killing at least 5.57 million

According to foreign news reports, 334 661 579 contracted COVID-19 and 5 572 291 died of the disease while 58 501 435 were undergoing medical treatment as of 24:00 on January 18.

Over 2.76 to 3.63 million people were infected with it that day.

WEIGHTLIFTING ACE BAGS 11 GOLD MEDALS



I wish weightlifters of the young generation would succeed to the victorious tradition continuously."

Choe Hyo Sim, winner of Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and Merited Athlete

By Ri Sang Il PT

There was a farewell match of meritorious weightlifters in the Weightlifting Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang on December 14 last year.

Among them was Choe Hyo Sim, winner of Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and Merited Athlete.

"It is an honour to be here with world-class weightlifters like People's Athlete Rim Jong Sim, winner of Kim Jong Il Prize and DPRK Labour Hero. I wish weightlifters of the young generation would succeed to the victorious tradition continuously," she said when a journalist asked about her impression.

Choe Hyo Sim is a weightlifter who bagged 32 medals including 11 golds in 14 international competitions such as the Olympic Games and the World Weightlifting Championships.

Particularly in 2019, she left an indelible impression on people.

She lifted 100kg in the first try of women's 59 kg category snatch at the IWF World Weightlifting Championships held that year.

After lifting 104kg in the second try, she offered to lift 107kg for the third try.

"In fact, I was very tense at that time. Because a new world record, a wall which all weightlifters looked for, was a step ahead of me. But I took my step without hesitation," said Choe Hyo Sim.

As soon as she lifted 107kg in the third try, applause rose, and she became a new world record holder.

She fully demonstrated her ability at the 6th Qatar Cup held in 2019.

In the game attended by crack sportspersons, Hyo Sim jerked 130kg in the event of 64kg category to take the first place and won the event in total to obtain two gold medals.

Without resting on her laurels,

she bagged another gold medal and a silver medal in 59kg category snatch and jerk respectively at the IWF World Cup held in 2019 and won two gold medals in total ranking.

For these successes she was selected as one of top ten players of the DPRK in 2019.

Afterwards she continued to make strenuous efforts for gold medal and the number of her golds increased.

In 2021 alone, she gained good results in different national games including the Mangyongdae Prize Games in celebration of the Day of the Sun and the national championships.

Therefore, Choe Hyo Sim was selected again as one of the top ten players of the country in 2021.

"Her tireless devotion for victory and her fair play are examples which we should follow. We will not forget her for a long time," said Ji Su Yong, weightlifter of the Waudu Sports Club.



PANG UN SIM / PICTORIAL KOREA

Hunminjeongeum (left) and Hunmongjahoe.

Korean alphabet Hunminjeongeum

By Jong Chol PT

Hunminjeongeum is a unique national alphabet created by the Korean ancestors in the 15th century.

The name Hunminjeongeum literally means "correct sounds to educate the people" and denotes that it is an excellent alphabet for right letters for teaching ordinary people.

It was also called Jongum or Onmun.

Jongum was a name related to the intrinsic nature of the Korean letters, and Onmun was the one given to signify the letters used by commoners.

The Korean alphabet is a very advanced one that can express words of any foreign languages. It was invented collectively by Jong Rin Ji, Choe Hang, Pak Phaeng Nyon, Sin Suk Ju, Song Sam Mun, Kang Hui An, Ri Kae and Ri Hyon Ro, renowned scholars of

Jiphyonjon (a national agency for authoring important books during the feudal Joseon dynasty), under the personal supervision of King Sejong.

Hunminjeongeum was made by improving Sinji characters used by ancient Koreans. Originally, it consisted of 28 basic letters.

Besides, it was supplemented by combining basic letters or adding certain marks to the basic letters.

It is easy to learn and use as the letters were made on the principle of imitating the shapes of speech organs.

The scholars of Jiphyonjon who created Hunminjeongeum published a book under the namesake title to explain the meanings of letters and present several new linguistic and orthographic theories for the first time in the world.

Hunminjeongeum has been handed down as part of the valuable cultural heritage of the nation.

By To Kyong Chol PT

The Rimyongsu Falls are situated in the City of Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province.

There is Rimyongsu Valley formed by the erosion of the basalt which was spewed out from Mt Paektu during volcanic eruptions a million years ago.

Underground water spouts out of crevices to form the rare Rimyongsu Falls. Their nine main streams empty into the artificial lake of the Rimyongsu Barrage.

The pavilion on top of the falls and black rocks exposed between the streams go well with the crystal-clear water of the lake beneath and surrounding forests. On fine days, a fascinating rainbow forms as sprays of droplets reflect sunlight.

The waterfall unfolds distinctive scenes as azalea blossoms in spring, green woods in summer and scarlettinged leaves in autumn

blend in well with streams and lake.

The scenery of the falls is mysteriously beautiful as endless streams send up thick clouds of spray, hoarfrost stretches around like an artwork elaborately embroidered with silver threads, the inside of the valley looks like the celestial raiment of an angel when viewed from a long distance and innumerable silver beads are so dazzling in the sunlight when viewed from a short distance.

The water temperature of the falls does not go down below 4°C even in winter.

Every viewer is struck with admiration as they feast their eyes on the unique scene where water streams down between ices despite the intense cold in Mt Paektu.

The spectacular landscape emanates an aura of mystery of nature.

The Rimyongsu Falls were registered as a national natural monument in January 1980.



Enchanting view of waterfall covered with hoarfrost

The falls were formed by the erosion of the basalt which was spewed out from Mt Paektu during volcanic eruptions a million years ago.

