

Ground-breaking ceremony held for construction of Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm

General Secretary Kim Jong Un makes stirring speech and shovels first spadeful of earth



KCNA

A large-scale modern greenhouse farm is to appear in the Ryonpho area of Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province of the DPRK, according to a decision made at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea enshrining its far-reaching plan for bringing about overall development of Korean-style socialist construction and according to a relevant assignment.

The Party Central Committee set it as a top task of the major state construction policy tasks for the year 2022 to build the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm and entrusted the honourable task to the units of the People's Army which accumulated

lots of experience in greenhouse farm construction.

There was a grand ground-breaking ceremony on February 18.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, attended the ceremony.

Present there were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the WPK Central Committee, Ri Jong Nam, chief secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK, and officials and working people in South Hamgyong Province.

Also on hand were Ri Yong Gil, Kim Jong Gwan and other officials of

the armed forces organs and soldier-builders.

When the start of the ceremony was declared, the national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made a stirring speech.

Kim Myong Sik and Kim Kwang Hyok, generals of the Korean People's Army, made speeches at the ceremony to express their resolve.

They expressed their firm will to raise a hot wind of Ryonpho for effecting another round of miracle in the same spirit as they displayed when they built the modern greenhouse farm in the Jungphyong area.

Kim Jong Un shoveled the first

spadeful of earth in commemoration of the ground-breaking ceremony and personally pressed the button for blasting.

It was followed by a loud boom of the blasting signaling the start of the construction and then the explosion of fireworks.

The construction of the greenhouse farm which embodies the great Party Central Committee's noble outlook on the people will give a boost to the revolutionary enthusiasm of all the people out in the general advance to carry through the grand fighting task and the socialist rural construction programme set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Party.

Let the People's Army Highly Demonstrate Its Militant Mettle in the Construction of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm for the People of South Hamgyong Province

Kim Jong Un makes speech at ground-breaking ceremony for construction of greenhouse farm

Comrades,
Today, on the road of great creation for the people, we have greeted another dignified and worthwhile moment.

Some days ago we launched into building 10 000 flats in the capital city for 2022, which is of great significance in solving the housing problem for the people of the city. And today a ground-breaking ceremony is being held for the building of a large-scale greenhouse farm that will contribute greatly to the living of the people in the city of Hamhung and South Hamgyong Province. The Central Committee of our Party and the government of our Republic regard this as a very auspicious and honourable thing.

First of all, I extend a militant salute to the service personnel and other builders, who have come to the project site with a determination to render a contribution to promoting the people's wellbeing by successfully carrying out the top-priority project in the construction policy of our Party and state.

Comrades,
The Central Committee of our Party has always regarded it as a matter of crucial importance to solve the problem of vegetable supply for the people in Hamhung, a major industrial and science city in the country, and in South Hamgyong Province. For several years it has thought about building a modern greenhouse farm here, and promoted it in a planned way.

Having decided to turn a major military base on the eastern front into a modern vegetable production base that will serve the working class and scientists in Hamhung and other people in South Hamgyong Province, who are making strenuous efforts as they have undertaken a great share in the development of the country's economy and science and technology, the Party, at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of its Eighth Central Committee, identified the construction of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm as a most important



and saw to it that valuable experiences were accumulated through the project.

The construction of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm we are now starting is a very important undertaking which will promote large-scale construction of greenhouse farms, which began in North Hamgyong Province, full steam ahead and at a new stage.

The Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, the largest and modern greenhouse farm in our country at present, will be twice the size and production capacity of the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm which was inaugurated two years ago, and it will be kitted out with much more advanced technology and equipment with regard to nutrition supply, environment management and automation of production processes.

In addition to this, about 1 000 houses of new and varied forms and all the public structures including schools, hall of culture and comprehensive service facilities will be built in a characteristic way to form a new farm district which encapsulates the civilization of our era.

It is the Party Central Committee's intention to build the greenhouse farm into a large-scale vegetable farm with the production capacity of tens of thousands of tons, at the same time as a textbook farm for disseminating advanced agricultural technology, a new base for the creation of the rural civilization of our style and a cultured socialist farm good to work and live in both in name and in reality; its intention is also to push ahead with the country's overall rural development more dynamically and more confidently with the farm as the standard and beacon.

If a modern greenhouse farm which has been considered to be something ideal, something in the future, is built soon in this place which is currently dominated by gales from the sea, it will give greater

project for this year.

And it finally confirmed the project site and indicated the orientation of its construction on the spot, organized a powerful project headquarters and made preparations for its full-steam construction. So we are holding this meaningful ground-breaking ceremony today.

This construction to be undertaken according to the intention of the Party Central Committee is an important creative project for building a modern farm that would make a great contribution to improving the people's living standards, that is, for creating another new standard in implementing the Party's policy of building greenhouse farms.

If we are to supply our people with sufficient amounts of fresh vegetables all year round in the natural and climate conditions in our country, we should build greenhouses in a large number and put vegetable production on a modern, intensive and industrial footing.

This is why we started building a large-scale greenhouse farm in North Hamgyong Province, where vegetable farming is less effective than other regions,

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confidence and inspiration to all the people across the country, to say nothing of the Hamhung citizens and other people in South Hamgyong Province.

It is a great honour for you, the officers and men of our army, to undertake the construction of such a significant farm as a whole.

You already accumulated valuable experiences in building a modern greenhouse farm and, in particular, you fully demonstrated the spirit of devoted service to the country and the people and pure conscience befitting soldiers through its construction. The Party Central Committee took this into consideration when it decided to task you with the construction of this greenhouse farm.

As you built the splendid Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm by devoting honest sweat and sincerity as you would do to your own parents and siblings, the Chongjin citizens and other people in North Hamgyong Province are now enjoying benefits from the farm and are pleased that the vegetable problem, which was one of the biggest troubles in their living, has been solved to a great extent.

This time you should give such a pleasure to the Hamhung citizens and other people in South Hamgyong Province.

Mindful of the intention and expectation of the Party that has called you to this project, you should build with credit the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm by the founding anniversary of the Party this year, by giving full play to the militant mettle of the revolutionary army.

If you are to finish the project in a matter of 230-odd days until the founding anniversary of the Party, you should launch a fierce construction campaign with unusual preparedness and determination, which are different from the ones with which you worked at Jungphyong and audaciously innovate again yesterday's standard and mode of construction. Thus you can generate the Ryonpho spirit of creation and raise a hot wind of Ryonpho true to the meaning of the words.

Precedence should always be given to political work aimed at heightening and amplifying the spiritual strength of the masses of soldiers, the absolute superiority and the source of invincible strength of our army, and organization of and command over the

project should be conducted in an elaborate and high-spirited manner—in an army-like way. Then the whole construction site will seethe with militant mettle and the zeal for creating new miracles.

During construction you, officers and men of the army, should strengthen cooperation while competing with one another, proactively share good experiences and advanced building techniques, economize on building materials to the maximum and keep clean the area surrounding the construction site. By doing so, you can ensure that another new culture of construction in our era is created by the People's Army.

Although you have moved to a different theatre of operations and combat, you should keep in mind the fact that now you are standing at the very forefront for cementing more solidly our great army-people unity, which is more powerful than any kind of strategic weapon. And you should exert yourselves to bring to completion as soon as possible the greenhouse farm for which the people are waiting with a pleasant mind.

As I have always stressed, you should ensure the highest level of quality without fail in building a greenhouse farm.

Just as you already built the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and carried out several other major projects in a flawless manner, you should, this time again, devote sincere efforts and apply meticulous building techniques to every process and detail of the project, with the mindset that you are setting up buildings in which your parents and siblings will work and live.

In a word, you should present the farm to the people by building it into a ten-out-of-ten architectural structure not only in the aspects of its functions and architectural aesthetic beauty but also in quality.

South Hamgyong Province should actively join in the project.

Although the People's Army takes full charge of the project, it is none other than the province itself that will benefit from it in future, and so it is natural that the province should contribute to it as much as possible.

The province should provide enough aggregate so that the soldier builders can push ahead with the project without a hitch and create windbreaks in conformity with the geographical features of the coastal area. The province should offer every other possible assistance

for the vigorous promotion of the project.

As this greenhouse farm is to be built on a highly modern basis, it is especially important to ensure that the technical personnel are well-prepared.

The South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee and the agricultural guidance organs should properly build the ranks of the farm's management staff, technicians and employees, and make sure that they are technically well-prepared while providing all the management materials including vegetable seeds and farming equipment before the completion of the project. By doing so, from next year, they can supply vegetables mass-produced here to the Hamhung citizens on a regular basis.

The Party Central Committee demands that an exemplar of construction guidance be created in this project.

Well-knit work and guidance systems should be established for the project headquarters, field guidance teams and all the departments, and officials should work in a far-sighted and responsible manner, so as to ensure that the project is pushed forward in strict accordance with the schedule and standard set by the Party.

Comrades,

Here and now, we see the ranks of elite units of our People's Army standing in fine and proud array, and we will see a sea of greenhouses standing just like them some months later, a treasure farm for our people, which will be something rare to be seen in the world, and a sea change will be brought about in the Ryonpho area.

Imagining in our mind's eye a merry laughter that will tinkle in each of our people's houses and looking forward to the bright future of our country which will become more prosperous by that laughter, let us all exert ourselves to set up structures for our people as early as possible.

The Party Central Committee has ordered the courageous officers and men of the People's Army to present a perfect, modern greenhouse farm to the people as gift to them. I firmly believe that you will carry out the order with credit by working with all the militant mettle of the revolutionary army upholding the slogan "We serve the country and the people!" with burning hearts.

Glory to the course of devoted struggle of our army that is absolutely faithful to the people!

DPRK leader sends verbal message to Chinese counterpart

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, sent a verbal message to Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, upon the successful holding of the Beijing Winter Olympics.

In the message the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un extended heartfelt, warm congratulations to General Secretary Xi Jinping on the successful holding of the Beijing Winter Olympics as a novel, distinctive and splendid grand sports festival amid the great expectation and interest of all the Chinese people and other peoples of the world.

He appreciated that the Chinese party and people have left an indelible trace in the history of the Olympics with their indefatigable efforts under the leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping in the face of the unprecedentedly severe health crisis and the hostile forces' manoeuvres and demonstrated the stamina of China

dynamically advancing in the direction indicated by the socialist ideology with the Chinese characteristics in the new era. And he expressed the belief that they would achieve a greater success in their efforts to build a modern socialist country in an all-round way this year when the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China is to be held.

Noting that the two parties of the DPRK and China and the two countries are defending and advancing socialism, their common cause, while frustrating the undisguised hostile policy and military threat of the US and its satellite forces by strengthening the bilateral strategic cooperation and unity, he expressed the will to more firmly consolidate the DPRK-China relationship into the invincible one together with General Secretary Xi Jinping and to positively contribute to building a peaceful and developing world.

He sincerely wished General Secretary Xi Jinping greater successes in his responsible work for leading the Communist Party of China, the People's Republic of China and the Chinese nation in good health.

Kim Jong Un sends congratulations to Chongryon Central Standing Committee chief

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on Tuesday sent a congratulatory message to Ho Jong Man, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon).

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in the message extended warm congratulations and comradely greetings to Ho Jong Man on his 87th birthday, together with the mind of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

He in the message praised him as a veteran revolutionary and a true patriot and loyalist who has dedicated himself to the patriotic work for the reunification and development of the country and its prosperity for more than six decades since his twenties. Our Party and the DPRK government put forward Ho Jong

Man as the first overseas revolutionary comrade whom Chairman Kim Jong Il personally formed a connection with and always remember his distinguished patriotic feats vividly manifested in the history of the Juche-based movement of overseas compatriots, he said.

Chongryon celebrated the 80th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il with splendour shortly ago despite the worldwide health crisis, he noted, adding this is the manifestation of pure loyalty and uprightness of Ho Jong Man and other Chongryon officials and compatriots in Japan towards the Chairman.

He wished Ho Jong Man good health and his family happiness, hoping that he would more vigorously lead the sacred struggle for the development and prosperity of Chongryon and for the protection of the compatriots' rights and interests, full of energy despite his advanced age.



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Steel giant buzzes with increased production activities

'We will direct primary efforts to modernization and maintenance of production processes'



Kim Kil Nam

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea stressed that the metallurgical industry sector should technologically refine the Korean-style iron-producing method, produce iron and steel as scheduled by supplying fuel

and raw materials in time and, at the same time, push ahead with the expansion of capacity and modernization this year, the second one in implementing the five-year plan.

Accordingly, our Chollima Steel Complex is faced with the task of fully meeting the demand for iron and steel badly needed in different sectors of the national economy by increasing the production of steel and rolled steel with emphasis put on that of Juche iron.

To this end, our complex has set a goal of normalizing production by further perfecting the Korean-style iron production system technologically and maintaining and repairing production processes and is directing primary efforts to the modernization, adjustment and reinforcement of production processes while pushing the current production as planned.

Firstly, we are pushing

the reconstruction and modernization of a dozen projects, including the construction of an oxidizing roasting pellet furnace at the Posan Iron Works and the introduction of the oxygen-enrichment technology into rotary kilns which are aimed at fully ensuring the production of iron by the Juche-based method. We have also established rigid discipline whereby precedence is given to the supply of fuel and materials so as to carry out daily, weekly and monthly production plans without condition. In particular, we direct a big effort to supplying electrodes for the normal operation of electric furnaces.

Secondly, we focus on producing rolled steel including drawn pipe and wire rope. To this end, we are upgrading continuous casting machines and cranes of the steel workshop and pushing the readjustment and

reinforcement of steel, rolled steel and oxygen production and gas generator systems.

In order to carry out the huge task, we closely cooperate with scientific research institutions to solve scientific and technological problems arising in readjusting and reinforcing overall processes and undertake big projects to ensure normal production of rolled steel at a high level.

The task facing us this year is not easy as many difficulties stand in our way. But we will increase the production of steel, keeping in mind the trust and expectation of the Workers' Party of Korea that puts forward the metallurgical industry as the country's eldest son and pillar industry and calls smelters the eldest sons of the country.

Kim Kil Nam, deputy chief engineer of the Chollima Steel Complex

pushing the readjustment and

By dint of mass technical innovation

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Chollima Steel Complex ensures increased production of steel by dint of science and technology.

According to Choe Won Chan, staffer of the technical development department, the complex consistently pushes the work to improve the technical and practical skills of technicians and skilled workers and organizes a prize contest and sci-tech presentation once a quarter as part of a vigorous mass technical innovation campaign.

Last year alone, it organized three rounds of sci-tech prize contest and five rounds of sci-tech presentation and, in connection with national sci-tech diffusion units, obtained more new technical data to set up a database containing over 3 000 pieces of data and disseminated them to its affiliated units.

Thus, the complex won over 110 certificates including six national patents, over 50 certificates of registered sci-tech achievements and over 50 certificates of invention.

In the course of this, lots of technical innovation plans were introduced to help increase steel production.

For example, it newly built two gas generating furnaces for heating material for the 6 000-ton press. Thanks to these furnaces it established a process to heat the heating furnace for 6 000-ton forging material and large and medium-sized steel-pouring ladles by means of a high-temperature air combustion

heating method based on locally abundant fuel, thus contributing to making the metal industry Juche-based.

It also made and installed a secondary current measuring device for transformer of ordinary electric furnace so as to make and introduce a large current transformer for ensuring symmetry of current on three phases, thus making it possible to reduce the tap-to-tap time by 30 minutes while preventing electrodes from breaking to save lots of electrode.

By establishing an oxygen-pulverized coal blowing technical process, it removed foaming slag by dint of oxygen-pulverized coal blowing in the melting process to raise heat efficiency while accelerating carbon-phosphorylation to reduce the tap-to-tap time by 30 minutes more than before and lower the norm of electricity consumption per unit by 50 kWh.

The complex also introduced various sci-tech innovation plans including the making of a fuel oil-air mixed burner and establishing a flat bar production process in the medium rolling process, a brick drying process based on waste heat from tunnel kiln and a waste oil-based general grease production process to normalize steel and rolled steel production.

"In future, too, we will dynamically conduct the mass technical innovation campaign to fully ensure the production and supply of iron and steel," said Song Myong Ho, chief engineer of the complex.

Steel workshop strives for more charge

Close collaboration fostered between shifts

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The steel workshop can be claimed to be the most important unit of the Chollima Steel Complex, a leading base of the metallurgical industry.

Because the more the workshop turns out molten iron, the more iron and steel will be produced.

Smelters of the steel workshop, who know well about it, devote themselves to producing even a charge of molten iron more.

Under the slogan of "One for all and all for one!" they endeavour to produce much more steel as they ensure the normal operation of electric

furnaces by scrupulously organizing the management of equipment and technology, while strengthening cooperation between shifts and shortening the melting time.

The workshop carefully checks up equipment during recesses and closely organizes and commands work to raise the responsibility and role of operators in charge of equipment so as to normalize production on a high level.

"It is no exaggeration that molten iron production depends on the UHP electric arc furnaces," said Ji Jong Ho, senior engineer of the workshop.

According to him, the workshop actively introduces different technical innovation plans into boosting steel

production by improving the performance of the UHP electric arc furnaces.

Smelters of UHP electric arc furnace No. 1 shorten the melting time while further speeding up equipment repair after tapping by applying innovative plans.

They made and introduced various jigs needed for removing slag inside the furnace after tapping to shorten the time of repair. And they conducted the repair of equipment qualitatively as they explored and introduced rational feeding and electricity supplying methods according to materials, thus shortening the melting time from one hour to 30 minutes, which resulted in increased steel production.

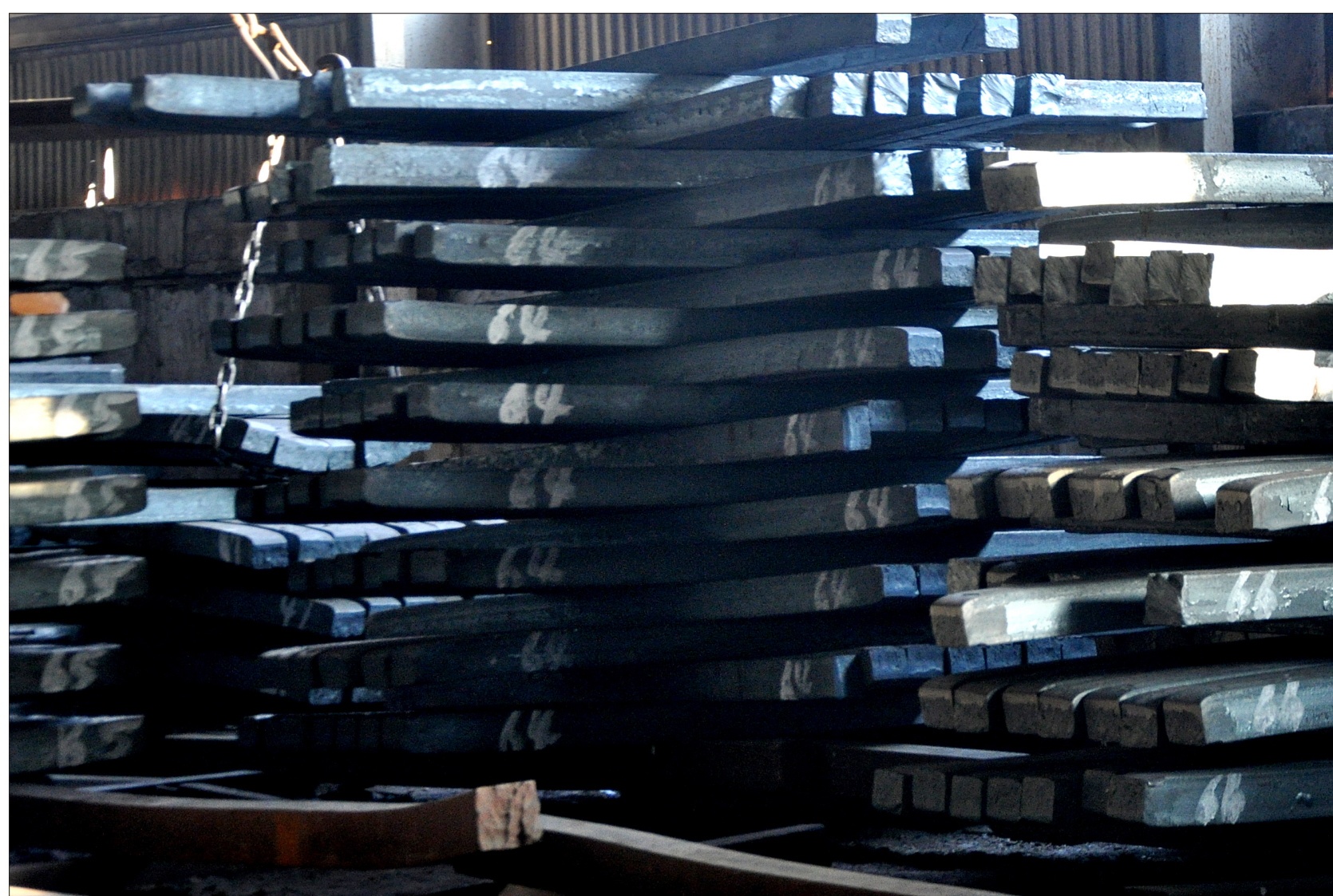
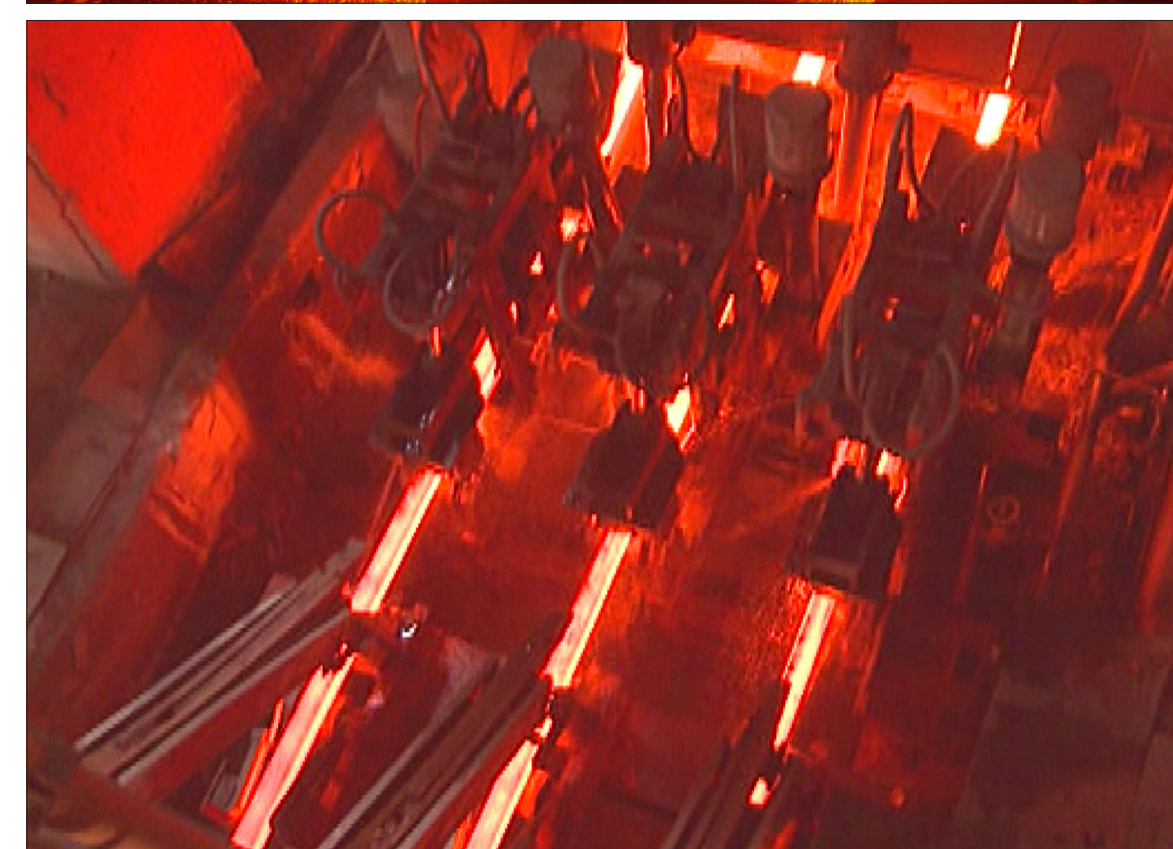
Other smelters hasten iron and steel production as they feed materials in a responsible manner and tightening cooperation between shifts.

Cherishing the pride of working in the native home of the Chollima movement aimed at advancing by dint of collectivism while helping and leading one another forward, the employees of the complex always keep in their mind the slogan "For the next shift" and set it as an inviolable routine to make full preparations for the work of the next shift after a day's work before going home.

Thanks to the devotion of smelters, the workshop overfulfills its daily steel production plans.



Production of iron and steel is boosted at the Chollima Steel Complex.



Research into miniaturized powdered milk production process completed

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry researched and completed a miniaturized process for producing the powder of goat's and cow's milk.

According to the childcare policy set forth at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea last year, nationwide efforts are now being made to produce and supply milk products for children at nurseries and kindergartens.

Powdered milk is most important here. What was badly needed to this end was the miniaturized powdered milk production equipment that can be introduced into any milk producing units.

Therefore, the university buckled down to the study and manufacture of such facilities.

"It was necessary to develop a new type of spray dryer in order to produce powdered milk with high solubility and nice taste and pleasant fragrance," said Ri Kwang Myong, lecturer of the university.

The spray dryer incorporates the combination of fluid dynamics and heat engineering theories and the calculation of heat transmission and mass transfer is essential in the manufacture of it, he added.

Scientists established a computing system for that and developed a pressure injector nozzle to suit the actual situation of the country, thus making the spray dryer meeting such technical specifications as heat blast and jet velocities and particle size.

They also completed a new type of vacuum concentrator so as to ensure the qualitative features and actual yield of powdered milk at a high level and built a steam boiler with high heat efficiency, low coal consumption and an automatic water feeding system.

They developed a system for automatically controlling equipment and pipelines and perfected standard operation methods.

As a result, they succeeded in producing powdered milk satisfying qualitative indexes.

All the facilities in the powdered milk production process completed by the university are so small and handy that they can be introduced into any units producing goat's and cow's milk. Through the process, the milk produced on the spot is directly turned into powder, which improves the taste and nutritive value of milk products and saves labour and materials required for milk transport and storage.

"Our research team provided a scientific and technological guarantee for powdered milk production last year and is now pushing the work to introduce this technology throughout the country this year," said another lecturer Kang Kyong Nam.



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Researchers conduct further research into the miniaturized powdered milk production process at Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry.



Researchers measure the characteristic indices of a temperature transducer at the semiconductor research institute of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Prize-winning temperature measuring equipment for protection of generator

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Temperature measuring device for the protection of generator developed by the semiconductor research institute of Kim Chaek University of Technology is in effective use at hydropower stations.

Choe Sam Ryong, chief engineer of the water power management bureau of the Ministry of Electric Power Industry, said that such devices prove effective

at almost all hydropower stations across the country

Previously, electricity production was severely hindered at the power stations owing to the high temperature caused on revolving or frictional parts of their equipment like the coil of generator.

In order to solve the problem, the institute decided to use locally available raw and other materials to newly make and introduce a temperature transducer and display for protection

of generator and started research to that end several years ago.

After a comprehensive study and analysis of preceding technical documents, the researchers made a strenuous effort to solve technical problems arising in completing the structural design of the transducer and making it.

And they went to a hydropower station to have a discussion with its workers about the relevant measuring system, and thus completed the system unaffected by any external influences.

Factory focuses on quality improvement

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Rangnang Finishing Building-materials Factory concentrates efforts on improving the quality of products.

The employees of the factory work hard to steadily enhance the quality of products by laying the foundations for production relying on locally available raw materials and applying scientific quality management methods to all production lines from the purchase of raw materials to production process management, inspection and tests of products and survey of consumer demand after sales.

The factory produces over a dozen kinds of products including a water-reducing agent for concrete which can improve the quality of concrete by using a small amount of water, a waterproof agent for cement mixture, a marble pattern decorative paint, a stone decorative pattern paint, a concrete anti-freezing agent

Technicians discuss how to improve the physical properties of a paint at the Rangnang Finishing Building-materials Factory.



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

and a compound waterproof paint.

The employees continue to acquire technical knowledge to upgrade their technical skills, while intensifying cooperation with professional institutions to enhance the quality of products.

They have already invented and introduced into production various kinds of facilities needed for quality improvement.

The factory's Ungusul (silver bead)-brand

products are popular among the users for their good quality.

Its finishing building materials were widely used in the construction projects of Ryomyong Street, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and many others and they are in great demand.

The factory also puts efforts into producing functional products.

Recently it developed a functional anion paint which helps protect health

of the people and provides favourable conditions for environment by increasing the concentration of anion in the air after construction and established a new rational working method with an anion paint.

It is a small factory with only dozens of employees, but its products take an important share of the country's major construction projects like the building of houses for 10 000 families in Pyongyang at present.

WINNERS OF NATIONAL SCHOOL CONTEST

By Ri Sung Ik PT

There is a school which is widely known throughout the DPRK as it produces many talents.

The school not only won dozens of medals and honour prizes including over 20 golds at the International Math Olympiad, a worldwide intellectual competition of youth and children, but also produced a thrice gold-medallist and several twice gold-medallists.

Entrants of the school are students who were carefully selected from

excellent tradition and that the good results are produced by the high enthusiasm of its teachers and students who strive to carry on the tradition, I think," said Han Yong Ran, teacher of the school.

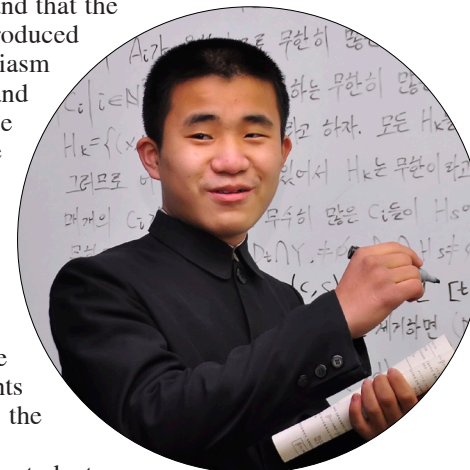
The result of last year's national contest of middle school students showed how high the school's ability is.

At the contest students of the school snatched gold medals for almost all subjects including math, physics and programming.

In particular, Ri Yu Song, who took part in the event of math, amazed the jury by correctly finding the answer to a question in a short time with a unique process of solution.

At the event of physics, Kim Kum Song left a good impression on the jury as he explained his solution to a problem in fluent English.

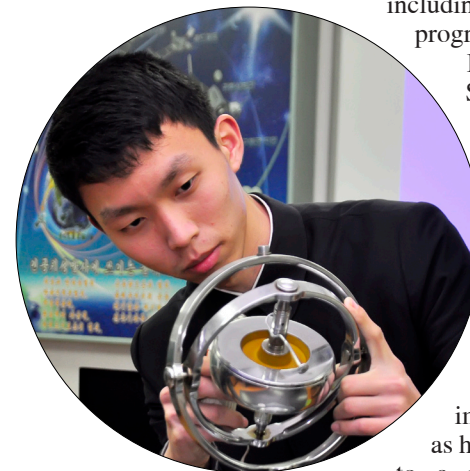
Kim Won Guk won a gold medal by creating the shortest and most correct program at the event of programming. Asked about his impression, he answered, "Our school has many excellent students. My rivals, however, are not the students of our school or others at home. I want to compete with the world. By doing so, I



Ri Yu Song

want to exalt the honour of our country."

"Sometimes, the targets and spiritual world of our students are beyond our imagination. We are also struck by their enthusiasm to achieve them. Our school has risen to fame thanks to such excellent students as well as its good educational conditions and high teaching ability, I think. I am proud of such students," said his instructor Han Yong Ran.



Kim Kum Song

across the country and its educational environment and curriculum are at a very high level.

Students feel pride in being admitted to the school and such feeling is also shared by their parents.

It is Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 situated in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

"The secret to the consolidation of the school's position lies in that it has an



Kim Won Guk

School pays attention to training talented vocalists



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A teacher offers early vocal music education to schoolgirls at Inhung Junior Middle School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Inhung Junior Middle School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, is well-known for training talented vocalists.

"Our school has a tradition of producing many vocalists loved by people including People's Artistes Kim Kwang Suk and Jo Kum Hwa. By carrying on this tradition, we endeavour to train excellent vocalists," said Jon Yong Suk, Merited Teacher at Inhung Junior Middle School in Moranbong District.

The school admits students with musical talents and development potentials to a vocal group and gives early vocal music education to them.

The main thing in the early basic vocal education for students in

their early teens is said to give them vocal education properly so as to change their voices into matured ones.

"To change students' voices before the age of voice change is a very important process to make them rapidly acquire vocalism which enables them to have matured voice while preserving clear and high tone quality," said Jon.

While giving basic education in various singing methods and tunes, the school teaches students the rudiments of different popular musical instruments and rhythms.

What is noticeable in the vocal music group activities is that art group members have high scholastic attainments.

Students of the group are advanced in both class and school rankings, which is

attributed to the high demand of the instructor of the group.

"I acquaint myself with the study of group members every day, not only because some of their parents fear that vocal music training might affect their study, but also because I believe that students who do not study hard in class have no passion and cannot study music well," said Jon.

The school often arranges an artistic performance of students.

According to Jon Yong Suk, students build up courage and consolidate real abilities in this course.

Students of the school have retained the first place in national students' art festivals and exalted the honour of the school in the New Year celebrations of schoolchildren.

'We will work hard to train more talents'



Sok Kyong Hwa

Today, the talented are symbolic of national power and constitute the major

resource and weapon together with science and technology.

The future of science and the result of competition for ascendancy in national power hinge on the number of talented people and on how their ability is displayed.

This is why the educational sector is faced with an important task to train talented people for different sectors in a far-sighted way.

What is important here is to teach basic science in an effective way.

Only when the schools in the general education sector and universities strengthen the education in basic science

including math can students acquire knowledge of their specialities and scientific and technological

knowledge in different sectors extensively and in depth and develop their creative abilities.

More talents will be produced when teachers help students lay solid intellectual foundations in their early school years and intensify basic and specialized education for them in combination with practice at schools at higher levels.

It is imperative for educational institutions to make the teaching contents practical, comprehensive and modern at a high level and sensitively employ latest sci-tech achievements and high-tech data in good time in teaching students.

We put in effort to closely combining theoretical education with practical one and make sure that students consolidate what they already learned and develop their creative abilities to proficiently

employ it through experiments and practice.

It is necessary to strengthen the genius education system in order to train talented scientists and technicians.

What is important here is to make effective use of the existing genius education system so as to give full play to its advantage and vitality.

We are now trying to further improve the scientific level of selection of students that is under way with emphasis put on their aptitudes, gifts and intellectual faculties.

As the saying goes, an excellent teacher is behind an outstanding talent, and therefore it is necessary to improve teachers' qualifications and levels in order to train excellent talents.

We are also conducting in a

planned way the work to raise the level of genius education by involving competent teachers in such education.

And we scrupulously organize the work to narrow the gap of teaching level between Pyongyang and provinces and between urban and rural areas so that lots of excellent talents can be produced in provinces and rural areas.

Another important way to train a large number of such talents is to increase public interest in education and intensify support to it.

We will channel greater efforts into training talents, fully aware that it is an important undertaking related to the future of the country.

Sok Kyong Hwa, senior school inspector of the Education Commission

New teaching methods prove effective



Teachers discuss how to enhance the cognitive abilities of students at the mathematics section of Changjon Junior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Changjon Junior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang, makes positive efforts to apply new teaching methods to education in order to contribute to improving students' abilities. "To get students to become active learners and searchers, teachers have to design scientific educational courses and manage them skillfully. Only then can they boost the effectiveness of lessons to the maximum," said headmaster Ri Chang Jo. The school strove to find out new teaching methods for mathematics and Korean language. Originally, students of the school found math difficult and boring and therefore control was regarded as essential in teaching the subject. To overcome such problems, teachers of the school created new teaching methods using e-games.

During a lesson on a formula for finding the area of a fan shape, for example, a teacher transmits a game to students' computers. The study target in the game is to create a round flower bed. Students input answers into their computers by using the formula for calculating the length of an arc, which they learned in the previous lesson, and if their answers are correct, fences are erected around flower beds and flowers appear. And the program presents a question as to what formula is needed more to make flowers bloom in the rest of the area. Then the teacher explains a new formula for calculating the area of a fan shape and students use it to obtain an answer and input it to get flowers into bloom. "In the past, students learned formulas, without knowing the uses of them and the ways to use them. But with the help

of such games, they come to know these and confirm the significance of formulas in practice. It is very important in making students active learners and searchers," said teacher Kim Hye Gyong. A new teaching method for the Korean language subject has also been helpful to improving students' abilities. According to another teacher Yu Mun Yong, in composition lessons in the past, a teacher presented a picture or explained its content before getting students to write compositions, which proved not so effective in inspiring their imagination. But an interactive teaching support program has effectively stimulated their imagination by visualizing the relevant objects and enhanced their expression abilities through group discussion and presentation. New teaching methods created by the school are winning popularity among officials and teachers in the general education sector.

Teaching subjects combined with foreign language helps boost students' performance

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Ryongwang Senior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang, introduces a teaching method combined with foreign language into ordinary subjects. Two years ago, the school made sure that teachers of ordinary subjects use foreign languages for some terms in lessons with a view to constantly providing students with foreign language environment. The school organized several kinds of foreign language short training courses and conversation competitions for teachers in such direction. "The use of foreign languages in lessons improved students' foreign language application abilities to a certain degree, but there were opinions that the method failed to attain the teaching

goal of relevant subjects," said Kim Un Suk, deputy principal of the school. The school encouraged young and skilled teachers to find out new teaching methods so as to realize teaching combining foreign language from such basic natural science subjects as mathematics and physics. Here, the main stress is put on making foreign language instruction serve the purpose of attaining the teaching goals of relevant subjects and imparting knowledge to students so that they can see foreign scientific and technological books or multimedia presentations. The school fixed the parts to be explained by teachers in foreign language and question-and-answer part in working out teaching plans. And it introduced a simple multimedia presentation containing simple foreign language sentences so that students can easily understand them. This markedly improved students' cognitive effectiveness for the contents of relevant lessons and their foreign language skills. According to Pak Ok Song, who recently set an example in teaching physics combined with foreign language and generalized it across the country, students have possessed lots of sci-tech terms in foreign language since the application of the new teaching method and it is noticeable that they have remarkably improved question and answer faculty in foreign language. According to deputy principal Kim Un Suk, the school leads others in the city in terms of students' scholarly performance and ability to apply foreign language.



Students attend a physics lesson combined with a foreign language at Ryongwang Senior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang.

RI RYON SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Education programs benefit all

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Now a computer-based examination system for primary schoolchildren proves immensely helpful. Children are different in the level of understanding according to their preparedness. The computer-based exam system can correctly analyse their understanding level in a short span of time. The program is designed in such a way that the pupils just choose answers to questions or type simple answers, so it is no burden on them. Schoolchildren also use the program a lot to evaluate the state of their perception of what they studied by themselves. Kang Hye Yong, teacher of Sanghung Primary School, Sosong District, Pyongyang

I originally found math difficult. But now, another "teacher" helps me much. It is a mathematical formula browsing program called a "storehouse of math formulas". I can browse a lot of formulas quickly and correctly with the help of the program. I thought I didn't need to learn by heart the formulas as there is this program, but I came to memorize all the formulas as I frequently used them. I am really happy as I get more full marks and frequent praise from the teacher. Hong Thae Ung, pupil of Hasin Primary School in Sosong District My son is a first-grader of a primary school. He was too absorbed in play to have an interest in study.



Kang Hye Yong



Hong Thae Ung



Yu Kum Ae

But since he began to use the education program Pangulkkot, he has studied well by himself. So I once watched him studying with the program. Then I, too, wanted to use the program because

I noticed that it visualizes the contents of study subjects in a three-dimensional way and connects them with amusement games. It is three months since then, and now he asks me many questions about study. As a mother, I really welcome such education programs. Yu Kum Ae, mother of Ryu Kwon Hyok, pupil of Sangsin Primary School in Sosong District

Reptile house makes visitors experience world of tropical grassland

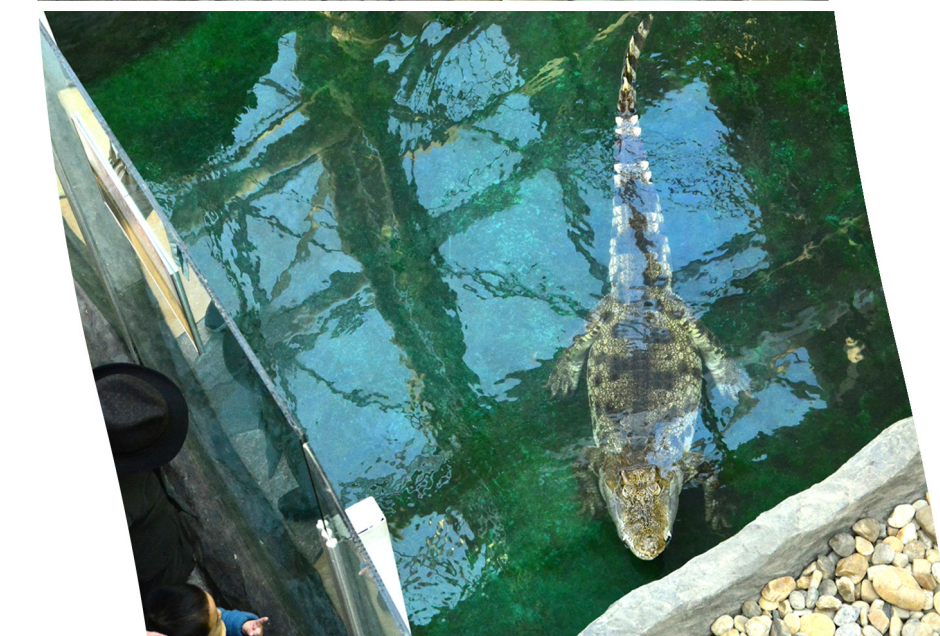


By Han Kwi Hun PT

In the DPRK, there are clear distinctions between four seasons, and February is still winter. Even in midwinter, however, visitors can experience the feelings that are got from tropical forests, savannah and other places at the Central Zoo. After passing through the entrance to the zoo representing the head of a Korean tiger which seems to swallow up a prey at once, they can easily notice a model of large tortoise lying down flat on the turf with its head held high. The place is just the reptile house where you can experience the world of tropical grassland. The zone consists of a wood with dozens of kinds of rare plants like palm spreading its wide leaves between a dinosaur mural in relief and a sculpture of dinosaur, banana tree, cactus, hemp palm and Monstera deliciosa, and reminds visitors of the earth hundreds of millions of years ago. According to Kim Hyok Chol, senior engineer of the

house, there are hundreds of amphibians and reptiles of 50 species and many animals such as testudo, Greek land tortoise, Macrolemys temminckii, snapping turtle and salt water crocodile are gift animals presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un by personages of different countries. He added that as they renovated the zoo, they provided the animals with the temperatures and humidity suitable for their growth in conformity with their features and constructed the house in consideration of the characteristics of their native areas, and exhibited them in a circular way. This enables visitors to be well aware of the environment in which relevant animals live. Kim Yc Gyong, second-year pupil of Sonnae Primary School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, said that she had learnt about reptiles at the nature study room of her school, but she came to have a better and more correct understanding of them at the zoo. Visitors pose for

photographs against the backdrop of unique and vivid landscape of tropical forests and of animals that cannot be found in nature in Korea. Among the people who have a good time, there is a child who jots the names of animals in a pocketbook. "On holidays or Sundays, my daughter would tease me to go to the zoo. Therefore, I frequent the zoo with her, and I can see every time that her level of question has markedly increased. Whenever I was dumbfounded at her questions, the introduction board takes the place of answer. The Central Zoo offers wide knowledge to adults as well as children," said Yu Jin Chon, father of Yu Yon Jong, a child from Phyonghon Kindergarten in Phyonghon District, Pyongyang. Visitors try to find out animals which have forced their way through such plants as palm and Cereus peruvianus, which have bright natural light, and have gone into burrows, and "regret" visiting the tropical forest in winter clothing, which leave them with deeper impression on the house.



The reptile house with hundreds of amphibians and reptiles of 50 kinds draws lots of people in winter.

JO RYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Japan fabricates treaty to violate sovereignty of Korean nation

By Choe Yong Nam PT

On February 27 1876, Japan fabricated the “Kanghwado Treaty” by dint of military threat, blackmail, deception and trickery. Japan had long watched for a chance to invade Korea, the eastern gateway to Asia. As soon as it carried out the bourgeois reform, known as the Meiji Restoration, in the mid-19th century, it came up with the “theory of the conquest of Korea” and faked the Unyogo incident in 1875. It was a premeditated armed provocation aimed

at inventing a pretext for invading Korea and bringing it under its control. Availing itself of the incident, Japan accused Korea of “having committed a hostile act” against it and forced the government of the feudal Joseon dynasty to sign an unequal treaty. Threatening the Korean feudal government by mobilizing guns and warships, it finally forced the latter to accept its unreasonable terms and ink the 12-article treaty, known as the “Kanghwado Treaty”, on February 27 1876. It was an aggressive and subordinate unequal treaty

which infringed on the sovereignty and interests of the Korean nation. Based on the treaty, Japan stretched out its aggressive tentacles deep into Korea in politics, the economy, military and other fields. And it occupied Korea by force of arms by fabricating the Ulsa five-point treaty in 1905 and enforced harsh colonial rule over it for over 40 years, inflicting untold suffering, misfortunes and disasters on the Korean people. It is a legal and moral duty for Japan to make a sincere apology and reparations

for the wrongdoings it had committed against the Korean nation in the past. However, it distorts its history of aggression and, furthermore, openly reveals its wild ambition for overseas reinvasion as it works to revise its constitution in retrogressive way and moves towards a military power. The DPRK does not look on with folded arms as Japan is hell-bent on arms beefup for overseas reinvasion and the latter will have to pay higher price to the Korean people for that in addition to its sinful past.

With skilful guidance and drive



Pak Chol Jin
Department director of the State Planning Commission

It is required to implement phased plans in order to conquer the high peaks of the five-year plan put forward at the Eighth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea. Especially, this year is very important as it is decisive of the success or failure in implementing the five-year plan. In this second year in implementing the five-year plan, the State Planning Commission keeps tight control, provides careful guidance and organizes work scrupulously to make all sectors and units achieve their goals and plans for this year without fail to bring about remarkable changes and practical improvement in

economic construction and material and cultural life. Based on a critical analysis of shortcomings and lessons of last year’s work, all sectors and units found out the main link, sequence and the way of execution by stages to hit the target for this year and drew up scientific plans. Particularly, they set development-oriented goals for giving a complete facelift to their units and areas and are pushing the work to achieve them purposefully, consciously and with perseverance. The commission puts effort into further strengthening the discipline in implementing the national economic plan. We make increasingly

exact demands on all sectors and units so that they can carry out their economic plans as planned for every ten days, month and quarter, and strictly observe disciplines and orders of producing and supplying as scheduled by regarding the plans issued by the state as their legal assignments that cannot be delayed. We pay close attention to promoting sci-tech development and giving priority to it. We worked out a correct sci-tech development plan and are thoroughly implementing it with an eye to getting backward sectors and units to make dramatic progress, and see to it that scientific

research units select the development and completion of technologies, which are of urgent significance in raising the independence of the national economy and improving the people’s livelihood, as their key tasks and push ahead with them to bring about practical results. Meanwhile, we make sure that all sectors and units keep the buildup and training of scientific and technological forces ahead of production and construction, thus forming their own reliable technical forces and camp of talents under a far-reaching plan. All the officials of the State Planning Commission will discharge their responsibility and role in the struggle to implement the decisions set forth at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee with skilful guidance and drive.

OPINION

Air pollution poses serious problems for humankind

By Song Jong Ho PT

Last year the World Health Organization published a report stating that air pollution is one of grave threats to human health and the damage caused by it is growing. According to the report, about 7 million people die at the too early ages every year in the world. Air pollutants cause asthma and lung disorders in children and heart diseases and palsy in adults. A fact has also been found out that air pollution may cause loss of hair. Scientists discovered that fine particles of air pollutants lower the content of proteins responsible for the growth of hair. It proved that the fine particles causing air pollution are harmful both to the interior and exterior of the human body. Many countries and regions are now suffering from air pollution. India is one of the countries with a high death toll from air pollution. In the country 1.7 million people died of it in 2019 alone, which account for 18 percent of the nation’s mortality. The air pollution indicators of New Delhi were reportedly high again in November 2020. The locals cried out in pain that smog is so heavy that they can see nothing and it is unbearable and that they feel their eyes and noses burning when they are outside. Kenya has also sustained a great loss of life. According to its Ministry of Energy, tens of thousands of people catch various kinds of diseases caused by air pollution and lose their lives across the country. The density of fine dust in several areas of Bangkok, Thailand, has gone beyond the bounds. An analysis of the state of air pollution throughout the world showed that Southeast Asian countries, namely Jakarta of Indonesia, Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia and Hanoi of Vietnam, were put on the list of cities with the most serious air pollution. In Spain about 30 000 people die of various kinds of diseases caused by air pollution every year. A local social organization reported that 97 percent of the total population live in polluted atmosphere. Air pollution produces negative effects on crop production. Scientists predicted that the agricultural output would sharply fall due to the combined effects of global warming and air pollution by 2050, leading to a catastrophic disaster. According to an analysis of their impacts on staple crops of rice, wheat, maize and bean, the decrease in crop yield by global warming is expected to be about 10 percent by 2050, but it is not easy to assess damage by air pollution. But two phenomena are interrelated. If air pollution and global warming work together, the crop production decrease crisis will get more serious. For example, maize is easily affected by high temperature caused by global warming, whereas wheat is prone to air pollution. Studies estimated that Africa would face a more severe food shortage in particular.

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HORRIBLE HATE CRIME—RESULT OF AMERICAN RACISM

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Hate crimes rooted in racism are more rampant in the US, evoking social concerns. On January 28, British newspaper *The Guardian* reported that there was an explosive increase in hate crimes against Asian-Americans in San Francisco, California, last year. According to an investigation by the city police, the number of cases of hate crimes against Asian-Americans in San Francisco was nine in 2020, but

it amounted to 60 in 2021. Shocking is the fact that a criminal implicated in half of the crime cases destroyed over 20 shops run by the Chinese people. In the US, crimes rooted in racism as well as gun-related crimes have become an incurable chronic disease. The American media say that the number of cases of hate crimes committed against Asian-Americans across the country from March 2020 to June 2021 is recorded to be over 9 000 in the data announced by the police authorities, but they are only the tip of the iceberg

compared with the number of actual cases as many criminal cases fail to be properly reported. To cite a few, an armed man killed eight people including six Asian-American women in an incident that occurred in Atlanta, Georgia, in March 2021. In another incident in New York City in April 2021, a 61-year-old Asian-American man finally died after falling down on the road due to a surprise attack on his back. They vividly show to what extent the criminal acts rooted in racism have reached in American society. Such tragedies stem from the

socio-political system of the US, where extreme misanthropy, egoism and racism are rampant century after century. American politicians are making a great fuss as if they are going to root out racial crime acts, but it is no more than a trick to quell the anti-government sentiments of the Americans opposing racism and to maintain the anti-popular political system. The US had better remedy its dire human rights situation first, instead of posing as a “human rights judge” clamoring for “equality of all” and “protection of human rights”.

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Main culprit aggravating situation in Taiwan Strait

Some time ago, the US announced its plan to sell Taiwan munitions worth US\$ 100 million. This has triggered a strong backlash from China. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China expressed a firm stand of the Chinese side opposing it, strongly denouncing the sale of munitions to the region of Taiwan by the US as a grave violation of One China Principle and three Joint Communiqués between the People’s Republic of China and the US, in particular the provisions of the “August 17 Communiqué”, a serious infringement on sovereignty, security and interests of China and wanton destruction of China-US relations as well as peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait. The spokesman for the Ministry of Defense of China said that there is only one China in the world and that Taiwan is an inseparable part of the Chinese territory. He also stressed that

the Chinese People’s Liberation Army would take every necessary measure to firmly safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, smash into pieces any kind of intervention by the outside forces and the plot for “Taiwan independence”, and that it will continue to step up the process of the unification of the country. The US has reportedly sold Taiwan arms worth more than US\$70 billion reneging on its promise under the “August 17 Communiqué” between the PRC and the US until now, nearly 40 years since the communique was announced in connection with the issue of arms sale to Taiwan by the US. The US outwardly advocates “One China” policy, but inwardly it has conceived its sinister intention to make Taiwan an outpost for putting pressure on China while instigating “Taiwan independence” and to expedite eventual division of China. The US should be well aware that its risky arms buildup, which escalates tension in the Taiwan Strait, will only invite tragic results.

US AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN CENSURED FOR HIS REMARKS

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Recently, the US has become more undisguised in its attempts to drag Japan into cooperation for pressure on Russia. On the occasion of the “Day of Northern Territory” of Japan, the US ambassador to Japan stated on February 7 that the US supports Japan in the issue of the “northern territory” and that it has recognized the sovereignty of Japan over four islands since the 1950s. With regard to this, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia

condemned the US for putting a brake on the long-range cooperation between Russia and Japan by supporting Japan in its artificial demand that Russia return its territory. The first vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the State Duma of Russia branded the remarks of the US ambassador as nonsensical from an unqualified diplomat and bitterly ridiculed him, saying that nobody would have expected there would be such strange ambassadors who deny and question the agreement of the victor nations on the result of the Second World War signed by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

Russian political figures including Sakhalin regional assemblymen also warned that the interpretation of the result of the Second World War at will cannot be tolerated and that alternation of the borders which were defined according to the Potsdam Declaration and the Yalta Agreement will bring about irretrievable consequences. Confrontation between Russia and the US is becoming extremely tense over the issue of Ukraine. Amid such circumstances, the US supported Japan’s dominion over the “northern territory”. The real intention of the US here is to push Japan, its

junior ally, to the forefront of cooperation for pressure on Russia. It is not accidental that only a few days after the speech by the US ambassador to Japan, a Virginia-class submarine of the US Navy intruded into the Russian territorial waters in the vicinity of the Kuril Islands. The US is trying to drag Japan into the implementation of its strategy to put pressure on Russia by giving active political and military support to Japan which is seeking a chance to fulfill its territorial ambition. Such provocative acts will trigger a backlash and strong reaction from Russia.

Briefly

China
24th Winter Olympic Games close
The 24th Winter Olympic Games held in China closed with due ceremony on February 20 at the National Stadium in Beijing. The closing ceremony was attended by President Xi Jinping and other leading party and state officials of China. The Chinese flag was hoisted amid the playing of the national anthem and sportspeople of the participating countries and regions in the Games entered the stadium. Speeches were made at the closing ceremony. The Winter Olympic Games were declared closed, the Olympic torch went out and fireworks exploded. At the Games two new world records and 17 new Winter Olympic records were established. The next Winter Olympic Games are to be held in Italy in 2026.

Palestine
President censures Israel’s attack
Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas denounced the Israeli attack on the Palestinians shortly ago. Warning the wrong behaviour of the Israeli extremists who attacked the Palestinians in an area of East al-Quds and tried to seize their real estate, he said that he would put the issue on the agenda for a meeting of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Israeli authorities set up their office building as part of the moves to expand Jewish settlements, which aroused the indignation of the Palestinians. There was a clash between the Palestinians and Israeli policemen, leaving 32 Palestinians wounded by arms.

Australia
Koala listed as an endangered species
Koala that inhabits the eastern part of Australia has been listed as an endangered species. The environment minister of the country said that large-scale wildfire, climate change, reclamation of land and other causes have increased the danger of koala becoming extinct. Vast areas of grassland were burnt in 2019 and 2020, including the natural habitat of koala. One of the symbolic animals of the country, koala lives in New South Wales, Queensland and the surrounding areas of Canberra, Australia.

WMO
Danger from climate change highlighted
The secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization warned against the danger from worldwide climate change in a recent press conference. He said that some countries suffered damage from severe drought due to climate change, which gave rise to socio-economic and political crises. Years of drought, which persisted in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and other countries in the past, caused such problems as food shortage, unemployment crisis in rural communities and rise in food prices and public disorder as well, he added. He said with apprehension that the problem of supply of drinking water and irrigation and industrial water is getting more serious due to the shrinkage of glaciers caused by climate change.

COVID-19
Pandemic casualties
According to a foreign news report, 427 918 095 people contracted COVID-19 worldwide, 5 923 408 died of it and 66 252 156 were undergoing treatment as of 24:00 on February 22.

BYWORD

Firm guarantee for implementation of five-year plan

The Korean people are all out to provide a firm guarantee for implementing the five-year plan for national economic development this year, the second one in the implementation of the plan. All sectors and units and all industrial and farm workers, scientists and technicians are striving to carry out their tasks.

The country concluded last year, the first one in the implementation of the plan, with victory even in the face of hardships and trials. It is the plan and will of the Workers’ Party of Korea to make this year the one of paving a royal road to the implementation of the five-

year plan and laying its foundation by giving fuller play to the people’s spirit that surged last year. The WPK has taken perfect measures based on last year’s successes and experiences and scientific foresight into the future. These steps represent

the precious lessons and devoted efforts and are replete with an extraordinary sense of responsibility and enthusiasm and therefore serve as a firm asset and springboard for the Korean people to take a leap forward to greater successes and victories.

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FOOTBALL FORWARD TWICE NOMINATED AS BEST PLAYER OF THE YEAR



By Sim Chol Yong PT

Merited Athlete Kim Phyoung Hwa (pictured) was selected as one of top 10 players of the year 2021 of the DPRK. She contributed greatly to her April 25 Sports Club women's soccer team's achieving victory in the first-division women's football event of the Mangyongdae Prize Games in celebration of the Day

of the Sun, the 2020-2021 DPRK women's soccer premier league and women's football all-star tournament last year.

The two-time best player of the country began to play football when she was a third-year primary school pupil.

Kim, who is highly competitive and has a natural aptitude for football, worked hard with an ambitious goal to become a soccer ace to be remembered by the world in her

childhood. As she was physically strong and very fast and had good dribbling skills, she attracted the attention of experts a few year later.

After being picked out by the Sobaeksu Sports Club in 2013, she intensified training to develop her skills to be recognized as a player with special techniques.

Her skills were fast advance to attack and high goal average by side break.

She was very helpful to her team's victory on the home front before she was selected for the team DPRK in 2016. In the national team she played her part in its victory in such international events as the 2016 FIFA U20 Women's World Cup finals, the EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2017, the women's soccer event of the Seventh World Military Games in 2019 and the women's football event of the 30th Summer Universiad.

A player of the women's football team of the April 25 Sports Club now, she often created favourable chances for scoring by side break, her special technique, even in ever-changing situations of the matches and showed thrilling scoring scenes to spectators and TV viewers with sudden and powerful shots.

Experts and soccer fans hold growing expectations of her who was nominated as one of top 10 players of the country again last year after 2017.

Tal Gate of Sea Chilbo, natural monument

The cave is 10 metres high and about five metres wide

By Sim Yong Jin PT

Unlike Inner Chilbo and Outer Chilbo, Sea Chilbo boasts a distinctive seascape with precipitous cliffs of fanciful rocks along the coastline, various marvellous rock columns on the seashore, big and small islands and the sprays thrown up as endless waves of the East Sea of Korea hit the cliffs.

There is a natural monument of Tal (moon) Gate of Sea Chilbo.

The cave is called thus in the meaning that it looks like the moon. The height of the cave is 10 metres and its width is about five metres.

The Tal Gate came into being due to the corrosive action of waves and uplift motion.

One end of the gate is sticking into a big rocky mountain, while the other end is in seawater. A high cliff is seen behind the cave and there is the sea dozens of metres deep at the front.

The rising full moon seen through the natural stone gate is a sight to behold.

According to an old story, the moon risen from the East Sea of Korea stayed in the sky all night and enjoyed picturesque Sea Chilbo while resting there in daytime.

The gate is not only curious as a place of scenic interest but also of academic significance in studying abrasion caves that came into being in such place where the lava poured forth.

Designated as a natural monument, the gate located in Mokjin-ri, Hwadae County, North Hamgyong Province, is under good protection.

Scroll tells some about Korean traditional room decorations

By To Kyong Chol PT

It is commonplace to see scrolls hanging on the walls of living rooms and offices in the DPRK.

Scrolls are visual decorations that can be hung on walls or rolled to keep.

The Koreans have long used scrolls in life.

"Our ancestors pasted or hung scrolls on walls already in the period of the Three Kingdoms between the mid-3rd century BC and the mid-7th century AD. Renowned scholars in the period of Koryo (918-1392) would write verses on scrolls. This shows that scrolls have long been used as a major means of room decoration in our country," said Ju Song Chol, section chief of the history institute

of the Academy of Social Sciences.

A scroll consists of ornamental tassels and hems, a semi-circular rod to hang it, another rod fixed at the bottom to unroll it well and two strings used to hang or roll it respectively.

A bar is attached to the bottom of a scroll to roll it up and another one at its top is to tie a string for hanging it. Wooden, bone, horn or jade knobs are inserted into both ends of the bottom bar, and they are called "scroll weight".

The following tells how to make a scroll.

First, decorate the edges of a picture with narrow hems and cloth that goes well with the picture and paste traditional Korean paper on its back. Paraffin the whole back and rub it to weaken the

stiffness of the paste so as to prevent the picture from being broken when rolling it. And then slowly dry it in the shade for about a week and fix the semi-circular or round rod.

The size of the scroll depends on the content and type of its picture or calligraphy.

The scroll makes it possible to keep such works for a long time and is easy to carry and deliver.

It is widely used to decorate Korean paintings and calligraphic works since it adds to national flavour in decoration.

The works decorated with such scrolls include the writing and pictures related to the truth of life, longevity and family concord, as well as aphorisms and bywords of the corresponding eras.



Tal Gate of Sea Chilbo, natural monument.

