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RESPONSE

'DPRK's economic strategy bears fruit'

The world media gives a wide coverage to the reality of the DPRK which is opening up a broad avenue to prosperity with its own efforts and technology.

Russian website Patrioti Moskva said experts and the media in many countries express surprise at the rapid growth the DPRK's economy has achieved despite harsh sanctions, describing it as a miracle.

It proves that Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's economic strategy bears fruit, it said.

"The DPRK solves all problems arising in economic growth by relying on the spirit of independence and creative ability of its people and science and technology," it noted.

It steps up the programme of producing raw materials, fuel and equipment domestically and sustainably increasing agricultural production and gives priority to boosting the fields related to the people's life, it said.

"The DPRK Supreme Leader's economic strategy can be claimed to be a unique one aimed at making the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, informatized and science-based at a high level by developing science and technology in the spirit of self-reliance and self-development and providing the people with plentiful and civilized living conditions."

The Cambodian national radio broadcast that in the DPRK, which is recognized as a world power, the people's laughter is regarded as a standard to judge social system and national power.

In this context, the "gold mountains", "golden fields" and "gold seas" the DPRK has set as its three strategic assets are the most important ones that guarantee the country's prosperity and the people's happiness, it said.

President Kim Il Sung said that mountainous areas should make effective use of mountains long ago and since then they have focused on cultivating mountains more beautifully and developing the economy by relying on locally abundant raw materials, it noted.

Chairman Kim Jong Il proposed a gigantic land rezoning project and guided it to turn the fields of the country into a fertile land rolling with golden ears of crops, it said.

The DPRK attaches great importance to the part the "golden fields" assume in providing the people with happy living, it said.

"Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un created a new history of 'gold seas,'" it said. "The word 'gold seas' has become a new historical term showing the reality of the country which

thrives with each passing day."

The National Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea of the Democratic Republic of Congo posted an article on its website, which said:

"The ever-changing looks of the DPRK are attracting the focus of world attention.

"Creations for the people are springing up in succession everywhere across the country.

"Reality proves to the world that the DPRK can create an affluent life by its own method and nothing is impossible when it is determined to do.

"It should be noted that such a drastic change in the country has been brought about not because it has especially favourable conditions and extra money and everything is plentiful.

"The international community sees the indomitable spirit of the Korean people to bring forward a prosperous future through the looks of the country which is making progress in the face of extreme sanctions and pressure of the hostile forces."

Venezuelan website El Club de las Naciones said it is the firm will of the Korean people to boost the national economy with their own efforts and technology and build a socialist power according to the plan and intention of their leader.

Compiled from KCNA

CELEBRATION

Day of Sun to be celebrated abroad

The Juche idea study organizations in Russia jointly formed a preparatory committee for celebrating the anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung (Day of the Sun) on March 13. The preparatory committee chaired by Dmitri Kostenko, chairman of the Russian Association for the Study of the Juche Idea, decided to organize various political and cultural events including a national seminar on the Juche idea in celebration of the Day of the Sun.

A Czech preparatory committee for celebrating the same anniversary was formed in Prague on March 12. Jozef Servista, chairman of the Paektusan Czech-Korean Friendship Association who is deputy general secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and chairman of the Czech Group for the Study and Materialization of the Juche Idea, was elected chairman of the preparatory committee.

A similar committee was formed in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, on March 12. Andre Lohekele Kalonda, chairman of the National Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea, was elected chairman of the preparatory committee.

At the ceremony to form such a committee in Lebanon on March

11, Zaher al Khatib, chairman of the Lebanese Committee for Support to the Reunification of Korea who is secretary general of the Lebanon Federation of Workers, was elected chairman of the preparatory committee.

Such a committee was formed in London on March 8 in the joint name of the British Association for the Study of Songun Policy, the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea and the Korean Friendship Association UK. Dermot Hudson, chairman of the British Association for the Study of Songun Policy, was elected chairman of the preparatory committee.

The Islamic Coalition Party of Iran set up such a committee on March 11 and a deputy general secretary of the party was elected chairperson of the preparatory committee.

A similar preparatory committee was formed in Syria on March 9. Mohammed Shaban Azzooz, chairman of the Syrian Arab-Korea Friendship Association, was elected chairman of the preparatory committee.

The preparatory committees set celebration periods and decided to hold various events in praise of the exploits of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Compiled from KCNA

MACHINE BUILDING

Industry ratchets up equipment production

Factories in the field of machine-building industry are ratcheting up the production of parts of equipment to be supplied to thermal power stations and the rural community.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex has completed the production of gears for speed reducer and others badly needed for thermal power stations in a short time.

The workers and technicians of the complex employed a variety of technical innovation plans and invented rational steel casting methods to supply parts of power generating equipment

to the electric power industry in time.

The Taeon Heavy Machine Complex is concentrating on the manufacturing of custom-built equipment to be supplied to power stations.

It exploits every reserve and potential to increase various kinds of parts needed for the normal operation of thermal power stations.

At the same time proper attention is being paid to ensure the quality of products like wheels of various kinds.

Many machine-building factories have carried out the production plans for insulators

of all kinds and other insulating materials for the first half of the year ahead of schedule by stepping up the production of parts of farm machines and materials for farming.

The plan for the production of electric cables for the first half of the year is being implemented at the final stage and the manufacturing of tractor parts is also pushed forward as scheduled.

The Anju Insulator Factory secured enough spare parts while providing raw and other materials needed for production in advance to hit the first-half-of-the-year production targets

of silk insulating fabric and insulating paints to be supplied to farms ahead of schedule.

Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 and the Kyongsong Insulator Factory are pushing ahead with the production of electric cables and insulators.

The Huichon Precision Machine Factory is increasing the production of tractor parts.

The Kumsong Tractor Factory overfulfilled the quarterly production plan by 9.5 percent.

The Kim Chaek Pneumatic Machine Factory and the Sariwon Boiler Factory are now concentrating on increased production after exceeding the first-quarter target.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



CHOE CHUNG SONG / RODONG SINMUN

Technicians work on a custom-built equipment project at the Taeon Heavy Machine Complex.

LEADING ARTICLE

Taking delight in serving the people

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un finds his greatest joy in the people's happiness and takes delight in serving them.

Whenever he inspects newly rising structures, he says that he is already gratified to think that they will be ringing with the people's laughter, he carries on the revolution to relish such a taste and he is the happiest when he provides them with one asset after another.

Last year, too, he continued an uninterrupted inspection tour to make sure that the people enjoy a more affluent and civilized life.

In July and August when people were seeking refuge at water parks and bathing resorts from the fiercest heat the country's meteorological observation had ever recorded, he provided field guidance to over 20 units around the country without rest.

He oversaw economic construction and the work to improve the people's

livelihood as he toured from North Phyongan Province to Ryanggang, North Hamgyong, Kangwon, South Hwanghae and South Phyongan provinces.

It was a hottest August day when he inspected an industrial establishment to see a new type of trolley bus and tramcar.

As he saw the vehicles, he highly praised the producers for their achievements, saying that he was more pleased and thankful as everything was manufactured by local factories, he was very satisfied and everything was perfect. He added with deep emotion that he was buoyed as if he picked a star from the sky that day and asked how many such pleasant days there would be in a year.

He was dripping with perspiration as he beamed all the way, picturing the happy people using the modern means of public transport of better quality.

On his visit to a fishery station on the east coast in

November, he said it was really nice to see the fish that had just been caught pumped up from the fishing boat and poured out in a cascade at the outdoor unloading ground, and proposed having a photo taken with fishermen and other employees with the spectacular sight for the backdrop.

And at the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, he said he was glad to hear that the factory came first at the national footwear exhibition and that its Maebongsan shoes were highly favoured. I have come to the factory without prior notice, he said, but I can see lots of shoes produced. It is really satisfying to see production keep going steadily in the factory and quality shoes flow down like a waterfall, he added.

The Korean people lead a happier life with each passing day, thanks to his continuous field guidance tours.

By Pak Song Min PT

ANNIVERSARY

From nationalist movement to proletarian revolution



KIM KWANG RIM / RODONG SINMUN

A group of visitors to the Haktanggol revolutionary site are told about Kim Hyong Jik's role in forming the Korean National Association.

Although over a hundred years have passed since the formation of the Korean National Association (KNA), the Korean people recollect it with solemn feeling as it left an indelible trace in the history of national liberation struggle.

The KNA was organized on March 23 1917.

In the latter half of the 1910s, the Japanese imperialist invaders enforced military rule more viciously in a bid to stamp out the Korean people's anti-Japanese struggle and perpetuate their occupation of Korea.

The Koreans should either obey the Japanese law or die—this was what the Japanese imperialists demanded from the Koreans.

At that time, their anti-Japanese struggle was experiencing setbacks due to Japan's harsh crackdown and scheme to divide them and sow discord among them, as well as due to internal factors of the struggle.

At this juncture, Kim Hyong Jik put forward the idea of Jiwon (Aim High!) and formed the KNA.

The idea of "Aim High!" implies a revolutionary outlook on life in which genuine happiness is sought in the struggle for one's country and nation, an idea to achieve the independence of the country by national efforts, and an

unbreakable revolutionary spirit to liberate the country by fighting through generations. The KNA was a secret organization with the aim of achieving national independence and establishing a truly modern state through the efforts of all the Korean people.

The KNA was one of the largest anti-Japanese underground revolutionary organizations of Korean patriots that were formed at home and abroad before and after the March First Popular Uprising, a nationwide anti-Japanese struggle in 1919. It set up its subordinate organizations and well-knit organizational system in a short time and rapidly expanded its organizations.

It played the key role in achieving the unity of the national liberation movement, leading it in a unified way and switching the anti-Japanese national liberation movement from the nationalist movement to the proletarian revolution.

The policy switch was a conclusion Kim Hyong Jik drew through painstaking efforts while making an analysis of the events happening within and without and the changes of social and class relations in Korea.

As he made sure that the KNA pushed ahead with an undertaking for arming itself, procuring foods and clothes and raising funds, Kim Hyong Jik led the armed organizations at home and abroad to conduct brisk armed activities.

In the course of this, broad sections of patriotic people banded together into powerful forces for the proletarian revolution, and the armed groups conducted military activities in different parts of the country, dealing a heavy blow to the Japanese invaders.

The unshakeable revolutionary spirit and noble traits of Kim Hyong Jik became the model of Korean revolutionaries and the achievements made by the KNA served as a stepping stone to the struggle for national liberation.

By Ri Sang Il PT

VISIT

Russian parliamentarians visit Pyongyang

A delegation of the Federation Council of Russia led by Oleg Melnichenko, chairman of the Federal System, Regional Policy, Local Autonomous and Northern Affairs Committee of the council who is also chairman of the Russia-DPRK Friendship Parliamentary Group, visited Pyongyang to mark the 70th anniversaries of President Kim Il Sung's first official visit to the Soviet Union and the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and Russia.

The delegation visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill and paid tribute to them.

Ri Su Yong, member of the Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, met with the delegation that paid a courtesy call on him.

Talks were held between Hong So Hon, chairman of the DPRK-Russia Friendship Parliamentary Group and president of Kim Chaek University of Technology, and Oleg Melnichenko, head of the Russian Federation Council delegation, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Present at the talks from the

DPRK side were Kim Sok Nam, deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly, and officials concerned and from the Russian side members of the delegation of the Federation Council of Russia, Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, and members of his embassy staff.

At the talks both sides exchanged views on further developing the relationship between the parliamentary groups of the two countries and on matters of mutual concern.

The Russian lawmakers visited Mangyongdae, birthplace of President Kim Il Sung, the Tower of the Juche Idea, the Arch of Triumph, the Rungna Dolphinarium and Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies and laid a bouquet at the Liberation Tower.

A film show took place at the Taedongmun Cinema to mark the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of the DPRK-Russia agreement on economic and cultural cooperation.

Invited to the film show were Russian ambassador Alexandr Matsegora, his embassy staff members and the visiting delegation of the Federation Council of Russia.

The participants saw Korean documentary *History of Eternal Friendship* showing the

immortal exploits performed by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il for the development of the DPRK-Russia friendly ties.

The Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the DPRK-Russia Friendship Association hosted a reception at the Okryu Restaurant to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bilateral agreement.

The Russian ambassador, his embassy staff members and the visiting Russian parliamentarians were invited to the reception.

Compiled from KCNA



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Members of the delegation of the Russian Federation Council on a visit to the Mongnan Kwangmyong Company in Pyongyang.

COAL

Mines register steady rise in coal output

Coal mines across the country continue to boost production in March in the spirit of having carried out the February plan ahead of schedule.

The Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex, which hit its targets for January and February before all others, is making innovation in production.

The Hyongbong and Tokchon coal mines are registering good results in production every day by keeping tunnelling ahead of other processes to secure more coal and concentrating on introducing comprehensive mechanization into pit works and diversifying transport. The Jenam Coal Mine which takes the lion's share in coal production focuses all efforts on coal mining to cut more coal than the plan, while the Sochang Youth Coal Mine and the Toksong Coal Mine made various facilities and introduced them into pits as part of technical innovation drive and produced a large number of accessories

with their own efforts.

The Kogonwon Coal Mine and the Ryongbuk Youth Coal Mine of the Kyongwon Area Coal-mining Complex are maximizing the tunnelling speed while introducing effective mining methods to cut more coal every day.

Namdok, Songnam, Inpho, Tukjang Youth, Myonghak and other coal mines under the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex are bringing about good results as they keep speeding up tunnelling by carrying out continuous drilling and blasting.

The coal mines of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Kujang, Kaechon and Anju area coal-mining complexes are also increasing production while meeting the shortage of materials with their own efforts.

By **Jong Chol PT**

IP

Centre works to promote IP service

More patents are registered and applied for as the state takes increasing interest in the protection of intellectual property and public awareness of it grows.

Among local agencies that make applications for patents on behalf of other businesses is the Pyongyang Intellectual Property Centre (PIPC).

According to director Rim Yong Man, the centre's predecessor was the Pyongyang Patent and Trademark Agency established in 1982 and it was renamed PIPC in 2004.

The DPRK joined WIPO in 1974 and signed the Patent Cooperation Treaty in 1980.

Two years later, the centre was established as the country's first agency specializing in patent and trademark.

The centre is staffed with dozens of agents who are well versed in various fields including bioengineering, electronics and trademark design.

Over the past decades, it applied for lots of patents and trademarks on behalf of local scientists, technicians, institutions and enterprises to the Invention Office and the Trademark, Industrial Design and Geographical Indication Office of the DPRK, the World Intellectual Property Organization and other national and international organizations dedicated to the protection of intellectual property, and

to counterparts of different countries.

The PIPC mainly evaluates the feasibility for new technology to obtain patent and estimates its value.

It also registers the patents of foreign individuals and enterprises and protects them in the country.

"The number of applications for patents is indicative of the strength of nations and their ability to develop technology. Our workload increases year by year as the government spurs sci-tech development as it further perfects the intellectual property protection system," said Rim Yong Man.

By **Ri Myong Jun PT**



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Staff members sort out documents on inventions at the Pyongyang Intellectual Property Centre.

FOODSTUFF

Taeha builds up its image with new products

The Unha Daesong Foodstuff Factory is located at the Unha area of Pothonggang District in Pyongyang.

Though it is not so big, its Taeha-brand foodstuffs are now commonplace in major service networks of the country.

They have widely been known to the locals although it is not so long since there appeared Taeha bread, cake, sugar, meat products and soft drinks in different shapes and with different tastes.

It is attributable to the introduction of the latest food processing techniques and food safety management system, especially to the factory's main management strategy that puts forward the production of foodstuffs in great demand.

It set up scientific production and food safety management systems to mass-produce foods whose quality is certified and hygienic safety is guaranteed.

While focusing its investment on constantly upgrading production processes, it set up the sci-tech development strategy in keeping with the current trend of foodstuff processing and is increasing the variety of products.

Typical examples are the processes of producing sausage and ham.

Draught beer is also popular for its unique taste, aroma and colour. It was highly appreciated at the 8th national liquor and

condiments exhibition last year.

With the help of sophisticated facilities the factory processes natural materials like sesame, peanut and acorn good for health, and lysine, spirulina and other raw materials of high nutritive value to turn them into popular foodstuffs.

Its *Rosa davurica* syrup made by extracting vitamins from the fruit of *Rosa davurica*, red grape syrup, strawberry syrup, yoghurt, kefir and other milk products can be claimed to be health foods in terms of threpsology.

Technicians frequently visit markets or commercial networks to get the opinion of consumers so as to develop new products.

According to senior engineer Kim Hye Ok, the factory sets the proportion of raw materials,

processing method, shape and taste by reflecting the likings of various consumers, from children to the aged, and health conditions and makes an analysis according to technical indices before making a trial product.

Its products can be seen everywhere such as Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, the terminal of Pyongyang International Airport and the Pyongyang Children's Department Store.

"Our goal is to produce a large quantity of Taeha-brand foodstuffs so that they are found in every service network and home throughout the country," said Choe Jin Suk, manageress of the factory.

By **Chae Hyang Ok PT**



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
A variety of foodstuffs are produced at the Unha Daesong Foodstuff Factory.

RECYCLING

Procurement campaign pushed nationwide

In the DPRK the procurement of used daily necessities has long been conducted as part of recycling efforts amid public interest.

The country has a well-organized system for the procurement of such waste.

Provincial, city and county people's committees have departments in charge of the procurement and every convenience is provided to residents for the work.

Each district has procurement shops and each dong, or the lowest administrative unit, has one or two branch procurement shops and there are three procurement methods.

The early morning procurement is for agents to go round residential quarters early in the morning to purchase used daily necessities, and it is favoured by residents as they do not need to find time to go to procurement shops.

The travelling procurement is for agents to visit schools, workplaces, dormitories and the like for procurement and the procurement call is for them to call on the homes of people who can hardly move.

Over ten kinds of items are purchased including waste

paper, used bottle, scrap iron, plastic products and animal bones.

People's committees at all levels regularly review procurement work and show appreciation of families and establishments that are active in the work.

"Our city has always carried out its procurement plan and overfulfilled it in some items," said Pak Tong Chun, chief official of the daily necessities procurement department of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee. "It is the outcome of the efforts of citizens who are conscious that the procurement work is a patriotic undertaking to contribute to the country."

According to him, some factories in the city carry on production by fully relying on procured bottles and waste paper.

The municipality has recently taken a series of measures to reenergize procurement work as required by reality, including the boosting of the prices of some materials to be procured and the building up of closer contact with factories.

By **Kim Kum Myong PT**

CONSTRUCTION

Various building projects proceed apace

Marked achievements have been made in the reclamation of tidelands across the country.

According to information available, well over a million cubic metres of earth have been removed to build 7 000-odd metres of sea dikes in a little more than two months.

The workers of the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of South Phyongan Province removed more than one million cubic meters of earth and speeded up the stone covering of 140 000 square metres of embankment to complete the first dam construction for reclaiming the Ansok Tideland.

Those of the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of South Hwanghae Province in charge of the reclamation of the Ryongmaedo Tideland have built 80 to 90 metres of sea dike at maximum a day.

And those of the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of North Phyongan Province successfully carried out 50 000- and 150 000-cubic-metre blastings, making a breakthrough in hastening the second-stage Honggondo Tideland reclamation project.

The construction of several army-people power stations is progressing apace in Kangwon Province.

According to an official concerned, the province set an ambitious goal to complete these projects which include the simultaneous construction of various forms of dams, long-distance waterway tunnels and generator rooms as well as catchment project.

Dam building and waterway tunnelling have been pushed forward dynamically, doubling the construction speed every day.

Builders of the Ichon Army-People Power Station finished the excavation for the generator room and have carried out the concrete tamping for the dam at 80 percent level.

Those in charge of waterway tunnelling for the Hoeyang Army-People Power Station are exceeding their daily target by 100 percent.

Those of the Sepho Army-People Power Station have built a surge tank and dam temporary drainage ditch ahead of schedule.

Similar successes have also been made in the construction of power stations in Phyonggang and Kosong.

Compiled from KCNA

STANDARDIZATION

Commodity identifying codes widely applied

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the DPRK's accession to the Global Standard One (GS1).

Today, commodity identifying codes are regarded as the leverage to link manufacturers and purchasers and prevent the circulation of spurious, fake goods and as a stepping stone to the development of e-commerce.

The centralization of institution, use and spread of the codes is conducted under the unified guidance of the GS1 which has over 100 member nations.

According to Jong Kun Mo, secretary general of GS1 DPRK, the country has all the legislative, institutional and social environments for centralizing the codes.

It adopted the law on commodity identifying code and detailed regulations for the enforcement of the law and an integral guidance system is in place at all levels from central to local.

GS1 DPRK, in liaison with the international organization, works out and registers national standards for the codes and controls them in a unified way.

It also undertakes research to solve scientific and technological problems arising



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Members of GS1 DPRK check the codes on printed materials.

in the introduction and use of the codes, and their popularization as well.

Thanks to its proactive efforts, bar and QR codes have been introduced into all products of local factories and enterprises to meet international standards. And it runs a code checking system based on the mobile communications network.

Commercial service providers sell imported goods after labelling them with QR code that contains information about imported date, shelf life, inspection and quarantine.

“Our department store analyses and manages the

quality, price and demand of commodities through the information system based on commodity identifying codes,” said Son Chun Sil, section chief of Pyongyang Department Store No. 1. “Active application of the codes contributes to informatizing commercial service, improving international reputation of domestic products and offering convenience to the people.”

GS1 DPRK makes steady efforts to extend the boundaries of code application as required by the IT era.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

R&D

Research hits

The Taedonggang Building-materials Factory has developed a stone-pattern decorative paint.

Made with locally-abundant by-products of stone processing, the paint uses acryl as carrier to make the exterior of buildings look like natural stone walls.

According to developers, the paint is highly adhesive and resistant to detergence and water and it can produce any kind of stone pattern as it comes in various colours.

Users say that it really gives the impression of natural stone for the vivid colour, good coloration and distinct decorative effect.

It is also said to preserve colour for a long time.

There is a growing demand for this paint which adorns building walls with elegant and beautiful colours and creates the impression of natural beauty.

It was awarded the Gold Cup and diploma at last year's national exhibition of sci-tech achievements in the finishing materials sector.

The new metallic oxide arrester restricts such impact overvoltages as external overvoltage and operational overvoltage to protect electric equipment and electronic devices and elements and ensure the normal operation of equipment.

It has higher nonlinearity and energy absorbing capacity, as well as longer response characteristics and serviceable life as compared to the previous product, and is designed for use in different voltage classes.

Especially, its manufacturing cost is low as it is a miniaturized and lightened device with high performance.

It has been introduced into dozens of units and various units are establishing this production process.

The new fuel oil additive is an energy-saving and eco-friendly product which helps improve the combustion efficiency of fuel oil and reduce the content of harmful components in exhaust gas.

When the additive is in use, no corrosion or abrasion is

observed in fuel supply system parts including nozzle, fuel pump and filter. It also reduces the discharge rate of black dirt to prolong the lifespan of engines.

Developers confirmed its physicochemical, technical and economic indexes before establishing its manufacturing process. The new type of fuel additive helps save over 15 percent of fuel oil and can be used in both gasoline and diesel engines.

The low-temperature methane fermentation accelerator can efficiently be used in families and restaurants furnished with methane gas tanks. As methane generally ferments at above 15 degrees centigrade, it is hard to ensure such fermentation temperatures in winter when the temperature falls below zero.

The accelerator makes it possible to produce methane gas in such a low temperature as 4 degrees centigrade and increase its productivity 4-5 times.

The households which use it say that its price is reasonable and it can be used constantly for its good methane fermentation effect and simple usage.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

EPISODE

Good Samaritans

One day in October last year a story about the “Mudo (Mu Islet) family” in Chukjon-dong No. 2 became the topic of a chat at the Chilgol Park in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

Neighbours call the house of Ju Hyon Cho the Mudo family as she volunteered as a teacher of the branch school at the Hero Mu Islet-defending Unit in the southernmost part of the southwestern front waters after graduating from Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

Hyon Cho's mother Yun Jong Im, who had taken the lead in assisting the army in the past, took more active part in the assistance after her daughter went to the islet. But she was suddenly laid up with an illness.

An old neighbour told the people in the park about her illness.

Though they did not know her, they were unanimously resolved to help her who brought up her daughter admirably to work for the country.

So, they came to form ties with her and devoted their all to curing her disease.

Backed up by their unsparing sincerity, she could recover her health.

A young woman works at the Songyo Disabled Soldiers' Ironware Factory in Pyongyang under the close concern and care of many.

One day three years ago, officials of the Songyo District Party Committee came to know that a woman who had been crippled in her early years due to an accident wanted to work like others.

Later, a leading official of the committee visited her.

He took her to a hospital after learning about her physical and living conditions.

Under the meticulous care of the Party committee officials and warm sincerity of medical workers of the hospital, her health improved remarkably and she came to work as she had desired.

The factory officials and employees took warm care of her.

Thanks to their positive help, she now enjoys a worthwhile working life like others.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

PROFILE

Man of keen intellect traces back ancient history

On June 19 1993 *The Pyongyang Times* carried an article titled "Kim Un, little 'historian'".

The middle school student, who surprised the people with unusually ample knowledge about history 26 years ago, is now a lecturer at Kim Il Sung University, cutting a conspicuous figure in the academic circle as a PhD in history in his thirties. Kim Un began to have history lessons at the age of nine.

"My father majored in history. Under his influence I liked reading books, especially on the history of my country," says Kim.

Biographies about famous persons, collection of historical stories and history novels caught his eyes first and gradually "Outline of Korean History", "Complete History of Korea" and other special works became the targets of his avid reading.

With the passage of time his knowledge of history improved: at the age of 12 he wrote an article titled "Ancient Japanese culture begins to develop under the influence of Korea" and it was published in a magazine.

The news about the discovery of the remains of Tangun, the founder of the Korean nation, which broke the year after in 1993 was an occasion which stimulated his desire for learning. He delved deeper into Tangun and the history of Ancient Joseon and wrote a series of essays on history in middle school days, including "Study of Ancient Joseon", to be widely known as a "little historian".

His knowledge of Chinese characters at the time was as high as to translate *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three

Kingdoms), one of the priceless national classics of Korea.

The teenager dreamed of becoming a PhD in history.

He entered the History Department of Kim Il Sung University as he wished. There he acquired more diversified and profound knowledge of the Korean history under the guidance of renowned lecturers.

The study of ancient history and that of slavery attracted his particular attention during his university years.

It was a difficult task to scientifically prove the ancient slavery in Korea due to poor historical data on it, restrictions of methodology and different opinions of local and foreign historians.

But he set research into the Korean ancient history as his personal milestone by himself.

He deduced new facts which had remained unsolved one after another with earnest quest of knowledge, inference and analysis tracing back thousands of years of history.

He obtained his master's

degree in his twenties by presenting a dissertation on the system of burying alive with the dead in ancient times with detailed explanation and demonstration of the historical and archaeological data.

He was awarded his PhD for the thesis on the result of research on the slavery in Korea.

His thesis demonstrated the longevity and independence of the Korean history as it made a general analysis of the course of evolution of the ancient Korean slavery from its emergence, to establishment, consolidation and collapse over the entire social system and concretely explained the characters as a slavery of politics, the economy, military, culture and caste system of ancient states.

"Many questions still remain unsolved. We historians are fully aware of the mission history bestowed upon us in adding more brilliance to the time-honoured history of our nation," says Kim.

By **Jong Sun Bok PT**



Kim Un (second from right) gives an on-site lecture on historical relics.

KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

HISTORY

Institution boasts 1 000-odd-year history

Founded in 992, Koryo Songgyungwan is well-known as an institution with the longest history in the world.

It was first called Kukjagam when it was established as the highest educational institution in the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392), whose main purpose was to train feudal government officials.

It worked out the contents of education to equip students with certain practical qualifications as future feudal government officials and taught the philosophy and sayings of Confucius, criminal jurisprudence (science of law), mathematics, writing and other special knowledge.

Many patriotic generals and scholars of Koryo who have widely been known to the public by historical records until today studied at Koryo Songgyungwan and passed civil service examinations.

The university buildings were burnt down by the Japanese aggressors during the Imjin Patriotic War in the late 16th century and the present building in Kaesong was rebuilt between 1602 and 1610.

Sprawling in an area of ten thousand square metres, it is divided into the northern area with the Taesong Hall, which was used for holding memorial service, at the centre and the southern area

centring on the Myongryun Hall for giving lectures, forming a large architectural group.

Conspicuous in the southern area are 1 000-odd-year-old zelkova and ginkgo trees. They are still standing on both sides of the front yard of the Myongryun Hall as a living testimony to the time-honoured history of the university.

A valuable educational and cultural heritage site of high national treasure value showing the long history of the Korean educational system, Koryo Songgyungwan served as a parent body for the development of education in the later periods after Koryo.

At present Koryo Songgyungwan University performs the mission as a training base of technicians and experts in the field of light industry.

By **Kil Chung Il PT**

SERVICE

Couples devote themselves to passenger traffic



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Choe Pun Ok and Son Chol Ju, a couple who works together at the Ryonmot Trolley Bus Station in Pyongyang.

Phyon Hye Son and Yun Jong Sik, and Choe Pun Ok and Son Chol Ju are driver couples at the Ryonmot Trolley Bus Station of the Bureau of Passenger Service in Pyongyang.

From early morning until late at night they work devotedly for passengers plying the route between Pyongyang Railway Station and Ryonmot-dong.

Children's wish a cherished memory

Phyon Hye Son got married to Yun Jong Sik in 1988.

A mother of a boy and girl, Phyon drives in shifts with her husband.

On the morning shift, she leaves home at 5 am.

As there are many things to do at every home, Yun is willing to share domestic chores as a taciturn yet caring husband.

The couple can hardly find time to enjoy family life together with their children. So it became a dear wish of the children to have meals all together.

The whole family could not get together even on the day when the daughter returned home after her demob and the day when the son left home as an army recruit.

"Without the spirit of selfless

devotion, you cannot engage in the passenger transport service," says Phyon.

The unfulfilled wish of the children is now a memory of the driver couple.

Cherishing lots of such memories, Phyon has been driving for 36 years and Yun for 41 years.

In a single mind

Choe Pun Ok and Son Chol Ju have also worked as shift drivers for 12 years on a trolley bus.

They are exemplary in keeping their bus spick and span.

To preserve the means of public transport in their original state is an aspect of economy and a help to the country, they often tell their colleagues.

They can also barely find time to be together as they work in different shifts.

The husband devotes every bit of free time to securing tools and parts needed for the maintenance of the bus and the wife to looking after fittings and other parts of the bus.

In the short time of changing shifts, the driver who worked in the earlier shift tells his or her spouse about the state of the bus in detail for an accident-free run.

Whenever they take on passengers, they kindly tell nursing mothers and the elderly through the loudspeaker to use the front and middle doors, and regular riders favour their bus.

They also help travellers recover their wallets, cellphones and the like.

Whenever people thank them for that, they say it is their duty.

By **Pang Un Ju PT**



Koryo Songgyungwan built in 992 still preserves its original looks.

HEALTHCARE

Local hospital improves maternity service

The quality of medical service has been improved at the Nampho City Maternity Hospital.

It gives primary attention to the capacity building of medical workers so as to raise the

speciality of medical service.

In close cooperation with the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and other central hospitals, it established a large experimental database involving the symptoms, diagnoses and clinical examples for various diseases to improve the qualifications of doctors.

All departments worked out research plans of great significance in reality and pooled intelligence to develop and introduce more rational and effective treatment methods.

The paper of clinical research into outbreak of mastopathy and its correlation with four-appearance constitutional type presented by Pak Jae Bong, chief of the breast tumour department, and several others were highly appreciated at the national medical science symposium

on gynecology, as they analysed the cause of diseases and brought out reasonable curing methods.

Their research findings brought about such inventions as the portable digital multi-colourmeter, manual and DC aspirator and digital automatic erythrocyte sedimentation indicator, which have been introduced into treatment.

The hospital also produces effective medicines to apply them to the cure of patients.

Especially, dozens of its Koryo medicines enjoy popularity as they prove effective in the treatment of women's diseases and the healthcare of women with newborns.

The condition and environment for medical service of the hospital have also improved remarkably.

The hospital set up the online consultation system for operation and applied the e-clinical chart system to ensure the promptness and raise the scientific level of service. Thanks to the concerted efforts of its employees, all the treatment rooms and operating theatre were renovated last year to meet hygienic standards.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Health workers take care of an infant at the Nampho City Maternity Hospital.

PHARMACY

Ointment draws attention for painless treatment



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Orpiment anti-inflammatory ointment, a new type of skin-permeable medicament.

Everybody wants to have their diseases cured free from pain.

They can fulfil this desire with the orpiment anti-inflammatory ointment developed by the Koryo Solsong Pharmaceutical Laboratory.

It is a new type of skin-permeable ointment developed by a patented medicine-making method.

It is characterized by high and quick penetration through the skin, strong painkilling effect and high efficacy. It cures neuralgia and paralysis by acting on nervous, circulatory, digestive and other systems.

"Skin is the largest tissue in the human body, and innumerable nerve endings in the skin maintain close links between the skin and the internal organs and central nervous system. Based on such features of the skin, this ointment penetrates into the end

of lesions to restore abnormal cells to normal and address the cause of diseases," said director Pak Song Chol.

It cures all kinds of external wounds without leaving any scar and stops sharp pain from stomach cramps and cholecystitis in 3 to 5 minutes, or 10 to 20 minutes at the longest.

It quickly restores to normal the lesions, liver cirrhosis and tuberculous paralysis, and it is incredibly effective in treating pleurisy, abdominal dropsy in hepatitis and nephritic disorder as it induces diuresis.

The developers fully proved the virtue of the ointment through over ten years of clinical experiments. It obtained a patent in 2016 and special prizes in several intellectual product exhibitions.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

CARTOON

Boy General still popular with TV viewers

TV animation series *Boy General* is still popular with local viewers.

The sequels of early series which consisted of 50 parts highlight the patriotism and self-sacrificing spirit of Koguryo children who displayed their wisdom and valour in the fights against foreign invaders.

To meet the public demand for and interest in the animation, the Korean April 26 Animation Studio set a goal a few years ago to complete the 100-part animation and buckled down to it, delighting people with a high level of depiction, attractiveness and fast production speed.

The series teaches that love for the country does not depend on one's age through the portrayal of heroes Soeme and his sons, who defend their beloved Koguryo by annihilating foreign invaders in every battlefield, as well as other boy generals who fight at the risk of their lives for victory in the base of enemies.

It could be a huge box-office success under the close concern of viewers, as the faceoff between the hero and foreign invaders, who compete

in resourcefulness and valour, is depicted interestingly with the help of impressive character portrayal.

The creative staff of the studio not only ensure the depth of the animation by vividly representing the details of inner worlds of both positive and negative characters but also apply various creative styles to meet the psychological features of children.

The animation with good

structural form based on diverse dramatic arrangements and detailed drawings stimulates the curiosity of viewers as each part preserves its originality, while conforming to general thematic and ideological contents.

Dramatic intrigue and humorous plots are something that makes viewers, adults and children alike, enamoured of the later series.

By Ri Sang Il PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Artists are engaged in building characters at the Korean April 26 Animation Studio.

BIOENGINEERING

New stem cell activator developed

Researchers of the Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences succeeded in developing stem cell activator into goods.

The activator is a factor that is generated when stem cells are implanted into the human body, and there are over 200 kinds of such factor.

The same condition as the human body should be created for stem cells in order to artificially obtain the activator and, in this case, when some alterations are made to physical and chemical conditions or when genes are manipulated, a variety of activators can be gained.

The activator is far more economical than the live stem cells in storage and use and more convenient and efficient in transplantation.

Therefore, a fierce competition is heating up worldwide to

develop it as commodity.

After developing and standardizing stem cell activator 1, the Korean researchers succeeded in obtaining stemgrastim, a new product of stem cell activator, by using genetic engineering.

In the course of this, they developed techniques for analysing, enriching and stabilizing the activator and made necessary reagents.

"We have made a breakthrough in developing the stem cell activator. We are confident of success, though there are still lots of things to do," said researcher Kim Song Jik.

The bioengineers are now focusing on research to massively culture stem cell activator 1 and stemgrastim.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

RELATIONSHIP

DPRK-Russia ties stand the test of time

The DPRK signed the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation with the former Soviet Union on March 17 1949.

The agreement, which was concluded at the time when President Kim Il Sung was paying his first official visit to the Soviet Union, marked a milestone in bolstering up the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in a broader and more diversified way. Since then, the two countries have promoted many-sided cooperation and exchanges beneficial to each other on a constant basis.

The bilateral ties with a long historical root reached a higher level in the new century.

Chairman Kim Jong Il met with Russian President Putin who visited the DPRK in July 2000 for the first time as head of state of Russia and adopted the DPRK-Russia joint statement. The joint statement was a historic document of great significance in giving impetus to the development of bilateral ties in the 21st century.

During his official visit to the Russian Federation in August 2001, the Chairman met the Russian President again and signed the DPRK-Russia Moscow Declaration.

He toured Russia in 2002 and 2011 to strengthen the bonds of

bilateral friendship.

In the period, visits and contacts got brisker at different levels and the opinions about the matters of bilateral relations and international affairs were exchanged comprehensively, further cementing relations of friendship.

At present, the bilateral ties are making steady progress in keeping with the interests of both sides and as required by the new era.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un met with the Russian foreign minister and chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council who visited Pyongyang in May and September last year respectively and exchanged a wide range of views on such issues as to invariably maintain the strategic and traditional ties of friendship provided by the preceding leaders of the two countries, develop them in a sustained and constructive way, and cooperate and keep step with each other in defending lasting and durable peace and security in the region and beyond.

The atmosphere for the development of bilateral relations was stoked up this year, too, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the bilateral agreement on economic and cultural cooperation in the wake of meaningful celebration of the 70th anniversary of

the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations last year.

In February this year, the 2019-2020 plan for cultural cooperation was inked between the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Russian Ministry of Culture, and an MOU on cooperation in tourism was signed in March between the National Tourism Administration of the DPRK and the Bureau for Tourism of the Russian Federation. More recently, photo exhibition "History of Friendship" opened in Moscow and the 9th meeting of the DPRK-Russia Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology took place.

These are the outcome of common aspirations and joint efforts of the peoples of the two countries to invariably carry forward the history and tradition of bilateral friendship.

Common prosperity will further be hastened when the peoples of the two countries continue to add brilliance to and foster the history of the development of relations and the good traditions and precious achievements of friendship and cooperation provided in this course.

By Song Jong Ho PT

ENVIRONMENT

Fight against global warming gains momentum

Frequent abnormal weather conditions in recent years have caused serious natural disasters like flood, landslide and severe cold, and its riskiness is on the rise as the days go by.

On January 24, a UN agency released statistical data that about 61.77 million people suffered natural disasters throughout the world in 2018.

Today's abnormal weather is associated with frequent wildfire and reckless deforestation. The destruction of ecosystem due to random felling of trees accelerates desertification, and some 100 countries suffer damage from it and victims amount to as many as over two billion. Experts are of the opinion that if forest areas keep decreasing at the present speed, forests will completely disappear on the earth after 100 years and if such a state is left intact, human beings will be annihilated.

To prevent the earth from further destruction, many countries are taking an active part in implementing the Paris agreement for protecting the environment of the earth.

They are switching from the thermal power generation, which emits a great deal of carbon dioxide, to the power generation using renewables causing no environmental destruction, and projects are under way to restore damaged forests and prevent the desertification of land.

China channels big efforts into building ecological civilization

while putting it forward as one of the important state policies. Power generation based on wind energy reportedly increased 15.4 percent in Heilongjiang Province last year as against the year before. Projects to improve sanitation facilities and methods and recycle garbage are also pushed. The running of diesel lorries that produce exhaust fumes that was prohibited by and large in Beijing from December 1 last year.

Vietnam also directs much effort to the development of the reproductive industry for treating waste that is detrimental to the environment.

Many countries pay much attention to afforestation.

The Mongolian government has observed the second Saturdays of May and October as tree planting days since 2010, and Uganda is briskly conducting a tree planting campaign under the plan to annually restore about 136 000 hectares of forests till 2040.

Java of Indonesia has a regulation that a wedding couple should plant 20 trees, and some Polish regions have enforced regulations stipulating that the families with newborns shall plant three trees and all the residents compulsorily observe them.

Many countries spare no effort to solve as soon as possible the problem of global warming which threatens human existence.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

IRAN

Sanctions are never a one-size-fits-all solution

After pulling out of the Iranian nuclear deal and declaring the resumption of anti-Iran sanctions in May last year, the US officially impose sanctions on automobile, mineral resources, computer and software in August and on petroleum, natural gas and other energy sources in November last year.

For Iran, sanctions are not something new.

It has been suffering from the US economic sanctions for over four decades since 1979.

Of course, the resumption of economic sanctions since last year has dealt a heavy blow to the Iranian people.

However, the protracted sanctions got Iran to convert its foreign trade-oriented economic system based on oil export into a diversified one.

For example, steel, cement, textile and other industries take an increasing share in the economy, whereas that of production and export of

petroleum and oil-related goods is gradually decreasing. The production of carpet, saffron and other traditional goods of Iran, which are in great demand in the world, has also seen a growing tendency.

The recent development of situation has strengthened the belief of local experts and people that the resistant economic policy relying on national potentials and self-reliance in all fields is the best solution.

As the US began to intensify sanctions against it a level higher late last year, Iran tries to find a way to minimize the damage caused by it and steps up a plan for increasing the production of petroleum and natural gas.

The Iranian oil minister said the country would appropriate US\$ 20 billion for the project as initial investment and increase the amount for local contractors.

At present, the government allows private companies to sell

oil in the world market and sells oil products to local consumers in their favour, while taking measures to realize their direct sale through the port in the south.

The Iranian national petroleum corporation has permitted petroleum sale both in national currency and dollar on reasonable trade terms since mid-February.

Iran promotes economic cooperation with other countries more proactively.

For example, Iran, India and Russia announced that they would jointly step up the plan for the management of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) in October last year.

The most shortened and large-scale multinational transport route connecting Central Asian nations, the above-said transport corridor will pass the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf and be connected to Europe via Iran. Experts estimate it would give a boost to international transport

industry.

In January the Iranian foreign minister officially visited India and discussed matters for economic development and cooperation between the two countries, including oil export, opening of bank branches, commodity exchange and transport. Iran also concluded an MOU with Syria on the development of economy and science including education and rail transport and investment in infrastructure.

In February the presidents of Russia and Iran reached an agreement on boosting bilateral relations to a strategic level and intensifying bilateral negotiations on Syrian, regional and international issues.

Growing are the moves of the international community towards denying anti-Iran sanctions.

This year Germany, France and the UK established a financial settlement route, called INSTEX (Instrument in Support of Trade Exchange) to ensure they continue trade with Iran bypassing the US sanctions, and some European

countries reportedly registered in the system.

Lu Jin, an expert in Iranian affairs at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, as he analysed the situation, said European nations fear that the US sanctions would trigger conflicts and refugee crisis by causing instability in Iran or the regional situations and that the crisis would spread to other regions to send a direct shock wave to Europe. The US unilateral resumption of sanctions and breakdown of the Iranian nuclear deal will no doubt throw an obstacle to the effort the international community has directed to the settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue and make the goal for the settlement of the issue become vaguer, he said. But there is still a ray of hope for the peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue under the support of some European countries, Russia, China and other nations, he added.

US sanctions will not be a panacea for all.

Ri Jae Won, fellow at the Institute of International Studies of the DPRK

SOCCER

Pyongyang ties with Kigwancha in premier league match

There was a football match between Kigwancha and Pyongyang at Kim Il Sung Stadium on March 18 as part of the 2018-2019 DPRK Premier League soccer tournament.

Kigwancha is very popular with local football enthusiasts as most of its players have high technical skills and competing consciousness and make effective use of a variety of tactics.

It won the men's first-division football tournament at the Mangyongdae Prize Games in Celebration of the Day of the Sun last year and came third in

the total rankings at the 2017-2018 DPRK Premier League. It now shows good results with three wins and one loss in four matches.

Pyongyang, which was formed afresh by involving young players in their early twenties before the current premier league, is fast in transition from defence to attack.

This year it aims to rank sixth, a two-place leap from last year's standings, by directing primary efforts to the capacity building of newcomers.

Kigwancha had beaten

Pyongyang at the recent six matches.

In the first half of the match, which started with Pyongyang's kick-off, the former took up the 4-4-2 formation, but the latter countered it with the 5-3-2 formation.

Though Kigwancha gained the upper hand over Pyongyang as it bombarded at the rival's goal with a series of shots based on two-to-three break, it was Pyongyang that opened the scoring in the 24th minute from a corner kick.

Ten minutes later, Pyongyang's No. 6 who possessed the ball through two non-stop passes from defence line stabbed the ball high into the net at the middle distance.

Kigwancha made up for a loss two minutes before the referee blew his whistle for the conclusion of the first half and went on to succeed in equalizing the match in one minute and 29 seconds after the start of the second half.

It led the match in terms of ball possession and shot, but failed to score more.

By Jong Tang Song PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A Pyongyang player gives a scissors kick to score in a match against Kigwancha.

SPORTING ACTIVITY

Secret of victory

At the recent 24th Paektusan Prize Games of Civil Servants, the Academy of Medical Science won the men's basketball, women's volleyball and some other events.

"The zeal for mass sports overflowing in the workplace has turned all employees into sports fans and good players and brought today's triumph," Ko Kwang Jin, vice-president of the academy, told those who wanted to know the secret of their victory.

In the past, most of its employees were thinking that they could not do sports in leisure as they had not enough time for research and treatment.

But officials of the academy found a key to the innovation of medical treatment and research in doing sports, since sports are the best means of training human body and mind and promoting the unity of collective and stimulating working enthusiasm.

To this end, the academy frequently organized various sports games, especially basketball, volleyball and table tennis, by forming sports groups according to department, rank and age to arouse their interest

in sports. It also organized academy-wide sports games on holidays.

Institutes, departments and sections prepared sports equipment and materials and many of them honed their skills while playing sports games in leisure time every day.

With the enthusiasm for mass sports increasing, the academy appointed sports technique diffusers to make them regularly give explanations and disseminate information about the latest sports techniques

including the rules of games and the development trend of each sport on the occasion of sports day every month, organized games and awarded prizes in diverse ways to arouse their competitive spirit.

The enthusiasm for sports brought about good results in research and treatment. All research projects were pushed briskly and everybody increased their working efficiency full of passion.

All the academy employees are now conducting mass sporting activities actively to prove successful again at next year's games.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Researchers of the Academy of Medical Science do training. They won the women's volleyball event at the 24th Paektusan Prize Games of Civil Servants.

ACROBATICS

Acrobats win Gold Prize at int'l circus festival



KCNA

Acrobats return home with honour from the 12th Izhevsk International Acrobatics Festival.

The 12th Izhevsk International Acrobatics Festival was held in Izhevsk, the Republic of Udmurtiya of Russia, between March 6 and 10.

It drew some 200 excellent acrobats from 15 countries including the DPRK, Russia, China, Poland, Spain and Mexico.

The DPRK acrobats showed well the development of Juche-oriented acrobatics by performing aerial stunts full

of bravery, courage, joy and optimism.

Jury members, participants in the festival and spectators gave a big hand to the DPRK acrobats whenever they flawlessly performed high-difficulty stunts.

At the awards ceremony the DPRK's physical acrobatic piece "Fliers" was awarded Gold Prize, the top prize of the festival.

Compiled from KCNA

ICH

Korean-style tower building techniques

The Korean-style tower building techniques are the whole of traditional tower building technology peculiar to Korea.

According to the building materials used, Korean towers are divided into wooden, stone and brick towers, as well as model tower which uses metal and mud to imitate old towers.

The Korean-style towers typically have such structural elements as the platform, body and head, and each storey is gradually reduced in height and width.

There are some differences between wooden and stone towers.

In light of structure, wooden towers have a pillar-beam structure, but stone towers consist of monoliths in their body structure.

Both the wooden towers and pagodas, in the aspect of representation, differ from each other in overall formative beauty, platform, body and plane.

For example, the platform scale of stone towers is smaller than that of wooden ones, but the absolute height of the former equals to or is higher than that



The 13-storeyed octagonal pagoda at the Pohyon Temple.

of the latter.

The tower building techniques gradually developed into the pagoda-oriented building one from the initial wooden tower-oriented one.

It shows that the Korean ancestors positively applied and developed different construction structures and proportions to meet materials and scale.

The tower building techniques of Korea won the national ICH status in October 2017.

By Kil Chung Il PT

