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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un chairs WPK CC Politburo meeting

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, guided an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

The meeting was attended by members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee. Senior officials of the WPK Central Committee and other units were present there as observers.

Upon authorization of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, Kim Jong Un presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed in detail the principled issues of thoroughly applying the people-first principle to Party building and activities and constantly strengthening the Party ranks and boosting its fighting efficiency as required by the developing revolution, ways of correctly fulfilling the immediate political, military and economic

tasks, and the matters of adopting and strictly enforcing top-class anti-epidemic measures to prevent the viral epidemic that is rapidly spreading across the world.

At the meeting acts alien to the Party, abuse of power, practices of prerogative, bureaucratism, corruption and irregularities, which were revealed among senior officials of the Party Central Committee and officials of a Party cadre training institution, were criticized in a concentrated manner and their gravity

and consequences were sharply analysed.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un clarified the analysis of the issues made by the Party Central Committee and its stand on them, and dealt a hard blow to the acts alien to the Party and anti-people and anti-socialist acts that were brought up for discussion at the meeting. He called on all the Party officials and organizations to draw a serious lesson from the recent incident, to make steady efforts to train themselves and their units in

a revolutionary pattern and bring about a fresh turn in Party work.

The meeting discussed the matters of taking nationwide top-class anti-epidemic steps in a more thoroughgoing way and strictly putting them into practice.

It also discussed measures to prevent the influx and spread of the epidemic in a scientific, preemptive and thoroughgoing way.

It also stressed the issue of scrupulously arranging economic and anti-epidemic work under the prevailing situation and conditions so as

to attain this year's goals without fail and completely protect the lives and safety of the people.

It deliberated on the measures for speeding up the construction of dwelling houses in Pyongyang and provinces in line with the requirements of the Party policy on construction which prioritizes the people's convenience in living.

An organizational matter was also dealt with at the meeting.

KCNA

PREVENTION

Nation keeps prevention campaign up with no case reported

The DPRK is stepping up the campaign to prevent COVID-19.

The central emergency anti-epidemic headquarters has timely revised and supplemented various directions by drawing on the experience it gained, and notified emergency anti-epidemic headquarters at all levels of them.

Over a hundred thousand officials of Party and administrative organs and working people's organizations

and medical workers visit institutions, factories, farms and residential quarters to conduct political and information activities so as to make all the people remain alert to the danger of the novel coronavirus infection and timely informed of necessary information about the epidemic.

Scrupulous steps have been taken nationwide to completely block the route of its spread, including the prolongation of school vacations and the

provisional suspension of operation of amusement parks and recreation grounds.

Those who had contact with returnees from foreign trip and those who show abnormal symptoms are found out thoroughly to separate them from others and put them under medical observation.

As birds are found dead from unknown cause and insects appear untimely, thoroughgoing examinations are conducted on collected samples.

South Phyongan Province ensures a steady supply of food and daily necessities for over 2 400 people under medical observation, while Kangwon

Province directs efforts into the provision of supplies for more than 1 500 similar cases.

By Kil Chung Il PT



Health workers sterilize the furnishings of the Kalmaegi Restaurant in Pyongyang to prevent COVID-19.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un guides live-fire artillery drills by KPA units

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, guided the joint strike drill of units of the Korean People's Army on Feb 28.

The drill was seen by officials of the Party Central Committee.

It was aimed to assess the mobility and fire strike ability of defence units on the front and in the eastern area and help them get proficiency in the command of combined strike by the services of the KPA.

When the Supreme Leader issued an order to start the drill, the service members of the KPA reduced a target islet to a sea of flames with thunderous explosions.

The Supreme Leader extended militant greetings and special thanks in his capacity as the Supreme Commander to all the KPA service personnel who took part in the drill as he expressed his admiration for the combat capability of the units of the services of the KPA and defence



heaven and earth, ordnance rockets blasted off towards the target.

Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction with the fact that the artillerymen have been prepared to rapidly react to any situation and perfectly carry out their firepower combat mission.

The most ardent patriotism of soldiers is expressed in the beads of sweat they work up in the training ground rain or snow, he said, encouraging all the service personnel of the entire army to train harder, bearing in mind the iron will

units on the front and in the eastern area.

He expressed his firm conviction that the KPA, which is boundlessly loyal to the Party's call, would steadily beef up its combat capability and thus guarantee the victorious advance of the revolutionary cause of Juche and socialism with invincible military might.

Kim Jong Un visited the fire drill ground of long-range artillery sub-units of the Korean People's Army on the front on March 2 to further

kindle the flames of the revolution in training.

He was greeted on the spot by Army General Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, commanding officers of large combined units participating in the drill and artillery commanding officers.

As he ordered the sub-units to start the fire, the long-range artillery men on the front line opened fire all at once.

With deafening explosions rocking

and burning patriotism to defend the socialist country impregably.

Saying that the victory of the socialist cause is guaranteed by great military force and war deterrent, he ordered the KPA to fully maintain its military readiness and steadily increase its combat capabilities to protect the airspace, territory and waters of the country from any encroachment as it supports the revolutionary cause of the Party.

KCNA



REFORESTATION

All people out for reforestation campaign

Second-stage reforestation project progresses apace

Five years have passed since Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un appealed to the entire Party, the whole army and all the people to conduct a vigorous forest restoration campaign so as to cover the mountains of the country with green woods.

During the past years, the forest restoration campaign was speeded up in real earnest throughout the country, with the result that notable successes were made.

Land- and labour-saving tree nurseries capable of mass-producing saplings, irrespective of seasons, were built in all parts of the country, including Tree Nursery No. 122 of the Korean People's Army and Kangwon and North Hamgyong provincial tree nurseries. Modern forest equipment and materials factories sprang up in every province, city and county to produce and supply enough plastic panels for greenhouses, sun screens and plastic containers for sapling cultivation.

Scientific and technological problems arising in the breeding of trees, afforestation and forest protection were also solved successfully.

A technology of creating pine-nut tree forest of a good species by close planting was completed to provide a sure guarantee for increasing per-hectare yield of pine nuts over 1.5 times more than ordinary pine-nut trees while beginning to produce pine nuts 8-10 years earlier than in ordinary pine-nut tree forests. Progress was made in the efforts to markedly hasten the time of harvesting fruits of oil-bearing trees and mass-produce saplings of a new variety of chestnut with good taste and high per-hectare yield, create high-yield vitamin tree forests and plant wild fruit-bearing trees of great economic value. A superior strain of oak tree which suits the climatic and soil conditions of islands and has good rate of rooting, acacia and poplar which are highly resistant to salinity and others were researched and introduced.

Various tree protective agents and growth accelerators for ensuring the rooting rate of planted trees and various kinds of nutritive activators were developed and their production bases built in various places and achievements were made in research to carry on tree planting throughout the year, irrespective of seasons.

Primary importance is

being attached to thoroughly preventing wildfires and damage by blights in all parts of the country.

This year, too, the modernization projects of central tree nurseries of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and the Ministry of Urban Management are to be pressed on in the wake of last year, together with the construction of tree nurseries in each province and sapling greenhouses that can annually ensure the double cultivation of tree saplings.

At present, all provinces, cities and counties have already worked out phased plans according to objects and processes to lay the solid material and technical foundations of tree nurseries and launched into their implementation.

In particular, priority is to be given to protecting and multiplying Paektusan blueberry, Songchon chestnut and other renowned strains and improving the seeds of such wild fruits as chestnuts, pine nuts, wild grapes, fruit of *Actinidia arguta* and wild strawberry in order to introduce them into the forest restoration campaign.

To this end, reserves for the preservation of their features were set up and research for seed improvement and mass breeding is conducted in a concentrated way.

Thanks to the ardent patriotism of working people, youth and students across the country, more and more units have been awarded the title of socialist patriotic forest while forests of youth and Children's Union have been on the increase.

The increasing forest resources showcase the bright prospect of the second-stage forest restoration campaign.

Kang Hyon, chief of the General Forest Bureau of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection

The target of forest restoration campaign in the DPRK for this year is to create mixed forests in a more rational way, said Kim Song Jun, deputy head of the General Forest Bureau of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

Hundreds of millions of trees will be planted in the 170 000 hectare areas and well over a billion saplings produced this

The Mangyongdae District Forestry Management Station in Pyongyang turns out over a million saplings every year.

"We have put sapling production on a scientific and technical basis after setting up a modern parent nursery with our own efforts," said Ho Song Jong, manager of the forestry management station.

He said that workers built a labour- and land-saving plastic panel sapling greenhouse last year to provide a sure guarantee for annual double cultivation of tree saplings.

A keeper can produce hundreds of thousands of saplings a year in the 250-square-metre plastic panel sapling greenhouse by controlling environment and nutrition in real time. The employees built an outside adaptation area, round cutting bed, outside cultivation ground and acclimatization area. The irrigation facility in the outside adaptation area is designed to mount on rails, while the automatic sun screen equipment controls light

intensity by the automatic operation of awnings thanks to the integrated control system.

The main thing in increasing the production of saplings is to raise the rate of germinating by keeping seeds well, workteam leader Sin Un Chol said.

They plant sunflower and perilla between tree saplings and produce and apply potato sprout juice to prevent the damage by

blights.

The water carriage for irrigation, hedge pruner, broadleaf discrimination program and flower retrieval program developed by the employees won high appraisal at the Pyongyang municipal exhibition of sci-tech achievements in the forestry sector last year.

By **Jong Hwa Sun** PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Workers take care of pine saplings at the tree nursery of the Mangyongdae District Forestry Management Station in Pyongyang.

Afforestation facilities produced

The afforestation equipment and materials factory in Ryokpho District, Pyongyang, has produced a variety of equipment and materials for afforestation and sent them to tree nurseries in local areas.

"We have turned the production process dependent on imported materials into that relying on domestic materials," said senior engineer An Se Chol.

The factory synthesized ultraviolet absorber, antioxidant and other additives with domestic plastic materials to improve the stability of products under

sunlight and their durability, thereby making it possible to ensure the appropriate light and soil humidity for sapling growth, the germination of seeds and normal development of trees.

The plastic containers for sapling cultivation made from various recycled plastic waste ensure high productivity per unit area and high rate of rooting and therefore they are favourable for the propagation and spread of saplings while saving the area of raising, labour and materials.

The factory also produces a plastic panel with a square inner structure. It is highly resistant

to external impact, is not easily transformed and has heat-preserving effects and its light transmission is 85-90 percent, so it can be used at greenhouses and for construction. When colouring is added, it can be used as different kinds of plastic containers.

According to Ri Hyok Il, staffer in charge of technical preparations, they are researching a process of reeling off cotton by using domestic plastic materials in the production of nonwoven fibre fabric and a light transmission device for improving quality at the process of producing plastic panels for greenhouses and the process of recycling materials with low production costs is being pushed at the final stage.

By **Kim Il Jin** PT

Mixed forest planting encouraged

The target of forest restoration campaign in the DPRK for this year is to create mixed forests in a more rational way, said Kim Song Jun, deputy head of the General Forest Bureau of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

Hundreds of millions of trees will be planted in the 170 000 hectare areas and well over a billion saplings produced this

year, he said.

The general bureau plans to create mixed forests combining spruce, oak, pine and white birch in order to increase the growth speed, carbon dioxide absorption and water storage capacity of trees.

It intends to plant more broadleaf trees on hillocks in line with the topographical features and biological characters of

trees so as to prevent soil acidification and blight damage at the maximum.

Larix lepolepis, Mongolian oak and fir will be planted in the intermediary areas and aspen, *Picea Koraiensis* and other trees in the highlands to produce more timber of good quality by making the most of nutrients at the same soil conditions to increase the amount of trees per

square metre.

The bureau also plans to enhance the scenic beauty of forests, increase the watershed protection function and heighten the effect of preventing landslide and flood damage by properly mixing the fast-growing and tall trees with slow-growing and dwarf ones in forestation so that they sufficiently accept elements needed for growth including sunlight, water and other nutrients.

By **Kim Kum Myong** PT

FOODSTUFF

Innovation leads to quality enhancement



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees check bottled soy sauce rolling off the production line at the Pyongyang Condiments Factory.

The Pyongyang Condiment Factory raises the quality of its products by channelling big efforts into technical innovation.

In order to ensure a sufficient supply of oxygen at the time of regulating the temperature of the malt rooms, the factory remodelled the previous square airing chamber into a round one and upgraded the blades of blowers, thus increasing the air volume over two times and improving the malt quality.

It also replaced the bean roller axle with a new one made with alloy to increase the operational rate while reducing the repair cost by a fifth. And instead of using the magnet, a major part of the soy sauce injector which was imported previously, it introduced bearings to reduce the processing cost.

Especially, it made a new bearing-free pump to ensure the supply of water needed for production processes. The pumps were introduced into Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 and other units, bringing great profits to them.

According to technical staffer Jang Pyong Chol, the factory produces over 50 kinds of Pommaji-brand condiments.

It also develops and produces various functional oil products including vitamin E oil tablet.

“Our factory is now working on the technical upgrading of malt rooms to improve the quality of soybean paste and research into the production of lysine using liquid yeast with a high lysine content,” said manager Ri Kun Il.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

GRID

Power grid upgraded to cut line loss

A lot of effort is being directed to reducing the transmission loss of electricity in the DPRK.

According to information available, the power distribution agencies in Pyongyang and North and South Hamgyong and North Phyongan provinces finished the upgrading of main transformers and power distribution lines last year.

Hundreds of main transformers and thousands of kilometres of power lines were renewed this year.

The Mangyongdae district power distribution station in Pyongyang installed an electricity-saving transformer drier to save much time and labour and ensure more qualitative remodelling of pole transformer.

The North Hwanghae provincial power distribution agency has upgraded nearly two times more main transformers

than last year.

Manager Kim Pok Man said that they formed workteams for upgrading main transformers and dispatched them to remote counties.

Consequently, the period of the upgrading work was reduced to one day and the agency saved much labour, fuel and fund.

Besides, brisk activities are underway to restructure the national power grid in a radial shape, stagger production rationally, save much electricity, improve the power factor of the grid and adjust the capacity of transformers installed between power plants and end users.

The Mundok Insulator Factory in South Phyongan Province and the insulator workshop of the Kangwon provincial power distribution agency have overfulfilled production plans.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

FERTILIZER

Organic fertilizer widely applied

Applying much organic compound granular fertilizer can help make a good crop even in low-yielding fields, said an official of the Ministry of Agriculture. He illustrated his point with the example of North Phyongan Province which registered an all-time high in the crop yield last year.

Following the example of North Phyongan, all other provinces are building organic compound fertilizer factories and remodelling existing production lines.

The factories are built near the sources of raw materials and the preparations are underway for laying their material and technical foundations. Livestock farming bases are also

established at them to provide themselves with necessary materials.

Pyongyang is going to build organic compound fertilizer factories in all districts and counties with arable lands.

According to an official of the Pyongyang Municipal Rural Economy Committee, the municipality has been operating the Pothonggang organic compound fertilizer factory for nearly ten years and built a similar factory in Kangnam County a few years ago.

It has initiated a project for increasing its fertilizer production capacity so as to supply one or two tons of organic compound fertilizer to every hectare of arable land in

the districts and counties.

Hoechang County of South Phyongan Province established an advanced organic fertilizer production line with a production capacity of thousands of tons in a short period and operates it on a normal footing.

Having secured thousands of tons of materials, it has produced hundreds of tons of organic compound fertilizer so far and made and installed a substitute-fuel-powered generator to ensure uninterrupted production.

Many cities and counties in North and South Hwanghae provinces are pushing ahead with projects for building equipment and raising productivity.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

DECORATION

Dry pine-making technology completed

Researchers of the Dried Flower Workshop of the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute have recently completed the dry pine-making technology to satisfy the growing demand for the national tree for internal decorations.

“In the making of dried pine trees, it is important to preserve the original colours and shapes of the branch, trunk and green leaves of pines by applying different reagents,” said researcher Ryang Song Jin.

What is important in the research is to establish a pre-treatment process for removing terpin and resin which have negative effects on preserving the flexibility and colour of pine tree leaves, he said.

According to him, young foliage is suitable for the making



of dried pines and it is needed to properly observe the drying time while heat-treating them at the temperature of 100 degrees centigrade before decolouration and dehydration.

The researchers established a technique of separating and

drying trunks and branches to meet their usage and size and promote formative art, so that the unyielding spirit of the national tree of pine could be reflected on dried products.

And they gave final touches with nontoxic mixed antiseptic to add freshness to green needle leaves.

The dried pine products are now popular with customers at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 and other shops, and the number of purchasers are reportedly on the increase.

“We will further complete the technology to give more vivid reproduction of green leaves of the pine on the basis of research hits we have already achieved,” said director Ri Hyong Sik.

By Kil Chung Il PT



PHOTOS BY RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory turns out Paekhak-brand dental supplies in great demand.

INTL WOMEN'S DAY

Korean women empowered to perform feats

On March 8 1909 American women workers in Chicago went on strike and demonstration in protest against harsh exploitation and oppression by monopoly capitalists and in demand of sexual equality and freedom. During over a century since the day was designated as the militant holiday of working women throughout the world, remarkable changes have taken place in women's social status and role.

The Law on Sex Equality in North Korea was promulgated in 1946, immediately after Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule, freeing women, who account for half of population, from the oppression and shackles of feudalism and enabling them to take part in social life with equal rights as men.

Such a social change, which was effected in less than a year after liberation, is attributable to the invaluable experience gained during the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle.

In that period General Kim Il Sung issued the Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland to set it as important tasks to ensure equitable human equality

between men and women, improve the treatment of women in society and respect their personality, and took practical measures to give them the same rights as men at guerrilla bases and liberated areas.

The detailed enforcement regulations of the sex equality law were adopted in September in the year when the law was announced so as to fully guarantee the legal rights of women. The first constitution of the DPRK which was adopted in 1948 stipulated women's equal rights as men and the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK of 1972 specified the successes achieved in ensuring women's social position and rights and new tasks as well. In addition, a special law on the protection of working women was introduced in order to protect their health and labour.

As a result, Korean women became able to fully enjoy their rights in all domains of social life including politics, the economy and culture.

Following in the footsteps of the anti-Japanese women fighters who took up arms and fought for the liberation of Korea, women like An Yong Ae and Jo Sun Ok dedicated their lives in the Fatherland

Liberation War and many others devoted themselves to work at different workplaces to become labour innovators and heroines.

Among those who performed feats and were praised by the times are Jong Song Ok who hoisted the national flag by running the marathon race at the seventh world athletics championships in Spain's Seville with a yearning for Chairman Kim Jong Il, and Hyon Yong Ra who devoted her whole life to scientific research to be well known to all the local people.

And today lots of women patriots who make a tangible contribution to the building of a powerful socialist country are being produced, like Jo Su Gyong, Merited Scientist and PhD at Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, and Ri Myong Sun, weaver at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

To mark International Women's Day on March 8, all the people across the country extend warm congratulations to women who make sincere efforts to enliven their families, workplaces and community.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Songs illustrate Korean women's past and present

Literary works reflect the phases of the times and people's thoughts and feelings in those days.

Here we find out the looks of Korean women mirrored on the songs that were created along with the times.

Balsam

Composed in the 1920s, the song was widely sung by Korean women in those days.

Because it faithfully represented the looks of the

Korean women, who were withering in the fetters of feudalism as members of a ruined nation, by likening them to a balsam standing against the wall so desolately.

At present, it comes on such artistic works as films showing the contemporary society and women in particular.

Song of Emancipation of Women

Created and popularized in the period of the anti-Japanese

armed struggle, the song depicted the miserable life of the Korean women who were subjected to all manner of oppression and exploitation and groaned in ignorance, deprived of their rights, and called on them to turn out in the revolutionary struggle for their social emancipation and creation of a new life.

It helped imbue the women, who were lamenting over their lots in tears, with revolutionary consciousness and inspired them to the anti-Japanese struggle.

Song of Women

The song that was produced after Korea's liberation was a special favourite of the Korean women as it sang of their pride of working like men to contribute to the building of a new country with burning patriotism.

Woman is Flower

Composed in the 1990s, the song is still widely sung as it praises women for their important position and role in their families and society.

Comparing them to flower symbolic of beauty, the song describes the share women take in life, especially in taking care

Woman feels happy with her married life



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ro Jong Sim (right) receives a bouquet from her disabled-soldier husband.

"Are you happy?" This is the question I have been asked quite often for 20 years since I got married to a special-class disabled soldier.

Then I have usually answered: "Each person has his or her own happiness. I am truly happy as I am the wife of a man who loves life and pursues his goal of life with strong willpower, though disabled."

My husband did military service admirably to receive lots of decorations including a Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize, the top honour of Korean young people.

In my maidenhood I had heard a lot about him from my elder brother who was doing military service with him, and I could not turn my face away from him when he suffered an accident just before his demob.

Initially, I was motivated by a feeling of sympathy and some sense of obligation to "sacrifice" myself for the comrade-in-arms of my brother.

But I later realized it was never a sacrifice as I rather led a fulfilling life feeling true happiness.

The state has offered more benefits to this family of honoured disabled soldier and my colleagues, villagers and even strangers take warm care of my husband and family, being solicitous about his medical treatment and our living.

Though it has been 20 years since my husband was discharged from military service, his former comrades-in-arms and servicemen of younger generation still visit us, calling him "our assistant platoon leader" and making much of us, so their sincerity brings a lump to my throat.

How can I compare the delight of living under the warm

affection and care of all to the pains I have taken in doing housework?

A few years after our marriage, my husband began to write poetry about his military service and optimism about new life.

He wrote each poem not with his hand, but with his heart. "O motherland, you have soldiers", "Is this the house of honoured disabled soldier?", "I stand on the land once again" and many other pieces were carried on newspapers and magazines and highly appreciated at national literary work prize contests.

Whenever we received congratulations from people, I happily recollected the days and nights when I helped him with those poems and felt more keenly love and respect for the fervent husband.

He would compose me such simple yet sentimental poems as "The hands of my wife" and these are the most precious and dearest gifts for me in the world.

My son is also a source of my happiness. He has got his father's passion and my looks. The 15-year-old studies at East Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 and his sound and healthy growth adds more to our happiness and pride.

The state let me take part in the third national meeting of mothers and made sure that my family was widely introduced through newspapers and broadcasts.

I have nothing left to wish for since I live enjoying my husband's burning love and blessings of society.

Ro Jong Sim living in neighbourhood unit No. 4 of Tongmun-dong No. 1, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang

of families, bringing up children and building up society.

The Girl Riding on a Steed and Hymn to Women in Songun Era

Representing the fulfilling and pride-filled life of Korean

women at the present times, these songs praise women, who devote themselves to the prosperity and development of the socialist country, as hard workers and revolutionaries.

By Yun Ki Song PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Customers visit the Unhasu cosmetics exhibition hall of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory in the run-up to March 8 International Women's Day.

DATABASE

Complex updates database management system

The Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang has updated its database building and process management system.

"We have developed and introduced a full automation system based on an automatic input facility into the data collection process, thus decreasing labour and time for building database to a hundredth as compared to before," said Ho Yong Do, a senior staffer of the complex.

It is said that the automatic

image input device developed by the researchers of the complex can convert 3 600 pages of data into electronic ones per hour and saves labour and time up to a fortieth of those required when the manual input device is used.

The automatic character recognition process can recognize characters of over 30 languages as character recognition systems with high recognition efficiency in the world have been employed.

The automatic text file compilation function is said to reduce the text file making time to a 200th as against before.

The automatic list selection process can automatically extract necessary table information from electronic document files of different forms according to the types of documents and languages with an accuracy of 90 percent. This function takes only a hundredth of time of manual selection.

The automatic theme index process can make alphabetical lists of the items of information according to sectors, keywords, abstracts and classifications and its accuracy is 85 percent.

The perfection test function carries out final checks on the lists and original texts before loading revised data into the server and checks the correctness of values of each list item such as existence of original texts, state of digital signature and essential items.

"We are going to introduce AI technology into data management in the future," said O Se Il, head of an office at the Sci-Tech Complex.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Technicians of the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang add new functions to the database process management system.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Nationwide

Drowning boy rescued by soldier

Shortly ago, a six-year-old boy sank into water during sleigh riding in a village of Onchon County, Nampho.

He plunged into a deep pool as the ice broke since he tried to pull out a piece of wood that stuck out in the middle of icy ground.

At that time, a serviceman who was on a military duty went into the water to rescue the child.

As soon as he took the boy out of the pool, the soldier began to massage his chest.

The boy was resuscitated thanks to the first aid by service personnel who arrived there later and covered him with their padded clothes.

New sapling production methods applied

Recently, the Academy of Forest Science of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection developed a method of growing branch cuttings of seabuckthorn, whose fruits are used as a medicinal material.

Recently, the method has been adopted in northern mountainous regions including Ryanggang Province in order to plant seabuckthorn forests covering over 1 000 hectares.

Worker recycles over 90 000 bearings

Kim Hung Jo, worker at the Haeju Tractor Parts Factory in South Hwanghae Province, has recycled more than 90 000 bearings over the past decades, contributing to putting production at the factory on normal track.

The 80-year-old is a winner of the honorary title of Merited Technician.

Power station built in South Hamgyong Province

Hamhung Youth Power Station Unit 1 has been built on the Kumjin River in South Hamgyong Province.

The provincial population simultaneously completed the construction of the medium-sized power station and dwelling houses and public buildings.

The power station is now in a test run.



Mine runs greenhouses on heat from shafts

The Unpha Mine in North Hwanghae Province operates vegetable greenhouses relying on geothermal energy.

Heated by the hot wind blowing out of ventilating shafts, the greenhouses yield plenty of fresh vegetables even in winter.



Uniforms for new primary-schoolers in production

Garment factories in Pyongyang are engaged in the production of school uniforms to be supplied to new pupils of primary schools with the approaching of a new school year.

Waterway tunnel extension reaches halfway

The extension of major waterway tunnel of the first-stage Tanchon Power Station project passed the 50 percent line.

Starting in May 2017, it is the largest hydropower station project ever initiated in the DPRK. The station will have a power generation capacity of hundreds of thousands of kilowatts, a hundreds-of-metre-high head and a waterway tunnel going hundreds of kilometres through steep northern mountains.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

HEALTHCARE

Knee OA diagnosis system draws growing attention



University of Medical Sciences.

In 2017 the 38-year-old published in the International Journal of Chinese Medicine his research findings which contained the method of diagnosing knee OA by sole means of medical examination and which said that the use of a certain regimen for a certain period could stop or retard the abrasion of knee cartilage. The following year, he was invited to an international symposium held in Britain.

His diagnosis system based on the precedents of symptoms and syndromes he had collected through over ten years of clinical treatment is said to be over 90 percent in sensitivity and specificity.

"It has become possible even for local clinics to diagnose the OA with the help of this diagnosis system," said Kim Ok Song, doctor at a polyclinic in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province. "I believe there will be less referrals to central hospitals for the diagnosis of the disease."

According to Ri Po Hum, PhD at Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, one of the reasons why many people miss the opportune time for treatment is carelessness and when such diagnosis system which helps people diagnose the disease by themselves without the help of doctors is established, it will be a big contribution to clinical practices.

At present, Ri Yong Jin is working on research into a treatment method using gear in order to improve the diagnosis and treatment system.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

As they get older, many people complain of walking trouble.

According to information available, some people begin to have inconvenience for knee osteoarthritis from their 40s and many develop the disease from their 50s.

Knee osteoarthritis is known as an obstinate disease in the world.

Because it is difficult to diagnose the illness at the early stage and it is confirmed at the advanced stage when it is hard to treat it.

For this reason, many people miss the right time for curing the disease, so they try expensive medicines and even have operations in worse cases.

The artificial joint displacement or stem-cell transplant costs too much and therefore doctors seek its solution in exercise therapy and the like.

"Without lab test and arthroscope, it is difficult to confirm knee osteoarthritis," said Ri Yong Jin (pictured), researcher at Pyongyang

COMBAT

Efforts against viral diseases

A great deal of efforts is being directed to veterinary and anti-epizootic work to prevent African swine fever and bird flu in the DPRK.

The central anti-epizootic centre of the Ministry of Agriculture has dispatched officials and experts to the provinces to take proper measures while strengthening the information system to cope with them immediately without missing any slight symptoms.

It also analyses technical data on the worldwide incidence of the diseases, damage caused by them and anti-epidemic measures against them and timely sends them to the related units. And it intensifies research to develop vaccines.

Observation posts have been set up in the habitats of such migratory birds as wild geese and swans and wild boars and veterinary inspection of domestic animals is being carried on.

Measures have been taken to ensure that pig farms, poultry farms, communal stock-breeding units at cooperative farms and families strictly observe relevant rules.

They are urged to carefully clean and sterilize animal houses, feed stores, depositories and other places and keep their surroundings neat and tidy as part of efforts to thoroughly eradicate the root cause of the outbreak of these diseases.

KCNA

CUBA

Potentials are unlocked to fight embargo

Cuba is achieving successes in economic construction against all odds.

Last year it built three 150MW-capacity power plants, aided by Russia.

Since it got difficult to import fuels due to the anti-Cuban embargo, it is focusing on increasing electricity output and

saving energy.

It is also trying to boost production of pulse.

The pulse processing factory which was built in Santiago de Cuba at the proposal of Fidel Castro in 2001 is mass-producing edible and feeding pulse products.

According to a Prensa Latina report on Feb 9, the factory

assumed a bigger share in the supply of pulse products to locals than last year.

Pulse is also a major article of the country's export.

The factory is planning the maintenance of processing facilities including oil press and directing primary effort to ensuring food safety and good hygiene.

Cuba is also taking measures for public welfare such as a pay raise.

President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez in a government meeting on Feb 20 stressed the need to encourage exportation in order to promote economic development and to combine saving and efficiency.

The meeting discussed such issues as the reuse and production of machines, tools and equipment and development of industries, investment and replacement of imported goods by domestic products.

By Om Ryoung PT

Briefly

Cuba

Bermudez: Nobody can stop Cuba's advance

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez on Feb 28 twittered that though the US is behaving impudently, no one can stop the advance of Cuba.

His remarks were made after the US slapped sanctions against a company which was arranging for remittance to Cuba.

Russia

FM criticizes US foreign policy

Trends of destroying structure have been observed in the field of arms control due to the aggressive and egoistic foreign policy of the US which tries to force its own game rules on the other countries of the world, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at a recent session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

The US started the test-fire of missiles banned by the INF Treaty without any delay after seceding from it and announced that it would deploy intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in some regions, he said.

China

US defense secretary's accusation dismissed

The US' denunciation of China as to the outer space issue is turning black into white and it is none other than the US that militarized the space, said a spokesman for the Chinese defence ministry in a press interview on Feb 28.

His remarks came in response to the US defense secretary's accusations at the Munich security conference last February.

Iran

Iran slams US double-faced behaviour

"It is a ridiculous psychological tactic of the US that it would help Iran since it is afflicting Iranians with sanctions and even blocking the purchase of medicines and medical equipment," said a spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry on Feb 28 as to the US State Secretary's recent claim that the US offered to help Iran in order to check the spread of COVID-19.

Weightlifting

Uzbekistan to host Asian Weightlifting Championships

The sponsor country for the 2020 Weightlifting Championships has been altered from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan in connection with the spread of COVID-19.

The championships were scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan between April 16 and 25.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

SYRIA

Determined to stop war and terrorism

March 8 is the 57th anniversary of the Baathist revolution in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The day brought about a radical turn in the efforts of the Syrian people to consolidate the country's independence and achieve social progress.

Although Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity have been faced with serious challenges due to the intervention by foreign forces in recent years,

its government and people have been fighting undauntedly.

In the New Year, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad announced the country's stand to wage an unyielding battle in Idlib, the last stronghold of anti-government forces, in a show of the will to put an end to terrorism as soon as possible and safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, stressing that it is the priority task facing the

government.

The Syrian government forces have taken full control of the Damascus-Aleppo expressway after recapturing all the areas around it for the first time since 2012.

Dozens of villages and cities in the northwest of Aleppo are now in their hands.

Referring to the victory, the government announced it means neither the end of war nor the eradication of terrorism, but the

prelude to the crushing defeat of the anti-government forces in other areas, describing the battle to get back the whole of Aleppo and Idlib as the action to liberate the whole territory of Syria and achieve peace and stability.

The Syrian people are going on with the struggle to liberate the whole country from terrorists, who regard civilians as their hostages and human shields, and to build a peaceful and stable society.

The Syrian government and people follow the road of justice and the Korean people extend full support and encouragement to them.

By Min Chol PT

DISSATISFACTION

US unilateralism draws strong opposition of Europe

The recent 56th Munich security council meeting in Germany was the focus of the international community as it took on a different look from the previous meetings.

Foreign media reported that the politicians of West European countries including the German and French presidents did not hesitate to express their dissatisfaction at the US over the security issue on the platform.

The German President said that the US gives priority to its own interests by making

sacrifice of its allies, adding that the America-first policy of giving precedence to the interests of the US over those of other countries makes unstable Europe and the rest of the world.

The US administration refuses the concept of international community, he added.

The German Foreign Minister said that gone are the days when the US styled itself the international gendarme as he attributed the global instability to the US.

Addressing the meeting,

French President Emmanuel Macron declared that European countries cannot be junior co-workers of the US.

Stressing the need to work out their own defence strategy to defend Europe by Europeans themselves, he called for getting rid of dependence on the US.

Germany's DPA and a newspaper said though the European leaders demanded the US return to cooperation with the international community, the latter rejected it.

Swiss newspapers said

Europe's firestorm of criticism which was launched before the meeting against the US continued throughout the meeting.

Reuters, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal* said that the European high-ranking politicians competitively criticized US unilateralism at the meeting, adding it served as an occasion in which Europe's concern over and wariness of the America-first doctrine and the discord between Europe and the US surfaced remarkably.

As the law of action and reaction is also applied to the international political circles, the US policy of unilateralism is arousing the opposition of the world.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

S. KOREA

Conservatives under fire

According to south Korean internet paper *Jaju Siboo*, the Kwanghwamun Candlelight Solidarity in a statement on Feb 25 asserted that it would turn out in the struggle to bring the conservative "evil legacy" forces to justice.

Referring to the fact that the United Future Party, a new united conservative party, was formed on Feb 17, it insisted that the "evil legacy"

forces, which should have already been eliminated, stake their political future on the upcoming general election to return to power.

The statement denounced it as an attempt to fool the candlelight citizens who dealt a heavy blow to the "misgovernment" forces and to reverse the history.

It said that the masterminds of pro-Japanese treachery, worsened livelihood, corruption

and monopolization of state governance have turned out for the election without coming to their senses and that it would never tolerate them.

All the progressive democratic reformist forces and candlelight citizens will fight to do away with the United Future Party and the Future Korea Party, it noted.

According to a south Korean internet newspaper, the federation of university students for progress, the solidarity for people's sovereignty and the youth party in south Korea held a press conference in front of

the building of the United Future Party on Feb 26 and disclosed that Hwang Kyo An, representative of the UFP, made absurd remarks on Feb 20 that the blood tax paid by the people should not be squandered under the pretext of COVID-19 while cunningly attributing the current disaster to the government policy.

They warned that if the UFP abuses the current serious situation for the political strife, it would only be a decisive factor leading to the disbandment of the party.

KCNA

PROFILE

With his eye on Olympic gold

"I was 14 years old when I first came to the Amnokgang Defence Sports Club with my father. Strangely enough, the sound of gunfire at the shooting training ground I heard that day was alluring," said Kim Song Guk (pictured).

The DPRK shooters bagged 11 medals including six golds at the 14th Asian Shooting Championships held in Qatar in November last year. At the event Kim, a shooter at the Amnokgang Defence Sports Club, won the men's 10m air pistol and set a new Asian and world record.

"Something unusual about him is that he can maintain stable mindset in any circumstances and has a good concentration," said his coach Ju Hak Chol.



Kim was selected as one of the top ten players of the year 2019 of the DPRK.

He had already won a bronze medal in the 31st Olympic Games in 2016, drawing the attention of experts.

He is never weary or

conceited, which is often seen among the top-notch players, his colleagues say.

According to Kim Yong Gwang, a shooter who has trained with him for years, he has remained as honest and open-minded in his training as he did when he was a newcomer.

Living in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, he loves his wife and six-year-old daughter very much and enjoys lyric songs in his leisure time.

His father is a discharged officer who was well known as a marksman in his unit and he became a shooter as his father asked him to do, said Kim.

He is now training hard to achieve the goal of winning a gold at the 32nd Olympics.

By Om Ryong PT

RELICS

Archaeological sites newly registered

The DPRK has recently registered different archaeological sites and relics in the list of national treasures and the list for preservation.

The archaeological site in Sinphung-ri of Sukchon County, South Phyongan Province, and a stone Buddhist image found in Songhyon-ri, Onchon County, Nampho City, have been put on the list for preservation.

The Sinphung-ri site from the later period of the Paleolithic era is divided into a battue ground and stone tool making ground and consists of six cultural layers. The site, where a large number of stone and bone tools, animal bone fossils, spore and pollen fossils and semi-finished stone tools were unearthed, is of great academic significance in clarifying the

process of production activities of Paleolithic men who had conducted hunting even in the flat areas and proving that the Neolithic culture which is traceable to the culture in the later period of the Paleolithic era came into being independently in Korea.

The stone Buddhist image was made of granite in the initial period of Koryo (around the 10th century) by trimming a monolith which was almost pentagonal. It consists of the body which is 23-24cm thick. A large-size stone image built in the open air, it is represented well in terms of formative art and is a precious legacy which has not been widely known so far.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

COVID-19

Key points in global fight against CoV

COVID-19 has already spread over all continents except Antarctica.

With a new aspect being detected that the virus is spreading faster outside China where the virus was first discovered, public health authorities in all countries are focusing on preventing its spread in large cities.

Public transportation

Public transportation means have optimal environment for the virus transmission.

After analysing when colds are prevalent, a research group said people using public transportation means in the period of the outbreak of flu have six times higher probability of contracting acute respiratory infection at maximum.

To prevent it sterilization of the exposed surfaces of trains, buses and railway stations is going on in several countries and regions.

Crowds of people

Events like sports games have high potential to spread diseases as they draw lots of people. For this reason events have been cancelled or postponed.

Shanghai in China postponed an international motor race.

In Europe rugby and football matches to be played by Italian teams have been put off.

As to the Tokyo Olympic Games slated to open in late July, the International Olympic Committee does not rule out the cancellation of the Games in case the situation worsens.

Saudi Arabia banned the entry of foreign pilgrims to Mecca and Medina, the holiest cities in

Islam.

School

Schools and universities shut down all at once in Japan, Thailand, Iran, Iraq and other countries. Parents who travelled with their children to the regions and countries, which have been badly affected by COVID-19, including south Korea, Iran, China, Southeast Asia and northern Italy, are recommended to be isolated at home with their children and restrain them from going to school.

All classes have been cancelled to ensure safety of students at some schools in Britain because of those who travelled to Italy.

Businesses

COVID-19 has also adverse effects on businesses.

Some American businesses declared a "public health emergency state" and demand employees do not shake hands with visitors to the companies.

A meeting for cyber security slated for March in San Francisco has been cancelled.

Public awareness

It is important to raise public awareness to prevent the spread of COVID-19, say health-related officials.

It includes informing the public of the importance of strict hand washing.

Hospital

Hospitals concentrate on relieving the symptoms of patients as there are no vaccines or effective remedies against

COVID-19.

In case the number of confirmed patients rapidly increases, hospitals are expected to delay other affairs and increase phone consultation related to the epidemic.

Isolation

In Britain, travellers to the COVID-19 affected areas are requested to be in quarantine at home.

KCNA



Animal bones and working tools unearthed in Sinphung-ri, Sukchon County, South Phyongan Province.

FOOD

Kangwon cuisine features goodies of mountain and sea

Since Kangwon Province in the eastern part of central Korea has many mountains and borders the sea, the local cuisine is rich in natural taste and flavour and, therefore, regarded as wholesome foods.

Typical specialties are boiled glutinous kaoliang, half-moon-shaped potato cake, acorn-starch jelly and Kungang rice and pine-nut porridge.

The boiled glutinous kaoliang



Trepang soup

which is cooked with rice and red bean has marked pharmaceutical effects.

The half-moon-shaped potato cake, unlike similar cakes of other localities, has an unusual shape as if clenched in a hand.

The acorn-starch jelly is known to be efficacious for strengthening internal organs, stopping diarrhea and reducing inflammation.

The Kungang rice and pine-



Half-moon-shaped potato cake

nut porridge is a staple food in Kungang and Kosong counties which are adjacent to Mt Kungang.

The Kungang *sinsollo* prepared with over 30 ingredients, together with Kungang rice and pine-nut porridge, is a favourite food of sightseers visiting the namesake mountain.

The seafood kimchi made from kelp or other seaweeds is simple to prepare and tastes refreshing.

The Kangwon people made soups with fresh fishes from the East Sea of Korea from olden times. Still, such soups cooked with mackerel, rock fish and flatfish are most common dishes at local restaurants and households.

The most popular fish soup is the one made with chubs.

A cyprinoid which lives in the littoral, brackish waters of the northwest Pacific including the East and South seas of Korea, chub is widely known for its good taste.

By Song Jong Ho PT

