Key industry sectors launch into new five-year plan

The metallurgical industry sector set forth a high-pace of consolidating production foundations and expanding productivity and directs efforts to this end.

The Chollima Steel Complex launched a campaign for making a breakthrough in reenergizing production and the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes improved their production capacities and put forward the preparations for remodelling the production processes into energizing their output.

The Musan Mining Complex and Unnyul and Jaeryong mines are overfulfilling their plans every day.

The chemical industry sector is bracing itself up as before the core industry of the country.

Chemical scientists buckled down to research chemical technology in core chemical industry sectors with a determination to open up a new chapter in the development of the nation’s chemical industry during the period of the new five-year plan by founding a chemical industry relying on domestic materials.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complexput the production of nitrogenous fertilizer for the first time in five years on normal footing. The Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory concentrates all efforts on completing the technical process for normalizing the production of high-concentration ammonium phosphate fertilizer in the shortest possible time.

The Namhong Youth Chemical Complex speeds up the project for increasing production capacity and pushes ahead with the renovation and modernization of several chemical factories.

The Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal power stations work to raise their power generation capacities, while stepping up the introduction of a modern technology for reducing the consumption of heavy oil.

The Sunchon Area Youth Complex and Coal-mining and Kaechon and Hannam area coal-mining complexes, among other coal-mining units, are giving priority to prospecting and tunnelling works so as to work out promising coal fields and secure coal pits and coal deposits.

An intensive study and discussions are ongoing on the problem of carrying out the tasks set forth at the Eighth Party Congress on the basis of practical and scientific calculations.

A renovation project is making headway at the Kumsong Tractor Factory, and major factories and enterprises in the sector including the Ryongsong Machine Complex, Taen Heavy Machine Complex and Ragnon General Machine Enterprise are directing efforts to building the production foundations capable of developing and manufacturing any up-to-date machines and facilities.

The mining industry sector is also conducting study and discussions geared to finding out the ways to accomplish the goals and tasks to be achieved in the period of the new five-year plan, while pushing forward with the reinforcement of production foundations.

The poster calls for winning a fresh victory in socialist construction by remarkably increasing the internal motive force under the banner of self-reliance.
To usher in a new upsurge in socialist construction

The Eighth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea which was held from January 5 to 12 set forth new strategic and tactical policies, tasks and ways for the epochal progress in building Korean-style socialism.

The congress analysed and reviewed the mistakes to be overcome in the overall work of the Party and the state in a detailed way and found correct measures against them to set higher goals in a scientific way.

In fact, the DPRK achieved great successes during the five years after the Seventh Party Congress.

The period was trying years for the country, as it was confronted with a multitude of trials and difficulties, including the severest sanctions imposed by the hostile forces, unprecedented natural disasters and the world health crisis.

Nevertheless, the DPRK accomplished the historic cause of crucial significance in national defence in a do-or-die spirit to protect its dignity and sovereignty and remarkably enhanced its international position.

Accordingly, the Eighth Party Congress stressed the need to remarkably increase the country’s own force in socialist construction to win a fresh victory in all fields.

It emphasized once again the three ideas—“The people are God”, “single-hearted unity” and “self-reliance”—and put forward a new five-year plan.

The idea of “The people are God” reflects the permanent demand for strictly maintaining the Party’s revolutionary traits of making its devoted service for the people the starting point and invariable principle in its building and activities, while the ideas “single-hearted unity” and “self-reliance” represent the ideological and theoretical standpoint and political requirements on the lifeline and motive force of the Korean revolution.

The main point of the new five-year plan is to concentrate all efforts on socialist economic construction so as to stabilize and improve the people’s standards of living as early as possible and provide a firm guarantee for achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance.

To this end, it set it as its main tasks to strengthen organic relations between key industries with metallurgical and chemical industries as crucial links in the whole chain of economic development so as to spur the revitalization of the economy in a substantial way, consolidate the material and technical foundations of the agricultural sector and increase the proportion of domestic production of raw materials in the light industry sector so as to improve the people’s living standards a level higher.

The Korean people are now determined to open up a new period of upsurge in their efforts for the prosperity of Korean-style socialism by following the road indicated by the Eighth Congress of the Party, in the same spirit and courage they displayed to boost the international status of the DPRK in a few years.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Nationwide

Birthday spread sent to macrobian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Thak Jae Dan, a centenarian living in neighbourhood unit No. 32, Munchon-dong, Munchon City, Kangwon Province.

Being very grateful for the birthday spread, she extended her gratitude to him.

Electronic medical appliances factory renovated

The Kanggye silk thread factory in Jagang Province that has laid the foundations for the production of hard alloy is now in a position to produce and supply necessary iron and steel materials needed for power plant construction and to speed up the construction projects.

Those in Sepho and Phyonggang counties are fulfilling their daily tunnelling assignments 1.3 times every day, while those in Hoeryang and Ichon counties are making collective innovations in damming and waterway tunnel boring.

Factory overfulfils silk thread production plan

The Kanggye silk thread factory in Jagang Province is carrying out its daily production plans at over 100 percent.

It has set up a new silk thread production process and is now improving the quality of products.

It introduced a water return device into a vacuum pre-treatment machine, and thus reduced water consumption considerably and increased productivity.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Gala performance

Grand art performance “We Sing of the Party” staged at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium from January 13 to 24 in celebration of the Eighth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea. It represents the worthwhile lives and single-hearted unity of the Korean people through a graceful mix of vocal and instrumental music, dance and mass gymnastics, and flash-card background and illumination.
Factory turns out variety of notebooks

Several kinds of products of the Mindulle Notebooks Factory were awarded the medal of top quality in December last year.

The factory produces dozens of kinds of notebooks for kindergarteners, primary school pupils and students of junior and senior middle schools and universities at its automated production lines.

Each book bears the logo of the factory showing hairy dandelion seeds flying in the breeze with a dandelion clock for a backdrop. It comes in different kinds such as those with squared, four-line, stave, lined and blank papers.

The factory directs big efforts to ensuring the diversity of covers to suit the psychology of children and students in different ages and the features of study subjects.

To this end, it arranges a quarterly prize contest for developing new covers and introduces highly-appreciated designs into production immediately.

The designs appealing to juvenile minds are distinguishable out of them. You will easily understand their uses at the sight of the designs including those depicting the three friends in Korean children’s favourite cartoon The Roomy Dog, a boy holding a crayon in a flower garden and two kittens singing using microphones.

Most recently, some questions, common knowledge, puzzles and the source of their answers have been added to the jacket and back of the cover, thus contributing to promoting the intellectual development of kindergarteners and pupils.

“Since the inauguration of our factory, we have supplied kindergartens, schools and universities across the country with hundreds of millions of notebooks,” said a staffer of the factory.

Skin lotion made of Kaesong Koryo insam

The Kaesong Koryo insam (ginseng) skin lotion developed by the Kumgangsan Joint Venture Company is enjoying a growing demand.

“Skin lotion is a basic cosmetic product which people use most often to ensure a normal pH in skin cells, moisturize them and enhance the adhesive power of other cosmetics like cream and foundation and for other effects,” said Ho Kyong Sun, section chief of the company, adding they applied the extract of Kaesong Koryo insam, a specialty of Korea, to the production of lotions.

The company worked out a traditional way of extracting from insam through over ten years of research and established a corresponding production process.

As the extract contains saponin, the main ingredient of insam, in a harmonious balance, it is very good for physiological activities of skin cells, such as immunopotentiation, regeneration of cells and retarding of aging. And since it is in high concentration, it gives off a fresh fragrance peculiar to insam without using any aromatic additives.

They mixed the extract with natural functional materials like aloe and collagen to make different kinds of astringent and moisturizing beauty lotions.

The astringent skin lotion is much sought after by those with pimples and inflammations of skin cells, makes thin skin tissues thick and springy again.

“My facial skin had turned red and thick due to an adverse effect of cosmetics. However, it recovered its original colour and the adverse symptoms completely disappeared two years after I started using the lotion,” said a female customer.

The moisturizing lotion is also popular as it is suitable for skincare in spring, autumn and winter when the weather is relatively dry.

The Kaesong Koryo insam skin lotions received the December 15 Medal of Quality last year.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Savoury dried walleye pollack

The Kalma Foodstuff Factory produces freeze- and vacuum-dried walleye pollack which is very favoured by people.

According to chief engineer Ri Chol Bom, the freeze- and vacuum-drying method is far better than the traditional way of drying walleye pollack with natural drying methods as there is almost no change in nutrients and degradation of protein in fish during the drying process.

Therefore, the processed seafood preserves its shape, colour, taste and aroma and fully ensures the qualitative indices like humidity, saltiness, recombination and absorption rates of water and lysine.

When it is soaked in water, it returns to its original raw state in a short time.

It is flavoured with an injector.

Employees say this method reduces the time to season walleye pollack as compared to the previous method and meets the freshness standard of the raw material.

The factory manufactured and introduced such devices as eviscerating machine, supersonichumidifier, automatic grading and packing machine to automate the production processes, thereby improving the quality of processing while saving much labour and electricity.

The dried walleye pollack of the factory which is fairly fresh and savoury for the adding of different spices received the medal of top quality last year.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Functional foods made of kneaded fish flesh

Among the products that were awarded the December 15 Medal of Quality last year are functional foods made with kneaded fish flesh at the Hungman Taegyong General Fishery Enterprise.

It is a global trend to turn out processed products using kneaded fish flesh.

Such gelated flesh made by denaturalizing fish proteins preserves them intact and is very effective for the production of finished or semi-processed foodstuffs.

The enterprise established an industrial production process of kneaded fish flesh for the first time in the country.

Fishes with white flesh are mainly used in making the kneaded fish. The factory produces a variety of foods such as sausage, ball and rolled cake.

According to section chief Jo Jong Ryong, processed foods were previously made by crushing fishes and adding sticky additives and therefore they easily crumbled in many cases.

But those made with kneaded fish flesh are now much favoured by customers as they are pleasing to the eye, nice to chew and wholesome as well.

Fish sausage is rich in lysine and vitamins A, B3 and others and therefore it is known as a nourishing food promoting children’s growth.

Fish balls are also highly nutritious and rich in protein but low in fat and have distinctive taste and good smell. As they are easily digestible and have beneficial effects for beauty and health as they prevent obesity and also prevent and treat arteriosclerosis and fatty liver.

Rolled fish cakes are efficient in lowering cholesterol levels, treating constipation, diabetes and hyperlipemia and preventing cancer of large bowel.

By Yun Kyong Il PT
**TREE NURSERY**

**Efforts put into automation of environmental management**

The Taesong District Forestry Management Station in Pyongyang directs efforts to making the environmental management of nursery unmanned.

“Last year, we established the remote-control system to the nursery for the first time in the country, with the result that only one person manages the nursery covering hundreds of square metres of plastic panel greenhouse and several hectares of outdoor cultivation ground,” said Kim So Yong, manager of the station.

As remote-control panels necessary for the control system are installed in every place, the temperature, humidity, sunshine amount, the content of carbonic acid gas and the amount of irrigation are transmitted to the control room in real time.

“We always provide conditions favourable for the growth of saplings while automatically controlling irrigation facilities of the nursery, sun screens and air-conditioners in any places,” said technical staffer Cha Myong Song.

It is said that this leads to putting sapling production on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis.

The growing speed of saplings gets faster and the rate of tested saplings has been raised. According to senior engineer Han Yong Chol, 18 centimetre-high needle-leaf saplings and 20-30 centimetre-high broadleaf ones can be acceptable. The station grows three-year-old pine-nut saplings to over 30 centimetres and black chokeberry 50 centimetres.

Though sapling production took two years in the past, the station completes sapling raising in a year, while ensuring the rate of rooting at over 99 percent.

The plastic panel greenhouse produces saplings two times a year.

The station cultivates the saplings of dozens of kinds of wild fruit trees including pine-nut and chestnut. It was placed first in sapling production across Pyongyang last year.

“We are now pressing on with the work to complete the robotization of environmental management of the tree nursery and the managing and cultivation of tree saplings by further developing the remote-control system,” said the manager.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

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**ARCHITECTURE**

**Institute works to protect environment**

Green architecture has become the main trend for the development of modern architectural technology as it saves energy, land, water and other resources to the maximum, while minimizing effect on environment, and provides suitable and effective living space for human health and activities.

“In the formation of green architecture, it is important to inspect and certify construction and building materials according to the certification standard set by the state,” said Ryom Chang Min, director of the environmental hygiene institute of the Paektusan Institute of Architecture.

The institute conducts research into the physical, chemical and biological conditions of architectural environment.

It developed a finishing building material inspection and architectural environment inspection system for the application of green architecture.

The system can evaluate the health security and functionality of finishing building materials by measuring the content of formaldehyde, heavy metals and effective radiation for such main building materials as cement, sand and gravel, stone ornamental materials, all kinds of lagging materials and wooden building materials and functional building materials like paint and wallpaper.

It also checks water and air quality and inspects physical environment including noise, electromagnetic field and harmful earth wave.

The institute evaluated the green architecture for major national construction sites by introducing the system.

In addition, it develops various green architectural products.

An indoor air conditioner, which removes dust and harmful and polluted substances that are discharged from fixture and furniture to ensure fresh air, a mineral polymer block which was made of different locally-available mineral materials and diverse waste materials without using cement, wood insect-detecting device for checking insects in the wood and wooden products by way of sound detection to completely kill wood insects there in a short time, and a microwave wood insect control machine are the results of painstaking efforts of the researchers.

Especially, the institute developed various capacity antiseptic solution generating machines that can raise its density over two times by reducing the consumption of salt, electric power and electrode to introduce them into the gym and schoolchildren’s camp in the City of Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, and other facilities.

By Kim Il Jin PT

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**PHARMACEUTICALS**

**Koryo medicines produced**

The Phyongchon Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, leads other units in the production of traditional medicines.

Today, products of the factory are in great demand.

“It is the business strategy of our factory to satisfy the people’s demand,” said Mun Sun Ok, manager of the factory.

The main thing in its technological development plan is to develop new medicines that can contribute substantially to the promotion of people’s health by relying on domestic materials.

The factory builds its own technical force and encourages them to enhance their leading role. And it also makes sure that the employees take an active part in scientific and technological work.

It developed and applied new extraction methods to preserve the fine characters of traditional medicines while overcoming the limitations arising in the course of their use.

Golden dandelion hepatitis dragee, fermented flour of raw bean, adlay maize tea and many other products it developed are popular with customers.

Since last year, the factory has made health foods with the help of lactic acid fermented liquid bacillus “Kwangnyong”. Functional health foods made from liquid bacillus and its metabolites have proved effective in treating various diseases.

By Yun Kyong Il PT
People look round works on display in the central photo, book and fine art exhibition held in celebration of the Eighth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Faculty proud of collection of works

The collections of works made by the Korean Language Faculty of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education evoke a positive response.

The faculty annually unveils a collection of excellent works out of those created by lecturers and students.

“Each work in the collection is original in idea and refined in description. Especially, I feel deep admiration for students’ remarkable abilities,” said Son Yong Bok at the Central Committee of the Writers Union of Korea.

The faculty brought out collection of works “The Great Motherly Party” on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Workers’ Party of Korea last year.

According to poems In the Wake of Flood, Excellent Locations and Nameplate at My Home, the residents who suffered flood damage last year received not only new houses and daily necessaries but kindred love and affection. Student Ho Kyong Mi in her poem The Apellation of University Student expressed the pride of many farmers in her home village who became students by enrolling on online university courses amid the nationwide efforts to make all the people well versed in science and technology and postgraduate Kim Ju Hyok in his poem I Want to Be a Path depicted the love for the country of his father who has tended forests as he goes to work along a path through the forests all his life.

“Students feel the pulse of the times in everyday life and get significant points from it. This is the result of their patriotic intentions. Their creative abilities improve rapidly as they share views and have discussions with each other and feel proud when their works are selected for the collections,” said Jang Song Chol, head of the creative lab.

The faculty has produced such collections for over 20 years, which has greatly contributed to improving students’ scholarly performance. In recent years alone, several students of the faculty have produced full-length historical stories, medium-length true stories and full-length novels.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Samaritans

War veteran grateful to many people

“I have many sons and daughters in addition to my own children. They call me ‘Ma’ and show all sincerity, regarding me as their parent,” said Hwang Myong Sun, war veteran living in Undok-dong No. 2, Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province.

Hailing from Seoul of south People’s Army as an officer, the volunteer corps during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953) and became a nurse.

During the strategic temporary retreat, she came to stand at a crossroads deciding her destiny.

“Seoul, where there were my beloved mother and relatives, was within a hailing distance and going north with no home and blood relatives was my first trip,” Hwang Myong Sun recalled.

However, she went northwards with the conviction that she could lead a genuine life as human being only when she followed the Workers’ Party of Korea.

After graduating from a military academy after the war, she served the Korean People’s Army as an officer. After her demob she graduated from Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences and worked for a long time as a public health official.

Many people visit her home on holidays and rest days to spend a pleasant time with her like her family members while taking warm care of her health and life.

“Today, we can enjoy a happy life since war veterans forms a harmonious family of older generations waged a bloody struggle. So I became her daughter and my husband reveres her as his own parent,” said Ra Song Dan residing in Toksong-dong of Phyongsong.

They care much for her lest she should lose her appetite in summer or catch cold when it gets cold, and visit her house with various presents and special foods.

Whenever Hwang takes part in the national conference of war veterans, they congratulate them as they respect at her participation like their own happy event.

“While coming north, I also worry if I would live without kith and kin. But I’m living happily under the excellent system where the whole society forms a harmonious family,” said Hwang Myong Sun.

By Kwon Hye Song PT

EXHIBITION

Pieces of work highlight achievements of WPK

The central photo, book and fine art exhibition was opened at the Korean National Art Museum on December 23 2020 to commemorate the Eighth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

Many citizens visited the venue of 30-odd-day exhibition.

On display at the exhibition were photos showing the image of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who has led the Korean revolution to victory with his outstanding leadership for five years since 2016 when the Seventh WPK Congress was held, and other photos showing the notable achievements in the DPRK, art works portraying the long history of the DPRK and lots of books.

Visitors unanimously said that the exhibits were very impressive as they could see all valuable successes of the past five years at a glance.

Photos showing important WPK meetings held in the period, historic moments when the country’s political and military might was beefed up unprecedentedly and lots of structures made visitors recollect the events of the past five years.

As they looked at the photos of Kim Jong Un providing field guidance tours of Taechong-ri in Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, and other typhoon-ravaged areas in South Hamgyong Province, they said they were deeply impressed by them.

Art works also left deep impression on the viewers.

Other standouts were a piece of picture showing women workers who produce pine-branch satchels with warm affection and the painting of schoolchildren who came to a post office to send their letters to the service personnel.

They impressively represented the workers who make every product with sincere devotion and pure mind and all others who turned out like one in the campaign for recovery from natural disasters.

“Each photo, art work and book on display serve as reminders of the unforgettable past five years replete with pride and happiness. Under the wise leadership of the great WPK, our victory will be led to another greater one and the next exhibition will showcase the new history of ours with better results,” said Hwang Chol Guk, staffer of the Korean Film Studio.

By Pang Un Ju PT

LITERARY

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By Han Kwi Hun PT

PROFILE

Woman optician of good repute

Kim Nam Suk (pictured) working at the public service station in Taeson District, Pyongyang, is one of the opticians frequented by many customers. She not only precisely corrects her clients’ spectacles lens according to their eyesight but also offers rims to meet their likings, ages and occasions.

Some people opt for glasses merely because they cannot see properly. In that cases, she informs them of methods for the protection and management of eyesight and makes appropriate glasses.

By Pang Un Ju PT

War veteran grateful to many people

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By Kwon Hye Song PT
Cost-effective methods introduced

Kim Man Yu Hospital in Pyongyang applies simple and effective treatment methods into clinical practice.

The cardiosurgery department improved the effectiveness of anaesthesia with the help of preoperative hypothermia.

“In the past, we used to decrease the temperature of the patient’s whole body, but now we just put an ice pack on the forehead where there are thermoregulatory centres to produce the same result,” said Jong Kwang Ho, chief of the department.

This method is said to lessen the burden on patients as it helps to reduce the rate of recovery by re-establishing the dosages of anaesthetics applied during operations according to the condition and constitution of patients.

“Although patients may be given the same diagnosis, the cases differ from person to person, especially their physical preparedness. Therefore, if we determine the dosage of anaesthetics to be applied in the operation room exactly on the basis of detailed information about the case, the patient can come to after the operation more than 20 hours earlier than before,” said Jong.

The department improved the effectiveness of anaesthesia applied during operations according to the condition and constitution of patients.

The electroacupuncture which combines treatment effects of traditional acupuncture with that of electric current is widely applied to Koryo medicine as it is simple in operation and cures illnesses without giving much pain to patients.

Doctor Ro Myong Son, who has been devoted to the research into the therapy for decades, established a new method of using electroacupuncture to selectively stimulate nerve fibres and cured paralysis and other diseases last year.

By controlling the duration, amplitude and frequency of impulse, he selectively stimulates only A fibre among nerve fibres to cure peripheral neuralgia and stimulates A, B and C fibres at the same time to treat peripheral paralysis.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

TEA

Unique taste, folksy mood charms visitors

The Unjong Teahouse on Changjon Street, Pyongyang, serves green, black and chogawanum teas with Unjong tea leaves grown in Kangnyong County, South Hwanghae Province.

Regulars at the teahouse said that they frequent the place just to enjoy the national flavour and feel the emotions of life through the aroma of fresh tea.

“I am not just an ordinary visitor but a passionate tea drinker, so I hope you will pay heed to my words. Unjong tea has some depth. It really is a good tea with its own taste and flavour and is also good for health,” wrote a visitor in the record.

“I did not know Unjong tea would taste this good,” said Ri Jong Min, one of the regulars at the teahouse. "The atmosphere is very nice and the waitresses are so kind that they help tea drinkers savour the delicate taste of Unjong tea."

Thae Min Gyu from Kyongsong-dong, Central District, said that though it takes only a few minutes to drink a cup of tea, it brings considerable benefits.

Now that people get mentally fatigued from life and work and come under the influence of electromagnetic waves everywhere, he claimed, the teatime of relishing the aroma and taste of nature is beneficial to both health and life.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Sustainable living

The kindergarten introduced two women relish tea in the Unjong Teahouse on Changjon Street, Central District, Pyongyang

The kindergarten introduced the teaching methods, "The kind is known as a prodigy in his kindergarten. According to his teacher Kim Jong Il, he has an ear good enough to correctly guess notes and even fourth-note chord without listening to diapason, so she decided to teach him how to calculate numbers by dint of hearing." said Jong.

“I was deeply impressed by his outstanding ability. I am so much eager to meet him,” said Han Nam Yong, a student at Changgwang Technical Senior College.

The curious boy with great application capability builds up more vivid and distinctive patterns than others with the same construction toy and surpasses primary school pupils in playing word games and jigsaw puzzle.

In addition, his piano solo hailed since he was 4 has now been further polished.

However, his main interest is arithmetic. “Everything related to numbers is interesting for me. My dad says I can become a scientist when I am intimate with them. I will make a rocket myself to travel outer space,” said Jo.

By Ri Yong Jong PT
JAPAN

Risky bid most likely to give rise to arms race

A
t the end of last year, the Japanese government passed a new document related to missile defence at a Cabinet meeting. According to it, it is to newly build two Aegis-class warships in place of the introduction of the US’ ground-based missile defence system Aegis Ashore, which was abandoned in June last year, and to develop “missile beyond the range of surface-to-surface missiles with 200 km to hundreds of kilometres more will be able to cover the island under the territorial dispute with China.

When Japan’s plan is realized, neighboring countries will fall within the substantial striking range of missile.

A Western magazine said that though the Japanese Maritime Instrument factory and a instrument factory and a international community.

Many countries are planning to develop and reclamation of wetlands and root out the sources of contaminants flowing into rivers and the areas with a high degree of contamination. In particular, it intensifies the protection and management of Rason, Kumya and Mundok as wetland places of international significance by the Ramsar Convention and as major wetland places of international importance.

Jang In Ae, researcher of the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea

EFFORT

Nations take proactive approaches to boost economy

M
cro countries are making brisk efforts to develop their economies. Iran reduced the export of crude oil and gas and concentrates efforts on developing the petrochemical industry.

Last December, the general director in charge of planning and development in the state-run petrochemical corporation of the country said in an interview that they can boost production seven times by imposing a ban on the export of raw materials and primarily processed goods and increasing the export of second- and third-stage processed products, adding that they should expand the export of processed goods and import only those that have a lower production cost of production in the country.

Having designated last year as a year of gas, Nigeria completed construction of an integral gas control instrument factory and a liquefied petroleum gas processing and decomposition plant at the end of last year to produce hundreds of thousands of tons of commercial liquid natural gas and liquid propane gas to meet a substantial share of domestic demand. The inauguration of the factories created new jobs and provided an impetus for supplying in efficient and energy sources to the transport sector as well as families and increasing the country’s exports to international markets.

The country also set out a goal of ensuring food safety and becoming a leading exporter of standard agricultural products in the world market by encouraging digital farming in the agricultural sector. India pays much attention to chemical industry and encourages investment in it, while enforcing a policy for its development. Chemical products such as paints and colouring materials, organic chemicals and mineral agrochemicals and cosmetics take an important position in the country’s trade. Therefore, the government follow a policy of supporting the import of chemical materials and meeting local demands with local materials.

Best young China plans to establish state control over major mines in the country, especially copper mines, to expand the state’s profits.
Sports club introduces effective tools

The Pyongyang Sports Club proves successful in training players by making dozens of kinds of highly-effective apparatuses.

Of them is a multifunctional individual football training apparatus made by Ri Jong Hui, People’s Athlete and instructor of juvenile sports school of the Pyongyang Sports Club. The apparatus won high appreciation at the 23rd national sports sci-techni achievement show in 2019 (for the sector of training apparatuses) and the sci-techni exhibition of health and sports sectors between the DPRK and China as it helps exactly exercise passing, kick, stop, heading and others without a partner.

“The multifunctional individual football training apparatus is good for ensuring the accuracy of players’ movements. In particular, it makes a player carry out all the training tasks by himself, greatly unaffected by the time and place,” said Sung Hyang Sim, football player and Merited Athlete of the club.

Ri Jong Hui, mother of two children, began to make the instrument for her nine-year-old son with a thought to provide him with that for self-training. As the apparatus took shape gradually, she had an idea that it would be useful for players and made the multifunctional one by drawing on long experience gained in her life as a player and instructor.

A shoulder and waist strength developing apparatus is also popular with coaches and players of artistic gymnastics. The apparatus is said to be very effective in developing muscles for improving the flying height of flight movements at horizontal and uneven bars and maintaining the capacity of keeping levelness at rings.

Inspired by the effort of instructor Ri Jong Hui, Kim Chang Gyu, coach of artistic gymnastics, contrived this apparatus.

“You cannot create anything without affection for and pride in your occupation,” Ri said, after making the shoulder and waist strength developing apparatus through painstaking quest.

Relic

Temple showcases architecture of medieval Korea

The Sogwang Temple is situated in Solbong-ri, Kosan County, Kangwon Province. The Ungjin Hall was built in 1386 for the first time in the late Koryo period and later over 50 small and large buildings were added during the feudal Joson dynasty, which existed between 1392 and 1910.

Buildings are arranged harmoniously to meet topography, with the temple forming two main composition axes towards the south in a deep valley which is open towards the east.

The first gate to the temple is Buli Gate. The gate is a cosy house, which was built in 1751 on the rainbow-shaped stone bridge crossing the stream in front of the temple. After passing the Jogye Gate, the second gate to the temple, there is Solsondong Tower, a gable roofed two-storey smart loft built to the west.

Taehung Hall, the central building of the temple, is located deep into the north on the lower central axis from the central area of the temple. Having been rebuilt in 1731, it was gorgeously painted and geometrical patterns were attached towards the south in a deep valley which is open towards the east.

By Han Kwi Hun

Food

Peppery soup made of walleye pollack

Walleye pollack has long been used in the dietary life of the Korean people.

The name myonghue is said to have been derived from the fact that a man surnamed Thae in Myongchon County of North Hamgyong Province had caught certain amounts of pork and liquor before wedding, but did not send riches and if any families of brides and grooms received them, they would be the subject of public criticism.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms (3rd century BC-AD mid-7th century) many families of bridgegrooms and brides jointly held wedding ceremonies and their families and relatives got together in the brides’ houses to declare and celebrate marriages.

Wedding ceremonies were an occasion to share rejoicing with neighbours.

Such a marital custom continues to be carried forward at present.

By Kwon Hyo Song

Custom

Marital custom of Koreans

“Since ancient times, the Korean people have attached more importance to mutual faith and affection, personality and mind than to property status or power relations in choosing their spouses,” said Kong Myong Song, director of the Folklore Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences.

For this reason, they set disposition, manner and family etiquettes as the main criteria for finding out their suitable matches and it was much attributed to home education.

Koreans do not marry to their relatives of the same surname and the same family origin.

“It was not until the late 19th century that Charles Darwin found that he was not blessed with children because of consanguineous marriage. But according to historical records, the Korean people’s custom of referring from marriage to persons of the same surname and family origin dates back to ancient times. In the period of feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910), members of the same race and those with such plentiful Korean surnames as Kim, Ri and Pak wedded among them, but the man and woman of the same surname and the same family origin avoided marrying,” said Kong Myong Song.

To hold a simple wedding ceremony was part of the marital custom of the Korean nation and the families of the bride and bridgegroom also performed a wedding ceremony jointly in the bride’s house.

According to historical records, people of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) sent certain amounts of pork and liquor before wedding, but did not send riches and if any families of brides and grooms received them, they would be the subject of public criticism.

By Pang Un Ju

Cut bean curd into thick size chunks, washed crown daisy or parsley into five to six centimetre pieces and cut green pepper into three to four centimetre pieces.

First, put fish head in cold water and boil it for about 30 minutes. And then take it out of the pot and sieve the stock.

Pour oil on cooking pot and put Welsh onion and green pepper into it to fry. And pour the stock into it and dissolve hot pepper paste in it. Put fish pieces into the pot and boil. When they are cooked, add pollack roe, liver and milt, vegetable and bean curd to it. When bean curd pieces float, add garlic, pepper, raw milt, sesame and black pepper and seasoning powder to improve its flavour.

It is served in heated bowls.

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APPARATUS

Footballers are under training using a portable apparatus at the Pyongyang Sports Club.

By Ri Sung Ik

FOOD

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