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Kim Jong Un reinspects construction site for residential district project

The construction of the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District will begin in earnest.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, looked round the site for the project again with secretaries of the Party Central Committee.

The construction of the residential district of terraced apartment houses for 800 families is a project reflecting the plan and intention of the Party Central Committee to give a facelift to the city by building apartment houses of new styles and to provide the people with advanced living environments and conditions, he said, calling on all the construction units to be well aware of the importance of the project and implement the WPK's far-reaching policy on capital city construction with great devotion and unyielding practice.

He said it is important to exercise strict supervision over every construction process, economize on building materials in every way by making exact demands, prevent accidents of all kinds and generalize

good construction experience to the capital city construction.

He stressed the need to make a good plan for landscaping the surroundings of the residential quarter and spruce up the parks on the banks of the Pothong River so as to provide the residents with the greatest conveniences for living and improve the natural environment.

Saying that the quality of construction should be improved to bring into play the specific features of different styles and elevation elements of good-looking terraced apartment houses, he noted the

immediate capital city housing construction plans for this year should be fully implemented to demonstrate the modernity of the capital city as the centre of socialist civilization and the features of developing Juche-oriented architecture and to display once again the tremendous ideological and spiritual strength of the country which can bring about any epoch-making change and the potentiality of its self-supporting economy which is being consolidated.

He specially emphasized the need to continue to adhere to and thoroughly implement the people-first

principle and the policy of applying plastic arts to architecture based on correct combination of national identity and modernity set forth by the Party in the construction of the capital city and local areas in the future, set a new standard in city administration and environmental management, in particular, and pay close attention to cultured environmental management such as landscaping.

The WPK will provide the people with satisfactory material and cultural well-being by making

greater progress in housing, urban management and ecological environment sectors in the period of the new five-year plan, he added.

He expressed the expectation and belief that the competent core construction units engaged in the building of the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District for 800 flats would build as soon as possible the homes of happiness the people are waiting for so eagerly, true to the Party's great policy on capital city construction.

KCNA



LEAD

Ushering in a new era of advance for socialist cause

Since the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was elected to the top post of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state in April nine years ago, the Korean people have dynamically advanced the revolutionary cause of Juche, the cause of building a powerful socialist country, which was pioneered and led by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Over the years, he has displayed his outstanding leadership ability while leading the socialist cause to victory.

He clarified the guidelines for the victorious advance of socialism by dint of his extraordinary ideological and theoretical intelligence.

He formulated the revolutionary idea of the Workers' Party of Korea as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and proclaimed the modelling of the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the top programme of the Party.

He also gave perfect answers to all theoretical and practical

issues arising in the revolution and construction, including the idea of our state-first principle, the theory about the criterion and aspect of a powerful socialist country and the Party's new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction.

He energetically led the struggle for increasing the country's scientific and technological force and the might of the self-supporting socialist economy under the self-development first banner.

The Juche-oriented production systems relying on its own efforts, technology and resource were established, and modern light-industry bases conducive to the improvement of the people's livelihood, bases for cultural and leisure activities and modern streets and dwelling houses sprang up one after another. These are the fruition brought about by his leadership and intense devotion.

Kim Jong Un added lustre to the independent dignity and might of the DPRK at the

highest level.

He put forward the completion of building the strongest national defence capabilities as the essential demand in administering independent politics and accomplishing the great cause of building a wealthy country with a powerful army, developed the Korean People's Army into elite revolutionary armed forces and further consolidated the foundation of the independent national defence industry to produce any sophisticated military equipment.

He brought about unprecedented events with his distinguished diplomatic wisdom and strategic decision. In recent years, he remarkably raised the international position and influence of the DPRK with proactive external activities.

The Korean people will advance the building of a powerful socialist country more vigorously under the leadership of Kim Jong Un who is leading the socialist cause to victory.

Jong Yong Sop

Nationwide

Over 6 200 exhibits added to museum

More than 6 200 pieces of relics and materials have newly been put on display at the Korean Revolution Museum over the past four years since it was wonderfully rebuilt and inaugurated on March 30 2017.

Among the new exhibits are photos showing the inn and street President Kim Il Sung used when he stayed in Harbin of China in the early days of his revolutionary activities and a silver ring he presented to the bereaved family of his revolutionary comrade who had waged a long bloody anti-Japanese war with him.

There are also a tape recorder, pocket watch and wristwatch Chairman Kim Jong Il presented to anti-Japanese war veterans.

Other exhibits include the photo albums, gold watches and autographic writing the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent to anti-Japanese war veterans Ri Ul Sol and Hwang Sun Hui, photos showing his historic march on steed in Mt Paektu, the works he wrote to indicate tasks and ways to dynamically step up socialist construction, the certificate of delegate to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the list of gifts for the delegates, a Paektusan pistol, automatic

rifle and binoculars.

Motivational activities gather momentum at production sites

Artistes from central artistic motivational teams are conducting intense activities at major industrial establishments and cooperative farms in different parts of the DPRK.

Members of the workers' artistic motivational team of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea gave performances at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

The central artistic motivational team for increased production toured the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory.

The artistes proceeded to tour the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine, Sunchon Thermal Power Station and Sunchon Cement Complex to fire the workers who are out in an increased production drive with revolutionary enthusiasm and optimism.

10 000 hectares of forest planted in Huichon

Huichon City of Jagang Province has planted over 10 000 hectares of forests over the past five years.

After setting the long-term goals and phased plans for forest restoration, it is effectively pushing ahead with the mass movement for winning the title of "forest of

socialist patriotism".

Blasting conducted for tideland reclamation project

The North Phyongan Provincial General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise on Wednesdays successfully carried out a 250 000-cubic-metre blasting to buckle down to the building of tide embankment No. 3 in the second section of Woldo tideland.

In the wake of securing earth and rubble stones through the blasting, the enterprise is stepping up the project as it increases the operating rate of vehicles.

Irrigation system rebuilt in South Hwanghae

South Hwanghae Province is channelling big efforts into readjusting and reinforcing the irrigation system and relevant structures.

It has already secured the amount of water 1.2 times greater than the previous year, expanded hundreds of kilometres of waterways and repaired or readjusted pumping equipment.

Pacchon, Yonan and Chongdan counties pushed ahead with the securing of water for this year's farming. They concentrated labour force on repairing such water intake facilities as reservoirs and defective irrigation structures and clearing waterways so as to secure a large quantity of water.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Sixth Conference of Cell Secretaries of WPK to be convened

The Sixth Conference of Cell Secretaries of the Workers' Party of Korea is to be held in the capital city of Pyongyang early in April.

The Secretariat of the WPK Central Committee decided to convene the conference to discuss and guide the issues arising in prioritizing the position and role of Party cells in thoroughly ensuring the General Secretary's unified leadership over the Party, consolidating the WPK organizationally and ideologically as required by the new high stage of the developing revolution and bringing about a radical improvement in the

current work of Party cells.

The conference will analyse and review the successes and experience Party cells have so far gained in their work since the end of the Fifth Conference of Chairpersons of Cells of the WPK, true to the policy of strengthening the cells set forth in the fifth conference. It will also discuss the detailed tasks and ways to improve the work of Party cells so that they could successfully fulfil their mission and duty in the struggle for implementing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress.

KCNA

ECONOMY

First quarterly plans fulfilled



Employees operate machines at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

Workers in different economic sectors, who have turned out in an advance for the first year to implement the new five-year plan, have completed their economic plans for the first quarter by launching a campaign to boost production.

Major iron and steel works in the metallurgical sector worked hard to increase the production of iron and steel.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex pushed ahead with the production of pig iron, steel and rolled steel according to daily schedules by ensuring the normal operation of oxygen plant and other equipment. The chemical industry sector has fulfilled nitrogen fertilizer, vinalon, vinyl chloride, caustic soda and salt production plans.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex completed the production plan of nitrogen fertilizer while pressing on with the work of reconstructing and completing the carbonate of soda production process. The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex boosted fertilizer production as it strengthened cooperation between workshops and between processes. Other salt production units across the country hit their salt production targets as they carried out the repair of salt fields and increased the operational rate of pumping machine power equipment and

salt collectors.

The power industry sector completed the electricity production plan.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex registered high records by maximizing the output per generator, while the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station wound up the immediate repair of generating facilities in the shortest possible time as it ensured the normal operation of generating facilities. The Suphung, Jangjingang, Hochongang and other hydropower stations ensured the operation of high efficiency and high-water level while carrying on the timely repair of equipment and structures.

Coal production plan was also fulfilled by the coal industry sector.

The Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex applied a horizontal cutting method and other advanced methods to increase the lifespan of coal pits and raised the coal extraction rate, and the Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex secured enough reserve coal pits as they gave priority to tunnelling and prospecting. The Anju, Hamnam, Kujang and Chonnae area coal-mining complexes produced much more coal every day.

By Jong Chol PT

METAL INDUSTRY

Steel giant focuses on modernization while pushing production

The Chollima Steel Complex is widely known as the place where the flames of collective innovation movement flared up in the DPRK.

Its employees initiated the collective innovation movement by turning out 120 000 tons of rolled steel at the blooming mill with a rated capacity of 60 000 tons after the war and roused the whole country to a new revolutionary upsurge in the 2000s.

To readjust production foundation

The complex intends to remarkably boost steel production as compared to before during the period of a new five-year plan for national economic development.

"The complex set a goal of putting production on a normal footing by technically perfecting the steel production system of our own style and readjusting and reinforcing production processes this year, and is directing primary attention to them," said chief engineer Song Myong Ho.

According to him, they are now engaged in shortening the melting time and lowering norms for power consumption per unit by furthering the oxygen-pulverized coal injection technical process.

The complex is pushing the modernization project of the process after completing the construction of a refractory production base with an annual capacity of 5 000 tons last year.

It is also pressing in a planned way the work of equipping itself with a new type of continuous ingot steel-making machine



A great deal of energies are directed to increasing production at the Chollima Steel Complex.



PAK KWANG HUN
Song Myong Ho, chief engineer at the Chollima Steel Complex.

and up-to-date ladle refining furnace in order to produce different kinds of alloy steel qualitatively, while lowering the production costs of steel.

Performance of arc furnace improved

"It is no exaggeration to say that the steel output of the complex depends on the UHP electric arc furnace," said Pak Il Sin, manager of the steel

workshop.

It has recently introduced different technical innovation plans to increase steel output.

First, it applied an oxygen-pulverized coal injection technology to shorten the melting time from 30 minutes to one hour and save scores of kWh per ton.

It introduced a continuous charge method into the steel-making process based on reduced pellets.

It also introduced other technical innovation plans including those of improving melting technical indices by dint of foaming powder injection and of raising the quality of molten iron by introducing a continuous casting injection method to prevent secondary oxidation.

The workshop has overfulfilled its monthly production quotas this year.

Attaching importance to solving technical problems

The industrial technology

research institute plays fundamental role in solving scientific and technological problems arising in steel production and modernization projects of the complex.

"We often hold a technical conference and technical course for their introduction after selecting research tasks for each office badly needed for production site. In this course, we introduced several research findings into practice to ensure the quality and quantity of steel production and save lots of funds," said director Ri Kwang Hwi.

In recent years, the institute developed locally-abundant bearing bushes for the rolling process and 6 000-ton press to replace it with previously imported tin, while bringing out a high-quality coating material of welding rod.

It also established a process of baking different kinds of fire-bricks to make it possible to produce quality fire-bricks with high refractoriness with the help of anthracite gas abundant

in the country.

Following in father's footsteps

The father of Ji Jong Ho, senior engineer of the steel workshop, worked as a smelter for decades at the Chollima Steel Complex.

"My father used to tell me that I should support the country with steel production. So I've become a smelter," said Ji Jong Ho.

After being a smelter as intended by his father, he majored in metallurgy in the study-while-you-work system while working hard to learn skills from experienced smelters.

Starting his career as a smelter, he became a technical instructor of his workteam, chief of electric furnace No. 5 and the first head of UHP electric arc furnace in 2008.

The technical innovation plans he has so far studied and introduced included dozens in kind, such as those of improving the method of laying a bed of UHP electric arc furnace, remodelling the nozzle for a tapping hole of the UHP electric arc furnace, and establishing a ladle refining process based on argon gas injection and a heating process of pouring ladle by oxygen-pulverized coal combustion.

He has spared nothing to improve the performance of UHP electric arc furnace and increase its output since 2012 when he was appointed to be the senior engineer in charge of production and technical affairs of the steel workshop.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

REMODELLING

Electronic medical appliances factory undergoes renovation

"Until some years ago, our factory produced roentgen equipment and a few other medical apparatuses. But now it has been able to turn out electronic medical appliances in which the magnetic resonance image diagnosing device was introduced," said Thak Pyong Chol, manager of the Pyongyang Electronic Medical Appliances Factory.

The factory has recently been upgraded to ensure specialization in each process in keeping with the trend of the advanced medical appliances industry.

The factory is equipped with hydraulic tester, outflow tester of distilled water and other testing facilities and its painting and welding processes are controlled by robots.

It introduced an air-

conditioning system into production and other buildings and installed solar panels and

solar water heaters.

By Kim Il Jin PT



An employee operates a precision machine at the Pyongyang Electronic Medical Appliances Factory.

CERAMIC

Factory introduces economy-oriented technologies

The Songyo Ceramic Factory turns out sanitary ware that is highly productive and convenient to use.

Its current products are more advantageous than its previous ones. It has increased productivity 1.5 times higher than previously while remarkably boosting the yield of semi-finished goods and calcination rate and reducing the norm of raw materials consumption.

It also contrived a bowl-type washbasin. It can contain more water than the previous one and is more convenient to use and unique in shape, thereby winning growing popularity among users.

In addition, it developed functional porcelain with great antibiosis and iconicity.

As part of its efforts to

upgrade production processes, the factory remodelled the previous electric kiln into gas kiln.

As the new kiln incorporates the high-temperature air combustion technology, it shows higher heat efficiency than the electric one and its production cost is markedly lower. In particular, it can raise the degrees of whiteness and gloss as it can do both oxidation and reduction baking.

It also automated the down-draft kiln for manufacturing bulky products. This has made it possible to operate baking work to suit the characteristics of items and in a more scientific way, save much labour and minimize energy consumption in production.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

TECHNOLOGY

Induction heating-based control system developed

The power electronic technology institute of the State Academy of Sciences developed an induction heating-based automatic temperature control system which is designed to modernize the heat treatment process using medium frequency induction heater.

"The function of this system is to improve the response characteristics of temperature control in heat treatment processes for all kinds of products and ensure the accuracy of the control," said section chief Ri Hyon Bok.

The research group set all

operations and heat treatment parameters (heating temperature and time) of the medium frequency induction heating power supply unit with HMI and increased the accuracy of temperature control using smart PID regulator.

As compared to the previous technology which used contact sensors, Ri said, the new control system has remarkably improved temperature control characteristics and made it possible to heat-treat metal products in different sizes and shapes.

The system has developed

the heating method based on thermal conduction, convection and radiation in batch and other previous furnaces into a products internal heat generation method based on conduction heating. And it ensures the continuous control of heating and cooling at a certain rate to increase the heating speed remarkably, whereas the heating and cooling control was previously made discontinuously in a limited range.

The introduction of the heat treatment process based on this system has shortened the production time from previous 70-odd hours to about two hours and saved 58 percent of electrical energy.

It has also made it possible to reduce the number of heating facilities and manpower and prevent ecological environment pollution, while using no such supplementary materials as sodium nitrate, barium chloride and sodium carbonate.

This heat treatment process has been introduced into many units.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



Induction heat treatment process control system developed by the power electronic technology institute under the State Academy of Sciences.

SAPLING

Cost-effective production methods applied

"Mountains make up 70 percent of our county. Our station takes the lion's share of turning all the mountains in the county into 'gold and treasure mountains'," said Kim Jong Nam, manager of the Thaecheon County Forestry Management Station in North Phyongan Province.

What is distinctive in its sapling cultivation is that it turns out Changsong larch saplings without using agrochemicals and sun screens.

In general, the production of the saplings requires much labour as they should be kept in the shade and for other reasons. In particular, they are easily susceptible to grubs and other harmful insects.

To reduce such damage, the station took a variety of measures in the past, including the making and using of biological pesticide, but to no avail. In the course of seeking an efficient method, it found out a mixed cultivation method which is to plant rows of Changsong larch and black walnut or chestnut saplings alternately.

According to chief engineer Sonu Yong Sam, proper selection of tree species in creating mixed forests could

diminish blight damage owing to antagonism. Secretions from some species restrain or irritate harmful insects to prevent blight.

As black walnut and chestnut saplings are insusceptible to harmful insects, so are those of Changsong larch without the use of agrochemicals.

The station produces Changsong larch saplings 1.2 times more than previously by applying the labour- and cost-saving mixed cultivation method.

It also conducts research into



Saplings of good species of trees are grown at the Thaecheon County Forestry Management Station in North Phyongan Province.

the production of big fruit tree saplings through direct sowing in order to increase the output of wild fruit tree saplings. This method is to sow the seeds of trees directly on mountains, not at tree nursery, thus saving large areas of land and much labour.

Based on a successful trial test last year, the station intends to apply the method to a wide area this year.

Meanwhile, it properly selects the mixing ratio of substrates in accordance with the peculiarities of saplings to raise them in greenhouses in the current year.

It produces the saplings of dozens of kinds of wild fruit trees and other good tree species annually to make greener the mountains in the county.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

FERTILIZER

Priority given to producing phosphate fertilizer



The development of science and technology is now brisk in our North Hwanghae Province.

A typical example is the establishment of the process of producing phosphate concentrate with high content of phosphorus from low-grade phosphorite.

Our province has a rich deposit of low-grade phosphorite.

In order to produce phosphate fertilizer badly needed for the growth of agriculture, it is definitely needed to establish the production process of phosphate concentrate with high content of phosphorus from low-grade phosphorite.

To this end, our high-tech product company of the provincial commission of science and technology organized a research team and buckled down to the development of the technology to concentrate low-grade phosphorite.

We set up the ore-dressing process through repeated experiments and pilot production test, thus succeeding in the production of apatite concentrate whose metal content

rate is 38 to 40 percent.

We got on with research to turn out phosphoric acid and superphosphate of lime from apatite concentrate.

A knotty problem here was to dispose of waste gas.

Though we suffered failures in making a new absorption tower needed for the disposal process of waste gas, we finally succeeded in removing the waste gas and produced wet phosphoric acid with a wide range of application and superphosphate of lime from high-grade apatite concentrate.

This technology came first in the 33rd National Festival of Science and Technology.

We proceeded to set up the first phosphate refining process and turned out compound nutritive solution based on phosphoric acid to introduce it into large areas of paddy fields in a county so as to contribute to producing a good crop.

The demand for phosphoric acid and superphosphate of lime made in our province is on the increase as the days go by.

However, it is merely an initial step.

We will set to work with firm resolution and work hard until the high-concentration phosphate fertilizer is sufficiently spread to all rice paddies and dry fields in our province.

Ham Ik Song, researcher of the high-tech product company of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of Science and Technology

PHARMACY

Factory turns out traditional medicines in high demand

The medicines produced by the Sariwon Disabled Soldiers' Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory in North Hwanghae Province are in great demand.

The factory remodelled different production processes in a rational way to boost production with less costs.

Typical of them is the process for producing refined silymarin.

"We conducted hundreds of experiments to determine the optimum condition for the process of removing oil by means of a surface active agent and established a removing method," said Kwak Yong Guk, chief of the technical preparation section.

Unlike the previous organic solvent-based removing method, the new method does not require such facilities as organic solvent and solvent recovery device.

According to the factory's technicians, the production cost of refined silymarin has been reduced to a fortieth and manpower by half.

The oil-removing method for the silymarin production process based on natural surface active agent was highly appreciated at the 31st National Festival of Science and Technology.

The factory also remodelled the production process of santonica granules.

The factory introduced a method of obtaining necessary medicinal substances in the form of precipitate by treating the santonica extract with an acid.

The introduction has reduced the extraction time to one fourth, saved much labour and lowered fuel consumption.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

EDUCATION

University trains agricultural personnel

Kim Po Hyon University in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, is devoted to training agricultural management officials and offering refresher courses in the DPRK.

The university was founded on March 11 1947 in order to systematically train leading agricultural officials after national liberation.

Established as an agricultural cadre-training school of north Korea, it was developed into the central cadre training school of the Agricultural Commission and agricultural cadre in-service training university and then it was named after Kim Po Hyon in August 1994.

Kim Po Hyon was the grandfather of President Kim Il Sung.

He had been engaged in farming at the straw-thatched house in Mangyongdae until the last days of his life, saying that he was a farmer until the last

moment of his life even though his grandson was a general.

It has played an important role in training agricultural officials since its establishment.

The university with a two-year course has nine departments including agricultural management, agricultural technology and agricultural financial and accounting, and three laboratories.

According to Jang Chol Su, section chief of the university, college graduates who worked in active service enrol in the university and they are qualified to become agricultural management officials after graduation.

Importance is being attached to the in-service training for incumbent chairpersons of the management boards of cooperative farms.

The university gives in-service training to hundreds of persons biannually and, in

the course of this, students including chairpersons of farm management boards acquire a scientific understanding of the matters arising in agricultural management and business activities.

Most of its lecturers and researchers are academic degree and title holders who have worked long in the agricultural education sector.

In order to implement the tasks the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea set forth for the agricultural sector, the university concentrates all energies on research into developing new teaching methods to meet the developing reality, said O Hye Gyong, lecturer of the university.

Among the graduates, there are the management board chairpersons who won the title of twice labour hero.

By Sin Pyol PT

CARTOON-MAKING

Behind the screen



RYANG KUM CHOL

Actors and an actress at the Korea April 26 Animation Studio speak for cartoon characters.

Cartoon films are enjoyed by everybody—men and women, young and old—and they are on everyone's lips whenever new ones are produced. The success is much attributable to the efforts of actors and actresses behind the scenes.

Those who take the speaking parts of lead characters in the currently popular historical animation *Ko Jumong* said they initially found it difficult to portray the characters to meet the corresponding era with their voices.

But they made painstaking efforts to finely characterize righteous and upright Ko Jumong, double-faced Puyo King Kumwa and other figures, thus contributing greatly to the hit.

The viewers who read their names at the end of each cartoon part call them "unseen actors and actresses" and "actors and actresses behind the screens".

They made their first public appearance at the comedy show given in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October last year.

The audience burst into laughter and applause as they saw a beautiful young actress say some lines of aggressive yet charming Somi, wife of lead negative character Hobi, and their greedy and perverse little twin sons from animation *The Boy General*.

"During my acting career, I won such warm applause from the audience for the first time. Frankly speaking, I felt ashamed of my speaking parts of Hobi's little sons who are so greedy and grumble all the time and so I did not tell anybody about it. But as I received the enthusiastic applause from the audience, I felt pride in my job and resolved to work harder," said Tong Yun Mi, actress of the Korea April

26 Animation Studio.

"As I saw Soeme practising martial arts, I studied hard at school. And as I saw him growing up to be a veteran general, I reached middle age unawares," U Sung Hyok, a worker of the Chollima Tile Factory, said smilingly.

According to Song Hyon II, actor of the National Theatrical Troupe who spoke the part of crafty, vicious and ugly Hobi, actors in charge of the speaking role of Hobi were replaced several times as the cartoon was produced over a long period of time and so he had to rack his brains to preserve the tones and features of representation of his predecessors.

He visited many experts to complete different kinds of laughs to suit the dramatic situations.

Among the characters of the animation there are the kind-hearted and generous mother of Soeme, the lead positive character, and the mean and avaricious mother of Hobi.

What is surprising is that an actress had the speaking parts of the two characters who are worlds apart in nature.

After graduating from Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts, Rim Pok Hui, actress of the Korea April 26 Animation Studio, was involved in the production of *The Boy General* for over 20 years and showed off her remarkable speaking skill as she represented them.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

PROFILE

Writer of collection of folk tales



Among the satirical tales the Koreans have passed on from old days there are anecdotes about Sondal Kim, nicknamed Phoenix.

Sondal means a person who passed government examination but did not hold any official post in Korean feudal society. He was an actual person in the 19th century during the feudal Joseon dynasty. He used to ridicule the hypocrisy, avarice and haughtiness of the wealthy like landowners and noble ruling circles and the anecdotes about him spread widely centring on the Pyongyang area to form a type of story.

It is Yun Song Bae (pictured) who collected and edited lots of stories about him.

"*The Story of Sondal Kim, alias Phoenix* is rich in local flavour and characterized by free use of humour and witticism and broke original ground in satire," said Ri Won Hui, director of the classical literature editing department of the Art and Literature Publishing House.

The six-volume book consists of a series of 75 stories in over 1 000 pages.

Yun was neither a writer nor a university graduate. Born into a poor peasant's family in Sunchon, South Phyongan Province, in September 1933,



The Story of Sondal Kim, alias Phoenix is rich in local flavour and characterized by free use of humour and witticism and broke original ground in satire."

Ri Won Hui, director of the classical literature editing department of the Art and Literature Publishing House

he was fond of books in his childhood and had attachment to history and literature after Korea's liberation. During the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953) he served as a scout of the Korean People's Army and spent his leisure time collecting local folk tales and telling soldiers amusing stories. Yun pursued his hobby of collecting folk stories even after the war.

"Our father told us children many folk tales including the stories about Sondal Kim. They were so amusing and edifying we anxiously waited for him to return home from work every day," recalled his son Yun Kil Nam.

When he reached retirement age, Yun already collected lots of folk tales. Therefore, after retirement, he came to write the book about Sondal Kim as serials.

After over ten years he completed the six volumes of *The Story of Sondal Kim, alias Phoenix*.

Although Yun produced only one book, he is still remembered by the Koreans as a "war veteran writer".

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Women's union members join in recycling

Women's union members play their part in recycling waste, while conducting brisk activities to gather idle materials.

They have made positive efforts to procure waste idle materials in sewage and send them to factories so as to recycle them.

Jang Phyong Jong, the chairwoman of the primary women's union committee of Samkkol-dong of Sadong District, Pyongyang, said that at the beginning, people regarded it as a trifle, but now they take it as an important undertaking.

Women's union members there advise others to take an

active part in gathering idle materials, saying that over 10 000 notebooks for our children can be made with one ton of waste paper.

At present, all of them have turned out in the collection of idle materials.

They encourage each household to collect such materials as they install idle material collecting boxes in different places.

In particular, they concentrate efforts on gathering plastic waste to produce pipes necessary for farming.

By Yun Ki Song PT

COMMUNITY

Harmonious neighbourhood



RYU KWANG HYOK

Tending flowerpots is fashionable at neighbourhood unit No. 12, Jungdok-dong in Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province.

Neighbourhood Unit No. 12 of Jungdok-dong in Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province, consists of dozens of families, and is known as a harmonious unit.

“As the saying goes, ‘A good neighbour is better than a brother far off.’ The residents in our neighbourhood unit live like members of one family,” said Kim Chun Won.

They regard it as a matter of course to help and lead one another forward without discrimination between one’s own and others’ work, she added.

Among the stories produced at the unit are those about a daughter-in-law who takes

good care of her parents-in-law, a couple who pays special attention to the education of children and a tender-hearted family that is always willing to help neighbours.

Members of the neighbourhood are so close to each other that they share joy and sorrow, helping each other. Housewives especially promote harmony among neighbours as they share special food with each other.

Once when a resident was laid up with a sudden illness, neighbours went to his hospital to take warm care of him. The doctor in charge who had thought they were his relatives

was deeply impressed after being aware that they were all neighbours.

When a young couple gave birth to a baby, neighbours gave them new clothes for the child, and they also congratulated elderly persons on their birthdays and young people on their marriage.

As everyone cares for others, the neighbours get more united and their harmony is displayed in voluntarily carrying out the work of the neighbourhood unit including the keeping of their village and surroundings clean and tidy and doing of good things for the country. The unit is now known as exemplary in their administrative district of dong.

In the present spring clean-up month, heads of all the households are throwing themselves to completely removing the traces of winter using morning exercise time.

“When shared, joy is doubled and sorrow halved, as people have said from olden times. Since all members of our neighbourhood unit live harmoniously helping one another, the happy event of each household gets more joyous and worry melts,” said Sin Hwa Suk, head of the neighbourhood unit.

By Kil Chung II PT

ART

Sand pictures come alive beneath nimble dance of fingers



Artists present a series of sand pictures “Merry Sunday” at the comedy show in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers’ Party of Korea in October 2020.

It has been ten years since artists of the Mansudae Art Studio staged music and sand picture.

The music and sand picture, which has won popularity in art performances and celebration events, still evokes curious feelings and fascination as at the time when it made its debut. This is never undeserved praise.

The audience say, “At first, I could not understand what he

was drawing, but the artist’s one touch of hand completed an excellent picture. It was really a smart skill of drawing”, “The picture which filled a large board suddenly turned into a different one, as if by magic” and “Figures and objects are so lifelike that I want to keep it and see it later. Its lingering effect is so strong as I enjoyed it along with music”.

However, the artists attribute their success to the reflection of

people’s thoughts and feelings and their life, rather than to their skills.

Kang Un Ju, head of the sand picture production office, said that they found the seed of work in the subject matter containing the people’s true life which is rich in national sentiment.

Each work, which was composed of pictures showing the people’s happy life to the tune of songs favoured by them, has developed into famous work after its production.

People still talk about the music and sand pictures, ranging from their first creation “The yearning for the great General”, “My wife” and “They’ll tell about the soldier’s love” to “The tale of Chun Hyang” and to “Merry Sunday” which won widespread popularity in October last year.

The artists make painstaking efforts to improve the representation of sand picture.

They sketch hundreds of times to draw out the character of one object and pursue new elements of artistic depiction to improve the quality and speed

SAMARITAN

Woman eagerly waits for daughter’s letter



“**I thought that the word ‘mum’ is not only for one’s mother by blood.”**

Jong Yon Ok in neighborhood unit No. 11, Ryusa-dong No. 1, Hanggu District, Nampho

many difficulties raising Ji Ye as her own child.

After losing her parents and home all at once, Ji Ye remained reluctant to open her heart to everyone.

Her husband, who had been delighted to have a cute daughter in the family with only sons and deeply cared for her, rebuked Jong when she scolded Ji Ye for the first time, which led to a “marital dispute”.

But in the end, Ji Ye, who would stubbornly say that she had only one mother, not two, finally called Jong Yon Ok “mum”.

“At that time, I thought that the word ‘mum’ is not only for one’s mother by blood,” said Jong.

Today, all those stories are remembered as happy memories.

It has been four years since Ji Ye entered the revolutionary school.

Jong and her family members hold Ji Ye in abiding affections and miss her very much. And the whole family rejoices whenever they receive a letter from her.

The woman in the photograph seems very delighted to read the letter from her daughter.

She is Jong Yon Ok who lives in neighborhood unit No. 11, Ryusa-dong No. 1, Hanggu District, Nampho. Her daughter, Ji Ye, is now studying at Nampho Revolutionary School.

“Mum, I studied and had fun with friends today, too. ... I send you a kiss. ...” her daughter wrote in her first letter.

The letter from Ji Ye who was not yet seven was no more than a half page long but it gave enormous pleasure to Jong.

In 2016, a violent storm and torrential rain hit the northern area of the DPRK causing widespread devastation.

At that time, some school teachers in Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province, died while taking out portraits of the great leaders to a safe place. Among them were the parents of Ji Ye.

Jong, who went to the stricken area to deliver relief supplies, came back with the parentless four-year-old girl in her arms on instinct.

However, she had to overcome

By Ri Sang II PT

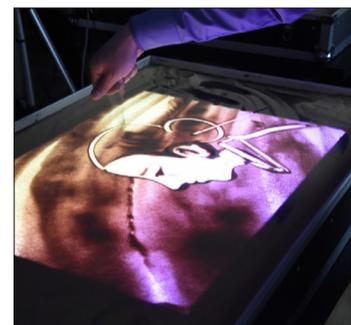
“**The key to success is new work and new depiction.”**

Kang Un Ju, head of the sand picture production office of the Mansudae Art Studio

of representation. Sometimes, they introduce such unique techniques as single stroke technique and one stroke of the brush to perfect sand picture.

In order to improve their practical training skills and the qualification of stage artistes, they make steady efforts to practise vocal music and flexibility.

The production team brings out perfect collective work by combining the unique character of each artist, and sand picture completed by two or four persons makes the audience feel the mystery and fascination of music and sand picture.



Sand pictures are produced.

“The key to success is new work and new depiction,” said Kang Un Ju.

“We are redoubling our efforts to represent works of more significant diverse themes with the help of music and sand picture favoured by people”.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

JAPAN

In a headlong rush to overseas reinvasion

Shortly ago, Japanese Defence Minister Kishi reportedly ordered his subordinates to keep “full preparations”, trumpeting about the “severity and uncertainty of security environment” at a commissioning ceremony of a new Aegis-class warship for the Maritime “Self-Defence Force”.

This is nothing but an extremely risky order to further step up the preparations for launching continental aggression at any time.

Japan’s wild ambition to become a military power by all means has been further accelerated since the Suga regime appeared.

Openly calling for the continuity of the policies of the Abe regime which ran amuck to make Japan a war-capable country, the current regime of

Japan has poured the largest-ever military expenditure into the development, production and purchase of offensive weaponry.

For about six months, Japan has built and launched various kinds of warships such as a new-type submarine and an escort ship, and is now spurring the development of a next-generation fighter jet with the latest stealth capability and a long-range missile capable of striking the DPRK and China.

In March alone, it built and launched with due ceremony a miniaturized escort ship which can perform different missions with an intensive operational system. Then, it officially put into commission a new sonar ship dubbed as “submarine hunter” capable of tracking and identifying submarines several hundred kilometers

away and the world’s biggest diesel-powered submarine with a longer underwater operation time and improved combat power.

Against this backdrop, Japan is speeding up the organization of new military units including a special education unit for training a cyber defence force and a marine transport unit for defending remote islands. It plans to set up an electronic warfare unit for jamming enemy communications or radar by using electromagnetic waves in contingency and deploy such units in various parts of Japan.

Not content with staging war drills for defending and retaking a remote island more fanatically than ever before, it has frequently dispatched its aggression forces to joint military drills with other

countries in the East and South China seas and the Pacific.

All these facts vividly show what an extreme phase Japan has reached in its wild ambition to realize the “Greater East Asia Co-Prospereity Sphere” at all costs by igniting the fuse of another war of aggression.

Japan’s frantic moves towards military resurgence are a serious act of provocation threatening regional peace and stability.

The international community neverwelcomes Japan as it seeks to disturb regional peace and stability and bring misfortune and pain to humankind again.

The Japanese reactionaries should not act rashly, being well aware of the ever-sharpening vigilance of regional countries against Japan.

KCNA

PALESTINE

Proactive efforts to achieve national unity

Parliamentary election was not held for a long time in Palestine in the past due to the divergence of opinion between political parties and factional forces and internal discord.

Internal split worsened after Hamas won the parliamentary election held in January 2006 and Palestine was divided into the West Bank ruled by Fatah (Palestinian National Liberation Movement) and the Gaza Strip under the control of Hamas (Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement). Israel prevented the residents of East

al-Quds from participating in the election in every way. As a result, parliamentary election could not be held in the past 15 years in Palestine.

The Palestinian President and different political parties and organizations in the country are now aspiring to achieve unity and cohesion.

In this context, the “second Palestinian national dialogue” meeting took place in Cairo in mid-January this year, with all Palestinian political parties and factional forces in attendance.

The participants in the meeting had serious discussions

of national problems and agreed to resolve outstanding issues in order to ensure that transparent and fair election will take place by reflecting the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

They agreed on constantly convening a meeting of general secretaries of all factions to implement the minutes approved at the meeting and reached a consensus of opinion on achieving legal and political unity of the Palestinian territory, conducting an election in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and al-Quds and opposing all measures that may affect the election in al-Quds

with the concerted efforts of all factions and political parties.

The participating members of Fatah, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, the independent alliance and others signed a “charter of honour” to guarantee the successful holding of the election.

The charter aims to bring about unity of the Palestinian people by holding a free and fair election.

According to the statement published by the recent meeting of general secretaries of all factions, a united leadership of the comprehensive popular resistance was established and it would be activated.

Such concerted efforts have brought fresh hope to the future of Palestine.

By Om Ryong PT

AVIAN FLU

Bird flu virus poses menace to Asia and Europe

Bird flu continues to spread in different Asian and European countries and regions, causing serious damage.

The source of the risk of the bird flu is very hard to remove since wild birds fly over different countries and regions to spread virus and this infectious virus mutates into different types to endanger the health and lives of people.

Between 2003 when the disease began to spread rapidly and 2013, hundreds of people contracted the disease and lost their lives in over 10 countries and regions.

In the period from mid-December 2003 to early November 2005, over 140

million birds were killed or slaughtered, causing huge economic losses.

At present, the damage in many Asian countries and regions is very serious.

The virus, which occurred in Kagawa Prefecture, Japan, in early November last year spread to 15 prefectures in two months and a half. And as of late February this year, over 9.78 million domestic fowl were slaughtered throughout the country.

Highly pathogenic bird flu with high fatality has so far been spread in poultry farms of Kyonggi, South Kyongsang and North Chungchong provinces, south Korea, since the outset of this year. Lots of fowls are killed

en masse and the infectious disease hardly diminishes.

Meanwhile, nearly 12 000 ducks died with the spread of H5N8 bird flu in Kerala of India and the virus was detected in 14 provinces and regions across the country.

About 60 000 chickens were infected with H5N8 bird flu virus and slaughtered in poultry farms in a province of Iraq.

The bird flu virus is posing menace to European regions.

It broke out four times in less than a week in Bulgaria to kill 166 000 ducks, while over 1.3 million chickens were slaughtered in Kalmaru, Sweden, with the spread of H5N8 and H5N5 bird flu viruses.

What is more serious is that H5N8 bird flu virus, which was known to have no influence on humans, is being spread among people by variation.

Last February, seven new bird flu patients were found out in a poultry farm in a southern area of Russia. A test result showed that they contracted A(H5N8) bird flu.

The federal consumers’ rights protection and human welfare supervision administration of the country said that the employees of the farm were infected with A(H5N8) bird flu for the first time in the world, adding that the virus was confirmed to spread to people from birds.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Briefly

Namibia

President appeals to concentrate on development

The Namibian President, as he addressed an event commemorating Independence Day on March 21, said the government would help young people to lead a stable life, provide them with conditions for making a contribution to economic development, develop education and public health and promote the social welfare of residents.

Serbia

NATO’s killing under fire

The Serbian President recently said that the brutal air raid committed by NATO in 1999 was a terrible crime and an act of aggression as he addressed a ceremony mourning the persons killed by the air raid by NATO.

Russia

Navy sets off on Arctic expedition

On March 20, the Russian navy embarked on a comprehensive Arctic expedition under the command of its general headquarters.

The expedition involved more than 600 personnel and nearly 200 pieces of weaponry and special technical equipment.

The expedition is unprecedented not only in the period of the former Soviet Union but also in the modern history of the Russian Federation, President Putin said on March 26, adding that the Russian navy demonstrated its action capacity even in the severe environment of the Arctic region through it.

China

Ancient relics discovered

Chinese archaeologists have recently unearthed 500-odd pieces of ancient relics in a site of Sichuan Province.

Ivory and ivory products, silk and other relics dating back about 3 000 years are of important significance in studying ancient culture and history of China.

The excavation is going on at the site.

Germany

Shoddy cosmetics on sale

Faulty cosmetics containing microplastic are now widespread in Germany.

According to the recent report released by Greenpeace, microplastic was detected from cosmetics produced by German companies.

The international environmental protection organization said that microplastic was contained in over 500 of 664 cosmetic products with a dozen famous trademarks.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

BIRD

Comprehensive survey of water birds conducted

Amid the extensive research on the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecological environment in the DPRK, the Biodiversity Institute under the State Academy of Sciences conducted a comprehensive survey of habitats of water birds late in February.

About 160 000 water birds of 60 species were recorded during the survey of more than 60 wetlands in Pyongyang, South Phyongan, South Hwanghae, Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces

and other inland and coastal areas.

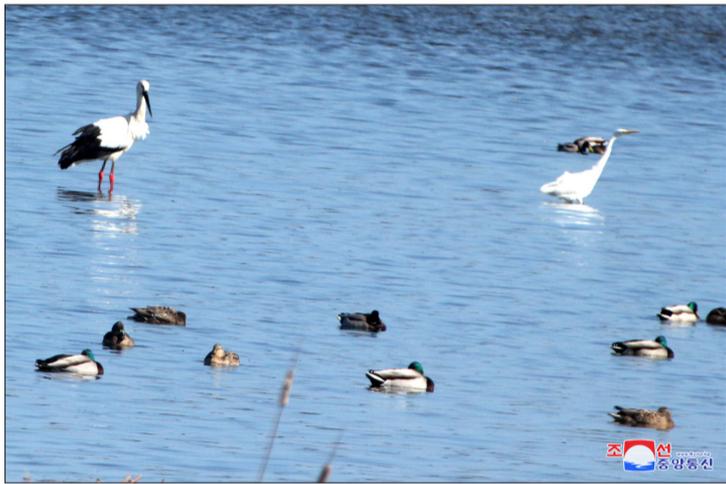
Of them such globally endangered species as red-crowned crane (EN), stork (EN), swan goose (VU), hooded crane (VU), long-tailed duck (VU), pochard (VU) and saunder's gull (VU) were observed in the wetlands of the east and west coasts including the Bay of Yanghwa, Sinpho Port and Soktam and Mansok reservoirs.

In particular, more than 76 000 water birds were witnessed in Lake Sohaegapmun (West

Sea Barrage) and more than 10 000 water birds in the September 18 Reservoir and the area of Kumsong Tideland. And swan goose, mute swan and other water birds, which are endangered and rare species accounting for over one percent of their total numbers in the world or the region, were observed in Ha Lagoon, Lake Tongjong, the estuary of the Rajinpho River and other places. The result proved that the above-said places are up to the standard of the Ramsar Convention.

The survey is believed to be very helpful to the confirmation of water bird habitats in winter, the estimation of conservation value of each wetland and the scientific development of the country's nature conservation.

The institute is now deepening its field survey of main migratory bird reserves and important areas of biodiversity in wetlands in the spring migration period, while planning to survey and study the breeding place reserves.



A flock of water birds swim in a wetland.

KCNA

FOLKLORE

Folding screen long used for interior decoration

Many young men and women are tying the knot this balmy spring.

Folding screens make wedding ceremonies more conspicuous as they add beauty to the venue.

They are widely used for such family events as wedding ceremony, and they have long served as a tool of family life of the Koreans.

Originally, a screen was put to keep wind away from any place or cover up things, and it later became a folding screen bearing beautiful pictures or embroidery as a decoration.

Rectangular wood frame was made and cloth or paper was pasted on it to make several panels

(two to twelve) that are decorated with embroidery, picture or letters and can be folded and unfolded.

Pak Sung Gil, researcher of the Folklore Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, said that Koreans had widely used a variety of folding screens since the period of the Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla which existed between the mid-3rd century BC and AD mid-7th century. They were called cover, sleeping and head screens since they were used as a means of keeping wind away from their heads, he added.

With wide-ranging use of a folding screen, it was divided into that for daily use and marriage

ceremony and it was subdivided into that for decorating a drawing room and main living room. And subjects and contents of pictures on the screens included flowers and birds, longevity, child, way of life and calligraphy.

The folding screen depicting flowers and birds was widely used for decorating room, and in particular it was placed near the wall in a large room with high utility, room for newly-married couple and women's quarters.

The screens representing longevity were mainly used in the room for the aged.

It was used as the background of a large table at the time when there was a great ceremony in a house. When young men and women tied the knot, they were presented with a wedding table in front of the folding screen depicting peony and mandarin ducks, old people had their birthday spreads in front of the screen on the theme of longevity and children celebrated their first anniversary in front of screens portraying children.

A white folding screen with no picture was used at memorial service.

Such a custom is still carried on today.



Eight-fold screen with Korean paintings.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

LIVING MONUMENT

Pine forest in Ryongsan-ri

There is a pine forest among the living monuments of Korea.

It stretches over the area surrounding the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong, founder king of Koguryo which existed between 277 BC and AD 668.

Pine, the national tree of the DPRK, has closely been associated with the life of the Korean people since ancient times.

When a baby was born in a family, the Koreans hung a pine branch in the house in the hope that it would grow as strong as a pine tree and drew pine trees with the desire for its longevity.

And they planted lots of pines in various places

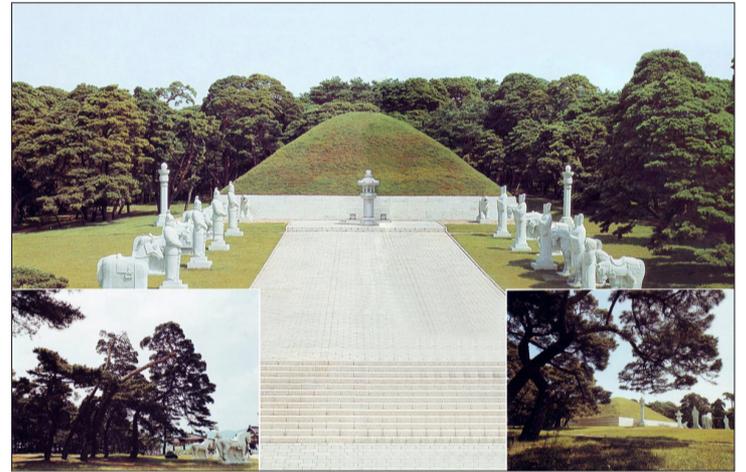
including mountains, seashores or environs of their houses.

The dense pine forest in Ryongsan-ri is situated around the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong, a relic of national treasure value showing the wisdom and talents of the Korean people.

In the forest there is a hundreds-of-year-old pine. The girth of the tallest tree is 3.1 metres at the root neck and 2.9 metres at the height of 1-1.5 metres.

The pine forest adds more beauty to the surroundings of the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong and is of great significance in the ecological study of pine forests.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



The Ryongsan-ri pine forest surrounding the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong.

MARTIAL ART

Taekwon-Do committee offers online solution

“The Taekwon-Do distance education and training guidance system helps technical guidance officials understand and guide the training process of players in real time and correct shortcomings properly,” said Hwang Chol Hun, senior staffer at the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee.

The system can not only represent the data about the past training according to demand but also estimate the content, order and quality of training and the situation of players.

“For example, when a player practises Taekwon-Do patterns, it is able to distinguish the precision of movements performed by the player. In other words, the system can judge whether the execution of action is correct or not including the placing of the feet, bending posture, the height of both hands and

the like during defence, and observe his physical and mental states and training attitude as well,” said Hwang.

It helps field coaches discuss training and take instant measures to solve the problem in hand.

By dint of it, it is possible to inform players and coaches of the data about the world trend of technical development of Taekwon-Do and different international competitions, while actively conducting the information work related to sports science and technology.

“We are going to introduce the system into all units under the committee. Our goal is to connect the Taekwon-Do clubs in each province so that we can understand the process of daily training and organize such pattern, self-defence and power breaking events,” said Hwang.

By Pak Song Min PT

