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Kim Jong Un congratulates creators and artistes of major art troupes



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, on July 11 met and congratulated the creators and artistes of the major art troupes on receiving state decorations.

The creators and artistes were overwhelmed by the feelings of profound reverence and gratitude to the great mentor and kind-hearted father who met them following the conferment of great honour and state decorations on them though they just did their part as persons of art and literature of the Party on the road of advance for implementing the decisions made at the historic Party Congress.

The General Secretary gave a pep-talk to them, warmly shaking their

hands one by one, in recognition of the distinguished services they have offered for the development of Juche-oriented music by displaying the revolutionary spirit of creation, keeping in mind the trust of the Party Central Committee and the expectations of the people.

He spoke highly of them for having created and interpreted the masterpieces of the times loved by the people including song *Our National Flag* true to the WPK's revolutionary line and idea and thus glorified the our state-first era and instilled confidence in sure victory and optimism about the future into the people.

He repeatedly expressed satisfaction with the artistic creation and performing activities of the Band of the State Affairs Commission which has evoked

positive response and interest from the people with masterpieces and excellent performances embodying the intention of the Party Central Committee at the time when the field of art and literature is still in dormancy and the doldrums, saying that it is something that has been craved for much more and which gives greater pleasure than any other achievements.

The new era of advance and dynamism demands many more influential and appealing masterpieces pulsating with the spirit of the times are created than ever before in the field of art and literature which performs an important mission and innovative role in the revolution and construction, he noted.

Our art and literature should sensitively accept the requirements of the Party policies and the spirit of the times to make the whole process of the creation and performing activities conform to the people's mentality and pulsate with the Party's idea and will, he said, calling on the major art troupes to keep their honour and consolidate the achievements in creation, and heighten creative enthusiasm in the overall art and literature field with it as a momentum.

He expressed the belief and expectation that they would continue to glorify their honour as the mouthpiece of the revolution on the sacred road of singing of the great era, the great Party, the great state and the great social system, before posing for photographs with all the artistes of the band as well as the decorated creators and artistes.

All the creators and artistes were filled with a firm resolve to always share the intention and breathe the same breath with the Party Central Committee, cherishing their honour and happiness they felt that day all their lives, and to take the lead in opening a new era of efflorescence of socialist art and literature by waging more dynamic creation activities to imbue the whole society with the our state-first spirit.

CHILDCARE

Measures taken to carry out Party's childcare policy

True to the decision of the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on improving and bolstering the Party's childcare policy, the nutrition administration of children has become an issue of top priority and practical measures are being taken to this end.

North Phyongan Province grasped the details about the number of children at nurseries and kindergartens and milk production capacity of the province and ensures a proper supply of goat milk to children.

South Hwanghae Province has revitalized several farms including the Kyenam livestock farm in order to supply dairy produce to the Haeju baby home and orphanage and nurseries and kindergartens in the city.

Jagang Province made detailed arrangements for immediate production of utensils which would be comfortable to use and suit children's taste, and provided vehicles, plastic containers and cold storage facilities needed for the transportation of dairy products.

Technicians and skilled workers at the Samhun livestock farm in Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, newly established sterilization, inoculation and purification processes and, on that basis, introduced a highly active lactobacillus in collaboration with a relevant institute.

Senior officials of Orang County, North Hamgyong Province, conducted intensive political activities at a goat farm in the county to encourage the farmers to fulfil their duty.

Many farms in South Hwanghae and South Hamgyong provinces, including the Chonghae Farm in Pukchong County, are turning out large amounts of cow and goat milk and goat milk powder by relying on their livestock farming bases which they built up as they held fast to the four main links for the development of stockbreeding industry, and supplying delicious and nutritive dairy products to local children.



HONOUR

Artistes of major troupes honoured with state decorations

An honorary title and orders of the DPRK were conferred on creative and performing artists of major art troupes, including the Band of the State Affairs Commission, who distinguished themselves in creative activities for ushering in a new period of efflorescence of socialist art and literature, true to the important tasks set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

An awarding ceremony took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on July 11.

It was attended by Ri Il Hwan,

member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Ko Kil Son, secretary general of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Sung Jong Gyu, minister of Culture, and creative and performing artists of major art troupes.

Ri Il Hwan read out a decree of the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK.

The title of People's Artist went to Kim Ok Ju, Order of National Flag 1st Class to Ri Myong Il and Pang Chol Jin,

Order of National Flag 2nd Class to Pak Myong Song, Kang Chol Bong, Pak Song Nam, Kim Un Il, Kim Kang Nam, Kim Ju Il, Pak Yong Il, Jo So Rim, Sin Ju Gyong and Pac Song Guk and Order of National Flag 3rd Class to An Ryong Gwon, Kim Hyon Il and Kim Ye Song.

Speeches were made by Ri Myong Il, head and conductor of the Band of the State Affairs Commission, Kim Ok Ju, vocalist of the same band, and Pak Song Nam, composer of the State Merited Chorus.

The speakers said that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un credited them with all successes though he led them step by step as their benevolent teacher, instilled into them the spirit of devotedly serving the Party, revolution, country and people and helped them give full play to their abilities in the creation of new civilization in the era of the Workers' Party.

They vowed to devote all their wisdom and passion to developing the musical art of the country into the one based on Party policies and the popular and militant one that pulsates with the spirit of the times.

KCNA



Creative and performing artists of major art troupes receive state commendations at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

INSPECTION

Premier makes survey trips to farms



Premier Kim Tok Hun (centre) acquaints himself with farming in Pongchon County, South Hwanghae Province.

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, inspected different farms.

As he visited several units including farms in Pongchon, Paechon, Yonan and Chongdan counties of South Hwanghae Province, he gave pep talks to the agricultural workers.

He urged agricultural officials to take scientific and realistic measures on the basis of last year's experience and lessons, bearing in mind the intention of the Party which regards it as a

key issue in attaining this year's grain production goal.

At several farms in Suncheon City and Mundok County of South Phyongan Province, he stressed once again that to thoroughly implement the Party's policy of scientific farming is the best way to ensure the high, stable yield.

He called on all officials to carry out their work in a more responsible manner true to the noble view on the people and younger generations of the Party Central Committee.

KCNA

Nationwide

Early peaches provided to citizens in Pyongyang

Trucks carrying early peaches gathered in Kwail County arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday.

They were warmly welcomed by citizens.

The Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee and commercial service units in the city made scrupulous arrangements to transport and supply the fruit without delay.

Production picks up at mining complex

Having overfulfilled its first half-yearly economic plan by more than 4 percent, the Musan Mining Complex works harder to increase production.

It has solved by itself technical problems for reenergizing the production. It also introduced a metal modifying agent so that the lifespan of parts of large excavating machines can be more than doubled.

Plasterers' contest starts at 10 000-flat construction site in Pyongyang

A plasterers' competition began as part of the contest of skilled workers according to national economy sectors and type of occupations-2021 at the construction site of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang on Monday.

Standings will be set

by marks by judging the acquirement of knowledge in the field of specialization and the preparation of tools and also assessing the quality and speed of plastering and the use of materials in the work.

Fish farms stock rivers with tens of millions of fries

Fish farms across the DPRK have stocked rivers and lakes with tens of millions of fries of such fishes as carp, gold fish and Ryongjong fish this year.

South Phyongan Province overfulfilled its fish stocking plan for the first half of the year by 15 percent.

Rural community guards against extreme weather

According to statistics, hundreds of reservoirs, over 1 000 kilometres of embankments, more than 300 kilometres of waterways and other irrigation facilities and structures were repaired or improved and dozens of kilometres of sea dykes were reinforced across the country as of July 10.

Footwear factory boosts production

The Haeju Leather Shoes Factory has increased its productivity 1.3 times as compared to the same period of last year by consolidating its material and technical foundations.

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LEAD

Boosting national strength in every way

On July 17 2012, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was awarded the title of Marshal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a token of absolute trust in and loyalty to him of all the service personnel and people in the country.

The personal qualities of a great man are tested in the trials of the revolution.

At the time of national mourning over the unexpected loss of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the Korean people fully realized the personality traits of Kim Jong Un as a peerlessly great man who successfully promoted the cause of immortalizing the great leaders and was leading the revolution and construction to a fresh upsurge.

He demonstrated the national dignity and might to the whole world with far-sighted wisdom, outstanding political acumen and matchless courage.

After defining the modelling of the entire army on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the general task in army building, he comprehensively developed the army-building ideas and exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and built up the Korean People's Army as the

invincible revolutionary armed forces that win one victory after another by dint of ideas and spirit.

He saw that the unified command system of the Workers' Party of Korea was strictly established over the army and the KPA invariably maintained the revolutionary character as the army of the leader and the Party. He also organized the Fourth Conference of Company Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA and other meetings to make them significant milestones in strengthening the revolutionary armed forces.

His continuous field inspection tour of KPA units constitutes an important part of his leadership over the army.

Saying that as there are soldiers, so is the Supreme Commander, he got aboard a small wooden boat and made his way through the stormy sea lane to meet them in the most sensitive flashpoint. Sometimes he gave unexpected circumstances to any units and sub-units at any time to learn about their preparedness for actual war as part of his energetic leadership to make the KPA possess the strongest attack and defence capabilities.

As he made sure that the

defence industry was put on a Juche and independent basis and the development of new weaponry switched over to an innovation-driven process, not the copy-based one, Korean-style latest weapons have been developed one after another in the country and its military power has remarkably been enhanced in recent years.

Kim Jong Un also led the KPA to perform brilliant feats in socialist construction.

He gave trust and encouragement to the service personnel to work miracles in gigantic socialist construction projects by displaying the indomitable revolutionary spirit, while visiting construction sites where they worked to give pep talks to them.

As a result, new houses and modern cultural facilities sprang up across the country, ringing with happy laughter of the people more loudly.

All the Korean people have cherished the truth that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un is just the strength and symbol of the powerful country over the past nine years since he became DPRK Marshal.

By Pang Un Ju PT

SINUJU

Efforts channelled into economic development to preserve regional character

‘City will be spruced up as model border city’

Our border city of Sinuiju, the capital of North Phyongan Province, is an important gateway into the country.

We have pressed on with the building of the city while focusing on accommodating the convenience of citizens and sprucing it up in a cultured and hygienic way as required by modern aesthetic taste.

First of all, efforts have been channelled into improving roads and buildings to meet the modern sense of beauty.

We neatly paved carriageways and footways on major streets of the city and renovated street lamps accordingly. Street lamps in downtown were replaced with modern ones, while road lamps were installed afresh on dozens of kilometres of road sections. Reflective road signs were also set up at the newly paved road sections.

Especially, we gave precedence to the building of sewerage and drainage systems over the road project to prevent roads from submerging in any floods.

The external renovation of structures was carried out in parallel with road improvement.

A project for remodelling the external shape of multi-storey buildings on major streets was carried out according to the design which was developed to meet the characteristics of the provincial seat. Commercial service facilities were extended below multi-storey buildings on Namsang Street and covered with Korean-style gabled roofs and major roads and multi-storey buildings were furnished with elegant and refined illuminations to add beauty to the landscape of the city. In addition, a 5 000-seater youth open-air theatre, condiments factory, teachers training college and bag factory were built.

A new boating-ground at the centre of the city is also spectacular. It is pleasing to see citizens enjoy boating on an artificial lake using the purified water from the Undok Health Complex.

The city also pays special attention to landscaping.

We planted good species of tall trees and flowering shrubs of ornamental value including ginkgo, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* and zelkova by the main roads and in parks to go well with the scenery and set up flowerpot stands at crossroads.

We also refurbished all roads, parks, fountain sites



and resting places with lawns and put up low iron fences and planted hedges around parks.

All the undertakings are reliably guaranteed by solid production bases in the city.

Our city built several coating materials production bases to paint roads and other buildings in the city with pulverized and coloured coating materials. Tree saplings and flowering shrubs produced at the tree nursery covering an area of dozens of hectares are enough to conduct landscaping.

Kim Chol Hyok, vice-chairman of the Sinuiju City People's Committee of North Phyongan Province

Factory renowned for Pomhyanggi-brand cosmetics

“It is our ideal to bring eternal youth and beauty to

people who want to retain their youth like fresh flowers in bloom on beautiful spring days when all living things revive, as our brand name Pomhyanggi (vernal fragrance) suggests,” said Kim Hye Yong, manager of the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory in North Phyongan Province.

An establishment where research, development and production are integrated, the cosmetics factory has the Pomhyanggi cosmetics research institute specializing in R&D of cosmetics and different production processes including those of cosmetics, toilet soap, detergent, plastic packing and glass and plastic containers.

The Pomhyanggi-brand of the factory is popular at domestic and international markets.

The cosmetics are made with the water of the spring in Mt Soksu with high yield, which is up to the standards of drinking water and microelement indexes and which is free from heavy metal ion.

Mainly made with world-famous Kaesong Koryo *insam* as the main raw material, its products are multifunctional cosmetics which retard skin ageing and enhance skin elasticity by activating metabolism and which excel in skin whitening, wrinkle-smoothing and moisturizing effects.

It produces the containers of cosmetics and beauty kits in different colours and shapes according to consumers' demands.

It introduced advanced technology into production and made production processes unmanned and germ-free.

More than 350 kinds of cosmetics of the factory have been GMP certified and obtained national quality certifications as they meet the cosmetics production and quality management standards and some of them passed the inspection by the Swiss inspection group of SGS.

Pomhyanggi cosmetics have been verified by analysis labs of different countries.

“Our factory scrupulously arranges the development of new products and as a result it turned out over 20 items of new products including collagen cream and lotion in recent years alone,” said Kim Kang Chol, chief of the technology section of the factory.

Textile mill attaches importance to recycling

The Sinuiju Textile Mill in North Phyongan Province is now achieving good successes in recycling.

It was early last year when the mill buckled down to reprocessing in earnest.

“At that time, we had plenty of raw materials to ensure current production. But we attached importance to the application of advanced production methods in line with the global trend of development,” said chief

engineer Ryang Chol Ung.

The factory formed a technical innovation team for establishing the production process of recycled materials and completed in a short time the design of the process consisting of moulding machine, injector, pulverizer and cooling device by learning good experience from advanced units and pooling the creative wisdom of the team members. Based on such preparations, it developed necessary devices.

The process gave birth to the general recycling workteam. The workteam pushed ahead with technical upgrading to relocate old carding and spinning machines and restore their original performance, while newly making a waste thread and rag opener, thus increasing productivity 2.5 times and saving much labour.

It also introduced new technologies including methods of removing impurities with liquid wastes from reed pulp and improving the quality of fibre with a pneumatic spinning machine.

As a result, it increased cloth production by using different wastes before producing tens of thousands of metres of shading cloth for building 10 000 flats in Pyongyang.

“We will direct our technical forces to establishing a thread production process from old cloths, thus making recycling bring benefits to the country,” said manager Kim Chang Sok.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



Clockwise from top: Newly-renovated North Phyongan Provincial Art Theatre. Part of the production line of the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory. A woman weaves a grasswork at the Sinuiju City Grasswork Production Cooperative. Employees are engrossed in making school bags at the Sinuiju Bag Factory. The Sinuiju Textile Mill benefits from recycling.

PAK KWANG HUN

PUMP

Upgrading of equipment pushed in earnest

The Anju Pump Factory in South Phyongan Province is overfulfilling by over 10 percent its monthly production quotas which became twice as many as those of last year.

"The secret lies in streamlining production processes and upgrading equipment to increase production capacity," said chief engineer Ri Song Il.

The factory formed a technical

innovation team comprising young technicians specializing in electrical and mechanical engineering and dynamics to remodel out-of-date equipment, while contriving new efficient machines.

Among the facilities is a hot-air cupola refashioned by applying the air preheating method. The introduction of the method increased the

temperature by 300°C and the efficiency by 1.5 times as compared to previously.

New industrial furnaces are being developed and introduced.

The factory replaced an ordinary drying furnace, which takes much time and consumes large amounts of coal for finishing products, with a thermal cycling mould surface drying one, thus doubling productivity as compared to previously and saving lots of coal.

It also developed an annealing furnace to ensure speediness in casting processing.

Developers say the upgrading of equipment has increased production capacity and provided favourable conditions for developing new products.

Shortly ago, they developed a new type of irrigation pump.

It has produced different kinds of pumps in large numbers this year and sent them to the construction site of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang.

By Jong Chol PT



Two workers talk about technological problems arising in the assembly of pumps.

ENTERTAINMENT

Company develops new amusement facilities

The Mokran Kwangmyong Technology Company has developed new amusement facilities.

"An important thing in the development of amusement facilities is to make them meet the people's age and psychological characteristics," said Kim Nam Chol, director of the amusement facility manufacturer.

The manufacturer focuses on the development of amusement facilities conducive to the intellectual development and physical training of nursery and kindergarten children and primary school pupils, and tries to mirror their liking for brilliant and colourful things. It also develops amusement facilities

that suit the psychology of youth and adults.

"Design is the first process in the development of these facilities and it is unthinkable apart from new ideas," said designer Pak Hye Ok.

According to her, both external and printing designs should be good enough to draw attention.

Among those facilities are the drums in round shapes depicting the heads of different animals like pig and owl and the doll-catching facilities on which interesting pictures are printed, especially those of a goat grazing grass and a rabbit eating a carrot.

After making plans, the designers work out the designs for machines and electronic

circuits as they bring the installation setup and operation principle of their parts into line.

The manufacturer has recently brought out three-dimensional rhythmic amusement facilities incorporating virtual environment.

They make it possible to play amusement games while experiencing the virtual environment along with moving apparatuses.

The new developments are made of wood, plastic and metal.

The company is equipped with a full set of production processes from those for the manufacture of electronic circuit and outer box processing to that for assembly. Especially, it has CNC equipment like five-axle turning machine.

Such amusement facilities were introduced into recreation grounds in Pyongyang and provinces, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



Amusement facilities produced by the Mokran Kwangmyong Technology Company.

FURNITURE

Cabinet maker comes up with new ideas



A typical thing is the children's collapsible desk in the shape of dandelion petals.

When the desk is unfolded, several children can sit around it to study and when it is folded, it is possible to use space in various ways.

"One day when I brought my son to the kindergarten, I happened to hear from teachers that desks were stiff and unfit for the juvenile mind," recalled Kim Chun Hyok.

He is fond of uniqueness and his creative personality produced a fan-shaped desks, which can be put separately and form a circle when put in succession.

He also made collapsible beds for children, which can be used as a desk for study and a table for playing with toys and as beds for eight children in the bedtime by unfolding the table.

His products were welcomed by both children's parents and kindergarten teachers.

He set an ambitious goal to design and make more practical and valuable desks. In order to seek colours and shapes favoured by children, he often dropped in at kindergartens to bend his energies on the juvenile mind or stayed all night to calculate the correct rotation angle of a desk.

"The theme was most important in designing the desk in the shape of dandelion petals. I came to find the theme for the desk after seeing my son's Mindulle notebook with dandelion flower design on its cover," said Kim Chun Hyok.

Now, he dedicates his inexhaustible passion and efforts to making creations that will help children cherish big dreams.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

APPLIANCE

Various automation appliances turned out

The Pyongyang Automation Appliances Factory is producing highly efficient goods with lower costs.

It has recently unveiled an auxiliary switch of vacuum circuit breaker, a core component of high-tension switchboard which is widely used in the power transmission system. The domestic development of the switch has made it possible to reduce the production cost of vacuum circuit breaker.

"When the switch is introduced into the power supply system, it will increase electrical and mechanical intensity and make operation and management more convenient and useful," said Ri Kwang Hyok, staffer at

the technological development department.

The factory also made a power unit of 30-watt ultraviolet lamp with local raw materials. According to chief engineer Kang Man Sik, the product won popularity among many units as soon as it was unveiled.

In addition, the factory has completed the technical processes for producing with domestic raw materials over 10 kinds of goods including the compressor of a deep freeze, 400A forced integrated AC contactor and limiting switch for a lift which were imported previously.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

EDUCATION

Pursuit of educational improvement

Educational levels improved in rural areas

Proactive efforts are being made to boost the educational level of primary and secondary schools in the countryside.

The Education Commission is taking more detailed measures and intensifying guidance for raising the educational level in the general education sector in rural areas.

Precedence is being given to enhancing the qualifications of teachers at rural schools, which is closely connected with the exploration and application of new teaching methods that are profitable and advantageous.

Schools in urban areas also render positive assistance to their rural counterparts.

Last year alone, officials of the educational sector in Pyongyang who formed a development team made lots

of presentations for guided lessons according to school types and subjects in a short period to diffuse them to rural schools throughout the country.

The Rangnang District Teachers Retraining Centre has arranged and run online combined departmental discussions and meetings for joint review of teaching between urban and rural schools according to school types on a regular basis, thereby achieving good results.

Meanwhile, excellent teachers at urban schools and instructors at in-service training units in all parts of the country have been dispatched to rural schools to give them demonstration lessons and help them with running the meetings

for joint review of teaching and creating new teaching methods.

The Education Commission provides assistance and guidance for education work in provinces, provinces in their counties and counties in their ri, while Party and government organs in corresponding regions push ahead with the work to innovate education as they help rural schools improve their educational conditions and environment.

The educational level of schools in rural areas is being elevated at a fast pace as the superiors help their subordinates, cities support the countryside and each relevant unit conducts the campaign to overtake, model after and share experience with others.

Conditions, environment get better at grass-roots levels

A nationwide programme is being undertaken in the DPRK to improve the educational conditions and environment in local areas.

North Phyongan Province finished the construction of dozens of model schools which had started last year by pressing on with it this year.

Last year the province examined the situation of schools in a comprehensive manner, mainly those in rural communities, and set a goal to pull down old buildings and rebuild them as model schools before the beginning of the new school year this year.

As a result, new school buildings were constructed in Thacchon, Sakju, Sonchon, Unsan and other counties.

Newly rebuilt schools amount to 87 and they are provided with all kinds of teaching tools and experimental apparatuses, with their classrooms becoming multi-functional.

Over a dozen primary and junior and senior middle schools have been refurbished in North Hwanghae Province.

The province built Chongun Senior Middle School in Songnim City and Mannyon Senior Middle School in Sinphong County as model schools and generalized their experience.



Teachers brainstorm to apply new teaching methods at Sungni Primary School in Rangnang District.

Tried-and-tested teaching methods and experience diffused to suburban schools

Strenuous efforts are being made to diffuse the advanced teaching methods and experience obtained at schools in downtown Pyongyang to rural schools in the suburbs.

"We ensure that instructors at teachers in-service training centres of all districts take charge of some schools in rural areas to help them solve problems arising in teaching practice, while arranging demonstration lessons according to school types," said Ri Yong Jin, director of the Pyongyang Municipal Teachers Retraining Centre.

The prearranged events that prove effective include the online

joint inspection of a class at work, the meeting for joint review of a class and the demonstration lesson using videoconferencing.

The municipal authorities encourage teachers at suburban schools to set themselves ambitious goals in improving their qualifications and help them in a methodological way to become proficient not only in their special subjects but also in adjacent disciplines.

The municipal teachers retraining centre and district teachers' in-service training centres contrived multimedia presentations according to school types and subjects and

built large databases containing information about the latest educational development trend to diffuse them to rural schools.

The municipality also attaches importance to providing those schools with material and technical assistance including educational equipment, software, e-media, intelligence books, such teaching materials as model teaching plans and reference books.

"This year lots of graduates from suburban schools were enrolled at universities and other schools of higher grade, which is partly attributable to the efforts of instructors at the municipal teachers retraining centre to improve the qualifications of teachers in rural areas," said Ri Yong Jin.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

HORTICULTURE

Vitalizer raises rooting rate of trees



Researchers examine the efficacy of a tree vitalizer at Pyongyang University of Architecture.

Kim Hye Gyong, section chief of Pyongyang University of Architecture, recently developed a highly efficient tree vitalizer for increasing the rooting rate of trees.

"This tree vitalizer promotes the growth of trees and is highly efficient in building up their resistance to diseases," said Kim.

Trees in general require environmental conditions suitable for their genetic characters, and if growth conditions are unfavourable or the soil of forests is infertile, their growth is retarded and their resistance to blight is lowered as metabolism is disrupted.

Similar research projects to resolve such problems had been carried on previously, but to little avail.

Kim Hye Gyong set her sights on a highly effective tree vitalizer and pored over relevant literature for analysis and basic study. She analysed the merits and demerits of existing bioactivators which help increase the rooting rate of trees and accelerate their growth. In the course of this, she discovered afresh the causes of their failure to grow properly and their low resistance to blight in poor soil.

"Trees absorb nutrients dissolved in water under ground with their roots and produce substances necessary for growth through photosynthesis at the leaves. Therefore, I was convinced that the best way to increase their rooting rate is to simultaneously boost the bioactivity of leaves and trunks as well as roots. So I opted to take necessary steps for both overground and underground parts of trees at the same time," said the section chief.

She also found afresh the mixing ratio of substances having favourable influence on the growth of trees.

She confirmed the scientific mixing ratio of different substances that strengthen trees' nutrition and stimulate their growth.

Accordingly, she classified the tree vitalizer into the ones for increasing rooting rate, enhancing insecticidal effects and improving nutrition so as to efficiently use it to meet trees' conditions.

The tree vitalizer which has been completed through years of research and field application is now being mass-produced.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Young people perform feats

Young men and women in the DPRK are performing patriotic deeds one after another, touching the people's heartstrings.

A trackman of the Pyongyang railway section crew and students at the History Department of Kim Il Sung University did not hesitate to rush into raging flames in order to safely carry the portraits of the peerlessly great men out of rooms and save the lives and property of the people.

Other young people in different parts of the country secured and sent tens of thousands of pieces of management tools, 11 200 roots of white broad bellflowers and over 110 trees of good species in a dozen kinds to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche,

revolutionary sites and other educational bases.

As collective and joint innovations are being made in every site of socialist economic construction, more than 1 800 young people carried out their two years' and annual economic plans.

Members of the Kang Ho Yong youth shock brigade of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine hit their two years' target, while 19 young people of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill also overfulfilled their yearly quotas.

A large number of youth across the country volunteered for labour-consuming sectors of socialist construction.

KCNA

EXTRACURRICULAR

Palace helps children pursue their dreams



KIM SONG CHOL / KUMSUGANGSAN

The Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang.

Schoolchildren's palaces are seen in Pyongyang and the provinces of the country.

Of them, Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace ranks first in all aspects, including educational conditions, size and modern architecture. It is a comprehensive base for extracurricular education of schoolchildren which can accommodate over 5 000 a day.

It stands in an excellent location of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, in an area of over 214 000 square metres with a building area of 105 000-odd square metres.

According to section chief Son Mun Yong, designers produced several architectural designs for the palace in the mid-1980s and among them the layout on the theme of "Embrace" representing a mother opening her arms to welcome children was accepted.

The palace has nearly 150 rooms for different hobby groups including science, the arts and sports and a general training hall of the arts.

It is also equipped with a 1 500-seat theatre, a gym which is able to host different sports games at the same time, swimming pool, library which can house tens of thousands of books, e-library, 4-D cinema and online and video games room.

It has a driving practice ground, playground and park in the outside.

There is a group sculpture depicting happy children on a flower-bedecked wagon in front of the palace. On the front wall of its entrance hall is inscribed with the instruction of President Kim Il Sung that the children are treasures of the country and the future of Korea belongs to them.

President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the palace on several occasions and wished the schoolchildren a bright future as they saw students conducting hobby group activities and giving artistic performances, planted trees and watched the calligraphic skill of young students.

On show in its skill exhibition room and along the corridors are lots of paintings and calligraphic works presented by its group members to help visitors easily understand that the palace has so far produced many talents.

Its schoolchildren's art troupe toured over a dozen foreign countries and gave performances hundreds of times in the past, receiving hearty welcome and winning great admiration from the audience.

Many foreign personages and delegations visited the palace, including former Chinese President Jiang Zemin, former Soviet defence minister Dmitri Yazov, former US President Jimmy Carter and American religious leader Franklin Graham.

The palace was completely renovated in November 2015.

Education in the palace is free as is schooling.

Many of its instructors are winners of such honorary titles as People's Teacher, People's Artist and People's Athlete.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

SCENERY

Willows add more to beauty along Pothong River

From time immemorial, "Ryugyong" which means a Pyongyang has been called place thickly covered with



PAK KWANG HUN

Willow trees droop their branches over the Pothong River in midsummer.

willow trees.

In the thick summer foliage, willows on the banks of the Pothong River unfold a beautiful scene. The scenery arouses fresh interest as the river banks underwent a facelift last year.

As people walk along the promenade where willow branches are drooping above the blue water, as if to wash their "hair" in it, they cannot help being impressed by the looks of mandarin and wild ducks paddling on the water and canoeists passing by like arrows cleaving their way along the river.

Along with the neighbouring modern buildings and the age-old Pothong Gate at the riverside, the construction site of Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District offers a glimpse into the vibrant nature of the city, which undergoes a change in its looks at a blazingly fast rate, creating

PROFILE

Doctor cures thousands of patients with sight impairment

"Dr Kim Man Sok has not only great medical expertise but is very devoted to patients," said a patient who recovered his sight after having an operation from the head of the retinal department of the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital.

The 47-year-old doctor dreamed of becoming a teacher in his childhood.

But he was enrolled at Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences after finishing middle school course on the advice of his parents who knew well that their son was very prudent and nimble.

After finishing the postgraduate course with distinction, he began his medical career at the Pyongyang ophthalmic hospital in 2005.

A year after, he performed a surgical operation.

He exulted at the first successful operation, seeing his patient restore eyesight.

Kim braced himself up to challenge vitreoretinal surgery which requires comprehensive knowledge of the ophthalmic field.

"This surgery is known to be performed only in developed countries in the world and it is so costly that ordinary people cannot even think of it. But I developed this advanced technology in our own way with the determination to implement the public health policy of the Workers'

“

Dr Kim Man Sok has not only great medical expertise but is very devoted to patients.”

A patient who regained sight after operation

Party of Korea on bringing substantial benefits of the socialist healthcare system to the people," said Kim Man Sok.

Over the past decade, he cured thousands of patients with vitreoretinal impairment and wrote several valuable papers to become an authority on this field.

His colleagues attribute his success to his sincere devotion to patients.

As the saying goes, "Medicine is a benevolent art."

He treats every patient like his relations.

Though he daily spends an average of six hours doing surgery under enormous strain, he is always kind to patients and makes exact demand on himself.

To fulfil the duty as ophthalmologist restoring patients' vision—this is the maxim Kim follows.

By Ri Sun Yong PT



RYANG KUM CHOL

Kim Man Sok (centre), department chief of the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, performs a vitreoretinal microsurgery.

another new architectural style in construction.

Various kinds of birds are coming to nest there, attracted by the sight of willows on the banks of the Pothong.

"I have lived all my life in Pyongyang and the Pothong River has always been in my mind as part of my native place," said Kim Il Bae, 78-year-old resident of Ryugyong-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang. "Whenever I think of the river, it reminds me of the willow trees along the riverside. As the saying goes, an old man lives in his memory. I often go for a walk

along the riverbanks and recall the memories of Pyongyang which has changed beyond recognition as well as the path of my life."

Willow trees grow fast and are highly resistant to humidity. Therefore, they have long been planted on the banks of rivers and streams to form protective forests and also as roadside trees.

The willow trees standing in rows along the Pothong riverside and adjacent streets add elegance to the landscape of Pyongyang.

By Sin Pyol PT

JAPAN

Bid to beef up military strength far from 'exclusive defence' principle

Japan is squandering the largest sum of military fund on the development, production and purchase of offensive-oriented military equipment in violation of the principle of exclusive defence security system under the current constitution.

This year alone, it built and commissioned various naval vessels including a multi-purpose escort ship and submarine and is putting spurs to the development of a next-generation stealth fighter and drone and an air-launched long-range cruise missile.

According to Japan's Kyodo News Service, the government has launched into the full examination of the application of the law on the activities of the Self-Defence Forces in case of peripheral contingency. In parallel with this, the Ground SDF units stationed on Miyako Island have been supplied with missiles and other munitions

on the pretext of coping with any possible conflict with neighbouring countries. This year Japan staged independent and joint drills allegedly aimed at defending a remote island. It intends to organize a marine transport unit in an attempt to strengthen the defence of the island.

In addition, Japan is speeding up the establishment of an independent satellite network for military purposes.

The government held a meeting to discuss a space development strategy in the prime minister's official residence on June 29 and made and passed a detailed plan and progress schedule for sending many small spacecraft into low orbits and setting up the network.

When the plan is carried out, more than 1 000 small orbiters will be deployed in a concentrated way in the low orbits ranging from 300 to 1 000 kilometres and used for military

purposes.

Japan attributes the expansion of its military offensive capacity mainly to the "threats" from neighbouring countries and it recently announced that the establishment of the satellite network is aimed at detecting and intercepting new-type missiles of China, Russia and the DPRK.

The point is if it has so far stockpiled such huge quantities of military hardware and is bolstering up its military capabilities in order to cope with the "threats" from neighbouring countries.

More than 1 000 satellites to be sent into outer space in the future are far more than enough to keep track of Japan's neighbours. Its "threat" theory and its counteraction are conflicting.

Reporting about the reckless arms buildup moves of the government and military, a Japanese newspaper expressed concern that the country's

gradual deviation from the principle of exclusive defence security system might cause an arms race with neighbouring countries without winner.

During the Abe regime back in March 2016, Japan enforced the "security-related law" whose gist is the protection of US troops to actually take away the veil of "exclusive defence security system" and pave the way for the exercise of collective self-defence rights.

It is obvious that if Japan gains military supremacy and preemptive strike capacity in the area of outer space, it will make the whole world and even space its operational zone where it can exercise the rights.

Analysts assert that the moves Japan is making towards a military power on the pretext of "threats" from neighbouring nations will endanger the world.

By Om Ryong PT

RUSSIA-EU

Discord unlikely to be resolved

Antagonism and friction that have persisted for over 20 years between Russia and the West continue to worsen.

Most recently, the EU decided to prolong sanctions against Russia which will expire in late July for six months.

On June 21, the European Council issued a statement that it would extend sanctions against Crimea until June 23 next year.

The EU's sanctions against Crimea include the ban on entry into the latter of its member nations' airplanes and ships, enforcement of a complete commercial blockade against the Crimean Peninsula

and prohibition against issuing visas to residents of Crimea with Russian citizenship cards.

The EU prolongs sanctions against it for one year every year, saying that they would go on as far as Crimea remains part of the Russian territory.

On the same day, Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said that the EU knows well that Crimea became part of the Russian Federation according to the constitution on the basis of the results of a referendum and how Russia would cope with it, but it tries to find fault with it, expressing the government's stand to take countermeasures

against them.

The EU is also eager to apply sanctions against Russian individuals and organizations.

In March 2021 alone, six Russians were added to the EU's sanctions hit list. In retaliation, Russia banned the entry of eight EU officials into the country in April.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that EU's sanctions are accompanied by "anti-Russian hysteria" among the Western media and the Russian proposals for solving any issues through direct and expert dialogue have consistently been ignored or rejected.

Experts say that EU's sanctions are aimed at holding

back Russia's development at any cost and forcing the plan for "world order based on regulations" on it.

EU's sanctions will never help reconcile both sides, but only fuel mistrust between them.

Russia regards the West's sanctions as an illegal, aggressive and hostile act and Russian citizens express growing antipathy toward the West with the passage of time.

The only solution is probably for both sides to lend an ear to and stop criticism against each other and sit together to hold dialogue.

By Song Jong Ho PT

WPD

'Rights and choices are the answer'

July 11 is World Population Day.

The theme for this year's WPD is "Rights and choices are the answer: Whether baby boom or bust, the solution lies in prioritizing the reproductive health and rights of all people".

Marking WPD, the United Nations Population Fund called on all countries around the world to map out realistic plans for thoroughly ensuring the reproductive rights of women and positively implement it.

The persistent spread of COVID-19 is posing serious obstacles detrimental to

human existence, activities and development in the world.

Today, many countries over the world fail to pay due attention to the reproductive health and rights of women while being bent on the prevention of COVID-19 and the detection and treatment of patients to cope with its increased spread.

Worse still, the reproductive health services for women in developing countries are in difficult circumstances for the lack of many kinds of medical supplies for reproductive health services, especially those needed for family planning service.

And projects for eradicating such deeds as early marriage and women's ablation of genitals have encountered difficulties.

The effects of COVID-19 tell more on the women who are prone to job loss or who have low incomes.

Such circumstances compel women and married couples to change or delay their family planning.

The DPRK demands all pregnant and nursing mothers visiting hospitals strictly observe infectious disease prevention regulations and provides video-conferencing, telemedicine, consultative

meeting and consultation services in the health service of pregnant and nursing mothers through telemedicine system. In particular, registration before childbirth and delivery at hospital are ensured for all pregnant women so that state measures for protecting the reproductive health and rights of women are implemented thoroughly, and public health systems are in normal operation.

The DPRK government strives to bolster up cooperation with the UNFPA and other international organizations.

By Min Chol PT

Briefly

China

Representative supports cause of Palestinian people

The Chinese representative said at the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council on July 9 that China censures all kinds of violence against civilians while referring to a lot of casualties caused by the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

He urged Israel to stop removing dwellings of the Palestinians and expanding the Jewish settlements and ensure the legitimate rights of Palestinians.

Palestine

FM censures Israel's blockade

More than two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are suffering hardships due to the ceaseless blockade by Israel, according to a statement released by the Palestinian Foreign Ministry on July 10.

The statement denounced Israel for posing serious obstacles to implementing the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip through its blockade and oppressive policies.

WHO

UN agency chief concerned about spread of δ virus

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a video news conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday said that the number of COVID-19 cases constantly increased worldwide during the last four weeks and the death toll is rising again.

The δ mutated virus which was first detected in October 2020 is now widespread across 104 countries and regions, he noted.

Cooperation

African nations cooperate in power sector

African nations plan to build solar power stations in the desert of the Sahel region in order to ease the regional strain on electric power.

When the scheme is realized, the solar energy will reportedly be enough to generate a total of ten million kW of electricity and supply electricity to local residents in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali and Niger.

Kenya

Eco-measures swing into action

Kenya is channelling efforts into the protection of ecological environment.

The government announced on July 9 that it set itself the goal of restoring 5.1 million hectares of wasteland and denuded forests until 2030 in order to reduce the consequences of climate change.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

GO

Paduk fans in Pyongyang



CHAE MYONG RIM
Jon Un Gum (left) and Ho Mun Il (right) discuss tactics before attending a mixed double.

“Ho Mun Il and Jon Un Gum living in Mangyongdae District are the best players among amateur paduk (go) players in Pyongyang. All our fans acknowledge this,” said Han Jong Su who is also a paduk fan.

Ho Mun Il, a 52-year-old worker at the Mangyongdae District Water Supply and Sewerage Management Station, and Jon Un Gum, a 31-year-old housewife, are dominating the amateur paduk competition.

Their rivals are also tough, but they have never been able to beat Ho and Jon.

Ho's competence is evidenced

by the single fact that when he was on a foreign business trip, he played the game so well that he was offered by the go association of that country free access to the go houses in that country.

“When I went to the People's Palace of Culture with my friend in my youth, I happened to see people playing paduk. There I was initiated into the game. As I learned it, I was fascinated by its profound and multifarious techniques that chess cannot match. Now the game has become part of my everyday life and I can hardly go to bed if I do not play even a game or if I fail to touch the paduk stones,” said

“

Paduk which has ten thousand moves as people say is enshrined with our ancestors' wisdom and talents.”

Jon Un Gum, paduk ace living in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang

Ho Mun Il.

As he honed his skill he often competed with other amateurs to assess his level.

While Ho is a player of protean tactics, Jon Un Gum is a type of unerring, meticulous planning.

Jon began to learn paduk in her girlhood and kept playing the game after marriage.

She often played it with her younger brother who is also an amateur.

“Paduk which has ten thousand moves as people say is enshrined with our ancestors' wisdom and talents. The more I play the game, the more keenly I feel it, and I harden my resolve to add more to the fine qualities of our nation,” said Jon.

By Yun Ki Song PT

RELIC

Walled City of Pyongyang

The Walled City of Pyongyang was the capital of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), comprising today's Central and Phyongchon districts of Pyongyang.

The city walls, also called “Jangan walls”, were built between 552 and 586.

With a circumference of about 16km, the walled city was situated in a favourable place with Mt Kumsu in the north and surrounded by the Taedong and Pothong rivers like natural moats in the south, west and east.

It was a new kind of walled capital in the style that combined the advantages of both hill forts

and flatland walls.

The inside of the walled city was divided by walls into four parts: the inner, middle, outer and north castles.

The total length of the walls, including the walls of castles, was about 23 kilometres.

The walls were built with stone bricks, or sometimes by mixing stone and earth. The one-side brick-laying method was adopted on the ridgelines and double-sided method on flatlands.

The exterior of the walls was laid with stones in the shape of quadrangular pyramid in trim order.



A section of the Walled City of Pyongyang.

The stones were convex in the front side and tapered at the back end and the four edges were smoothed, so that they looked like corns.

The convex front side was for protecting the wall from various siege weapons and the long pointed back side prevented the stones from coming off the wall.

The stones had different sizes according to their purposes. Those in the foundation and lower parts of the walls were larger and had protuberances so as not to let the upper stones slip out.

“At the time when they used baked bricks for walls in neighbouring countries, the Koguryo people cut hard stones like granite to build walls. Therefore, these walls were incomparably solid and strong,” said Choe Il Hyok, a staffer at the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage.

There were seven general's terraces in the Walled City of Pyongyang. Typical of them were Ulmil Pavilion of the inner castle and Choesung Pavilion of the north castle.

It originally had six gates but only five of them remains today. The Taedong Gate and Pothong Gate, among others, are well known as representative relics from the walled city.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

FOOD

Cold boiled sturgeon put on famous food list

The cold boiled sturgeon served at the Okryu Restaurant has recently been listed as a famous Korean food.

The main ingredients for a dish of the food are 200 grams of sturgeon and 100 grams of crab, and subsidiary materials include 50 grams of carrot, 50 grams of onion, 20 grams of parsley, the same amount of celery, 30 grams of tomato and 5 grams of black olive and the same amount of green olive.

First, take out the blood from the sturgeon and remove its internal organs and tendons, and then clean it in the flowing water to completely remove blood and remains of internal organs.

Meanwhile, take out flesh from the legs of the steamed crab and trim them in the same size.

Tie the cleaned sturgeon with cooking string while preserving its original shape.

Pour 10 percent salty water into the oven and add the onion, carrot, celery, chicken powder, pepper corns, laurel leaves and cooking liquor to make the

seasoned water.

Leave the sturgeon in the boiling seasoned water for 20 minutes and then cool it completely in the normal temperature while preserving its shape.

There may be difference in the boiling time according to the size of fish, but it should not exceed 20 minutes in order to well promote its unique taste.

When the flesh of sturgeon hardens, skin it from the part of its head to the second portion of the dorsal fin to remove bony plates, separate the whole meat while preserving the shape of the fish and apply gelatin to it thinly before cutting it into pieces in the thickness of 1.5 cm. After putting sturgeon slices on its body in good shape, decorate the fish with olive, tomato, parsley, canned cucumber and crab meat before serving it.

The cold boiled sturgeon is winning popularity as a high-class food for the distinctive taste.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT



Cold boiled sturgeon.

ART

Korea's lacquering art of antiquity

Korea boasts a long history of the art of lacquering.

Relics from the primitive ages and the period of ancient Joseon show signs of lacquering and nice lacquerware was made in the period of the Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla that existed between the mid-3rd century BC and the mid-7th century AD.

Lacquered mother-of-pearl workmanship underwent remarkable progress during the Koryo Kingdom (918-1392) and the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

This is evidenced by the relics unearthed in old tombs from the Koryo period, including a picture of four guardians, a coffin coated with coloured

lacquer and a mother-of-pearl box depicting lakeside view.

Wood was usually used as the ground for lacquering and sometimes metal and porcelain without glaze.

The art adopts a wide range of decoration.

The major ornamentation methods included incrustation, metal inlay, lacquered painting, sculpture embossing with lacquer and ornamentation using eggshell, gold and silver foil or dust, and the combination of these methods.

Today, the lacquering art undergoes further development to meet the aesthetic sense of the times.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

