

Second Plenary Meeting of Ninth Central Committee of WPK to be convened

KCNA

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea decided to convene the Second Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Central Committee of the WPK in late June in order to have an interim review of the implementation of the Party and state policies for 2026 and discuss the work in the second half of the year and a series of important issues.

A relevant resolution of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK was released on May 24.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends message of sympathy to Chinese President

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of sympathy to Comrade Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China, on May 24.

The message reads:

Upon hearing the sad news that a gas explosion

accident at a coal mine in Shanxi Province of your country claimed heavy casualties, I express deep sympathy to you, Comrade General Secretary, and the Chinese party, government and people and to the bereaved families of the victims.

I heartily hope that the Chinese people will eradicate the aftermath of the damage as soon as possible under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government with you, Comrade General Secretary, as the core and the bereaved families will overcome their sorrow and regain a stable life.

Foreign minister of Singapore visits DPRK

KCNA

Vivian Balakrishnan, foreign minister of the Republic of Singapore, and his party visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the invitation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry from May 26 to 27.

Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, held talks with Vivian Balakrishnan at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on May 26.

Choe Son Hui expressed the stand of the DPRK government to develop the long-standing friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and Singapore in conformity with the aspirations and wishes of the peoples of the two countries.

Vivian Balakrishnan wished the Korean people greater success in their work for the prosperity of the country, saying that the government and people of Singapore hope that the friendly and cooperative



Jo Yong Won, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, meets with Vivian Balakrishnan, foreign minister of the Republic of Singapore, at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on May 27.

relations with the DPRK would grow stronger.

At the talks they exchanged views on developing the bilateral relations in a multifaceted way by boosting

exchanges and cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two countries and on regional and international issues.

Present at the talks from the DPRK side were Vice-Minister Pak Sang Gil and other officials of the Foreign Ministry and Ri Kil Song, DPRK ambassador to Singapore, and from the Singaporean side the foreign minister's party.

Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, met with Vivian Balakrishnan, who paid a courtesy call on him, at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on May 27.

Jo Yong Won had a conversation with Vivian Balakrishnan in a friendly atmosphere.



Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the DPRK, holds talks with her Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on May 26.

Children blessed by whole country

By Pang Un Ju PT

When June 1, or International Children's Day, comes in the DPRK, all the children enjoy their holiday with joy and happiness amid the blessings of the whole country.

That day, streets and villages become brighter and more vibrant with the looks of children in rainbow-coloured jackets, sportswear and other pretty clothes, which their parents prepared for the day, going to the venues for festive events holding their parents' hands and flanked by relatives.

When sports and amusement games and song and dance performances are held at nurseries, kindergartens and parks, even passers-by stop to send warm smiles and hearty cheers to the cute children.

Orphanages and baby homes across the country live up amid the attention of many people.

Those who forged special bonds with children at orphanages and baby homes to be called their "uncles" and "aunts" as well as officials of Party and government organs come to bless them on International Children's Day.

The true appearance of a relevant society is reflected on the faces of children.

There are numerous children in the world, but their looks vary from country to country.

Of course, there are people in any country who regard it as a virtue and natural duty to love and care for children. But they cannot take responsibility for the future of children.

Under the socialist system of the DPRK, children grow up happily

being respected as the "king" of the country under the state's care.

Even in the period when the country's economic situation was difficult due to the anti-DPRK manoeuvres of the hostile forces and natural disasters, policies for children were implemented without interruption and, in particular, the Law on Childcare was recently adopted and has been enforced to supply all the children across the country with dairy products and nutritious foodstuffs at state expense. Even parentless children grow well at their palatial homes without any shadow of sadness.

Such reality was brought about by the noble intention of General Secretary Kim Jong Un that there is no more important revolutionary task than bringing up children to be healthy and that it is the most important policy and supreme cherished desire of the Workers' Party and the state to provide better conditions for the upbringing of them even by investing a colossal sum of money.

Saying he is blessed with many children, the General Secretary chose the sites of orphanages and baby homes in scenic places and showed loving care for the orphans so that they could be well fed and well dressed and grow up to be pillars of the country. On an International Children's Day, he visited the Pyongyang Orphanage to see the children enjoying their holiday.

That is why all the children across the country love to sing the song "We Are the Happiest in the World", calling Marshal Kim Jong Un their father.

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Chongryon holds 26th Congress

KCNA

The 26th Congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) was held at the Korean Hall of Culture in Tokyo on May 23 and 24.

Present there were Chairman Ho Jong Man, First Vice-Chairman and Director of the Organizational Department Pak Ku Ho and vice-chairpersons Nam Sung U, Paek Jin Gu, Jo Il Yon, So Chung On and Kang Chu Ryon of the Chongryon Central Standing Committee, the chairman of the Central Audit Committee of Chongryon, members of the Chongryon Central Standing Committee, the director of the Research Institute on History of Korean Residents in Japan, headquarters chairpersons of Chongryon, leading officials of central organizations of Chongryon and its affiliates, members of the Central Audit Committee and deputies elected from institutions, organizations and bodies at all levels of Chongryon.

The national anthem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was played at the congress.

Nam Sung U read out a congratulatory message from the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly to the 26th Congress of Chongryon.

After a report on the examination of qualifications, the congress adopted as its agenda items "On the review



The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) has its 26th Congress at the Korean Hall of Culture in Tokyo, Japan.

of the work of the 25th term of Chongryon and the tasks of its 26th term", "On the revision of the programme and rules of Chongryon", "On the financial settlement of the 25th term and the budget for the 26th term" and "Election of the officials of the central organizations of Chongryon".

Pak Ku Ho made a report on the first agenda item.

He said that Chongryon had vigorously conducted the patriotic work under the meticulous guidance and paternal love of the respected

Marshal Kim Jong Un during the period under review and that it would set a new period of struggle till the 80th formation anniversary of Chongryon and wage a dynamic patriotic movement.

He also set forth the main tasks of Chongryon in the 26th term and stressed the need to decisively strengthen the internal forces of Chongryon as required by the new period of struggle.

The reporter called upon the deputies to the 26th Congress to fulfil their honourable mission and duty

in the struggle to achieve the overall development of the movement of Koreans in Japan with the patriotic strength of compatriots as the only driving force, bearing in mind the firm faith and will that the victory of the Juche cause and Chongryon's patriotic cause is a science as they are guided by the respected Marshal.

Then speeches were made.

Introduced at the congress were congratulatory messages and videos of congratulations from institutions, organizations

and officials in the homeland, overseas compatriots' organizations, organizations of Japan and foreign friendship organizations.

Delegates of Korean youth and students in Japan entered the venue of the congress to congratulate the participants on the 26th Congress of Chongryon.

Ri Myong Yu, chairman of the Central Audit Committee of Chongryon, made a report on the work of the audit committee.

The congress adopted

the report of the Central Committee of Chongryon on the first agenda item as a decision of the congress.

It also unanimously adopted a report of the examination committee for the revision of the programme and rules of Chongryon on the second agenda item and a report of the financial settlement and budget review committee on the third agenda item.

The congress elected Ho Jong Man as chairman of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryon.

It also elected the first vice-chairman, vice-chairpersons, director general of the General Affairs Department and members of the Central Committee of Chongryon and members of its Central Audit Committee.

A letter to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un was adopted at the congress.

At the end of the congress, the Central Standing Committee of Chongryon was formed at the First Session of the 26th Central Committee of Chongryon, and the Central Audit Committee of Chongryon elected its chairman and vice-chairmen.

During the congress, an art performance and a photo exhibition were held to celebrate the 26th Congress of Chongryon.

There was also an exhibition showing the successes made by Chongryon in the development of national education.

Profound respect for noble patriotism of war martyrs



Working people from all walks of life, service personnel, youth and schoolchildren visit the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations to pay respect to martyrs.

KCNA

More than 435 000 working people of different strata, service personnel, youth and students from the capital city and local areas have visited the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations over the past one month since its opening.

In front of the Monument

to the Korean People's Army Martyrs in the Special Military Operations, the visitors solemnly kept in mind the figures of the heroes who laid down their lives without hesitation on the sacred road of implementing the order of the motherland and those of the proud sons of this country who created miraculous battle legends unprecedented in history

with a noble spirit and indomitable bravery.

Flowers continue to be piled up before the memorial wall and the memorial group sculptures. They represent the people's warm thanks and reverence for the war martyrs.

Everywhere at the memorial museum, visitors more keenly realized the great trust and love of the motherland which put the noble life and immortal feats of the proud sons of the country on the platform of honour.

The fighting data of officers of the special operations units, who led the combatants to heroic feats through skilful command, indomitable offensive spirit and frontline political work, clearly showed the visitors what kind of persons are true loyalists the Workers' Party of Korea wants.

Seeing the records of battles inscribed in gold

letters on the pillar walls at the memorial museum, blood-stained written pledges and applications for accession to the Party, and letters to their beloved parents, the visitors hardened their will to make innovations and increase production at their posts and workplaces by carrying forward the soul of the brave soldiers.

Photos, relics and data on feats showing the spiritual world of the passionate young soldiers, who highly displayed revolutionary comradeship at the decisive battlefields and unhesitatingly dashed to the enemy's positions, fired the visitors with an enthusiasm for loyalty and patriotism.

The DPRK will be dignified, powerful and strong forever thanks to such great heroes as the brave soldiers and the new generations will, along with the memorial museum, warmly embrace the brave soldiers, hand down the matchless war records forever and continue to write the history of patriotism and loyalty.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More young people volunteer for major socialist construction sites

Dozens of young people in Kangwon Province volunteered to work at major worksites for socialist construction.

Graduates of technical senior middle schools in Munchon City and other areas went to the raw materials base stations.

Those of senior middle schools in Wonsan City requested their youth league organizations to send them to a road repair and management station and those of senior middle schools and technical senior middle schools in Changdo, Kosan and Thongchon counties offered to work at construction brigades and youth road platoons in their areas.

A meeting was held in Wonsan on May 27 to congratulate the volunteers.

Certificates of volunteering were awarded to the volunteers and speeches were made at the meeting attended by officials concerned and youth league officials, youth and students in the province.

National contest of Taekwon-Do schools and paduk and janggi contest

A national contest of Taekwon-Do schools and a paduk (go) and janggi (Korean chess) contest by class took place respectively in Chongjin and Sariwon cities from May 11 to 27.

The contests brought together more than 600 players selected from Taekwon-Do schools under the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do Team and provincial Taekwon-Do teams and the Paduk teams at provincial paduk centres.

Kangwon Province came first in total standings, South Hamgyong Province second and Pyongyang Municipality third in the national contest of Taekwon-Do schools.

Players from the paduk teams of South Hamgyong, Kangwon and South Phyongan provincial and Pyongyang municipal paduk centres proved successful in the paduk and janggi contest by class.

Diplomas were awarded to excellent teams and players.

We are the Happiest in the world

Work for children the most important state affair

By Sin Pyol PT

The work for the children has become the most important of all state affairs in the DPRK.

The issues for children are discussed at major meetings to deal with state affairs and a huge sum of money is unsparingly disbursed for their wellbeing.

Busy as he was guiding the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un gave precious instructions on Haebaragi-brand school things. On his visit to the Mindulle Notebook Factory, he was very pleased and said that when the factory produced

Mindulle-brand notebooks, students' bags, school uniforms and notebooks would all be domestically produced and then the students would recognize that homemade products are the best from their childhood.

In June five years ago the General Secretary made sure that it was adopted as an important policy to supply all children across the country with dairy products and other nutritious foods at the state's expense at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK. And he calculated the amount needed for it and personally tasted the trial products, stressing the necessity to improve the quality of dairy products.

Under such meticulous care

of him, the Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK adopted a law to institutionally guarantee the WPK's childcare policy and fresh dairy products are now supplied to children at nursery and kindergarten ages across the country at state expense every day.

One day in February 12 years ago, he visited the baby home and orphanage in Pyongyang and acquainted himself in detail with the upbringing and educational conditions and living environment of the children. He said that the parentless children are also the successors to the Korean revolution and future pillars and instructed to officials to build all the baby homes and orphanages in the country at the highest level.

That day, he took measures to build a new baby home and orphanage provided with all conditions needed for bringing up and educating children on the banks of the picturesque Taedong River and modern baby homes and orphanages in all provinces and municipalities.

As a result, baby homes and orphanages sprang up wonderfully across the country.

After finishing his New Year address for 2015, he visited the Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage and warmly blessed the children greeting the New Year. When he visited the Wonsan Baby Home and Wonsan Orphanage on June 1 International Children's Day, he suggested the children cut

the ribbon at the inauguration ceremony so that they would remember the day when they cut the inauguration tape with their small hands and entered their home all their lives even after they become adults.

Now all parentless children in the country grow up healthily at such homes of happiness, receiving new clothes and various kinds of nutritious foods, fruits and others according to seasons.

His loving care was an exemplar showing the officials for what and whom they should live and work and where they should find their lives worth living and the essential nourishment that makes the whole country overflow with love for the rising generations and optimism for the future.

Law reflects WPK's outlook on younger generation, future

By Pak Song Min PT

At the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in June 2021, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that there is no more important revolutionary work than bringing up children, the future of the country, to be strong and sound and that it is the most important policy and supreme desire of the Party and state to provide more improved conditions for bringing them up even by investing a huge sum of money.

Recollecting the day when the supply of nourishing foods including dairy products for all the children throughout the country was formulated as a Party policy, the director of the Law Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences said: "Laws in our country reflect intact the WPK's policies for realizing the people's intentions and demands. The Law of the DPRK on Childcare adopted at the Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly also reflects the childcare policy put forward at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee."

A paragraph of Article 2 of the childcare law stipulates that the state shall make sure that the system of production and supply of nourishing foods for children is established in a well-organized way, dairy products and other

nourishing foods are supplied to all the children free on a regular basis and the best conditions are provided for bringing them up.

At the time, every penny counted in socialist construction as the economic development of the country faced a huge obstacle due to the worldwide spread of Covid-19.

However, the DPRK adopted the childcare law with an outlook on younger generation that the deficit suffered by the state for rising generation is not a loss and the more the fund is disbursed for children, the brighter the future of the country will become.

In retrospect, the history of law in the country is the one of communist policies associated with the love for the people and younger generation.

The childcare law is a subsidiary to the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children adopted in 1976 and stipulates the order relating to the production and supply of nourishing foods for children and the provision of conditions for bringing them up.

The Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children, the first law for children, was adopted before the Socialist Labour Law (1978) and the Law on Public Health (1980).

After the adoption of the law, the number of nurseries increased by 4.6 times and that of children attending nurseries by 3.6 times in the DPRK in the 1970s as

compared to the 1960s, which meant that the country led the world in the absolute number of nurseries.

Afterwards, laws containing people-oriented policies for the good of children increased with their contents being amended and supplemented. Socialistic policies for children became greater in number by dint of such statutes as the laws on safeguarding women's rights, labour protection and education.

The newly-adopted childcare law stipulates that regional people's committees and institutions and enterprises concerned shall set the sites for nurseries and kindergartens in places with favourable natural and geographical conditions and hygienic safety, which are sunny and airy, free from dust and noise and relatively distant from roads, reservoirs and rivers, so that they will not have negative effects on the health, growth and development of children, and that art and literary institutions and relevant agencies shall contribute to the education of children by producing many works of art and literature for children that are significant in the education of the younger generation, such as cartoons, children's songs, poems and dances, fairytales and picture-card shows that suit the psychology of children.

Such parental love runs through every provision of the childcare law consisting of four chapters and 61 articles.

'I completely entrust my child to this kindergarten'

By Pang Un Ju PT

Yokjon Kindergarten in Central District, Pyongyang, which was awarded the title of honoured model kindergarten three times, is a small one.

But its educational condition, environment and level are perfect.

The kindergarten looks cosy. Its two-storeyed building is decorated with beautiful exterior wall tiles and its playground is covered with artificial turf and equipped with various kinds of amusement facilities.

Its corridor walls are covered with cartoon images, all corridor stairs inscribed with patterns of soles of feet to make children accustomed to walking on the right side and all rooms equipped with fixtures to the liking of children.

Ji Kyong Hui, chief of the kindergarten, said that its teachers orient their thinking and activities to helping children develop their intellectual abilities, finding the buds of their latent talents and cultivating them, and making them well-mannered and honest in their kindergarten days.

The kindergarten improves observation, memory, thinking and cognitive powers of children by actively introducing effective and advantageous teaching methods. In the foreign language education, it uses melodies of interesting songs so that children can understand the contents of teaching materials with ease.

The kindergarten positively runs extracurricular hobby groups including those for paduk, violin, jangu and

piano.

Thanks to selfless efforts of its teachers, the kindergarten has produced a lot of talents in recent years.

Among them were Jon Kwon Un who gave pleasure to the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un by presenting a collection of his pictures to him, Kim Yu Phyoung who won the first place at the 15th national contest of kindergarten children with excellent talents and Hwang Ri Jong who won a gold medal and diploma by presenting her clay sculpture "Good harvest" at the Sixth National Sculpture

and Craftwork Festival. This year, O Sin A won the spring Pyongyang municipal children's paduk contest.

The teachers say that effective in the education to make children well-mannered and honest and have them get into good habits of life were a method of using cartoons and fairy tale picture books which interestingly show lessons from life and that of giving red stars to good children.

Quite pleased with their children's admirable growth, the parents of children at the kindergarten say they completely entrust their children to the kindergarten.



Children learn to play the national musical instrument, jangu (an hourglass drum).



Children are engrossed in intelligent games. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Continuous innovation and advance

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The working people in various sectors of the national economy are making continuous innovations and advance to implement the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

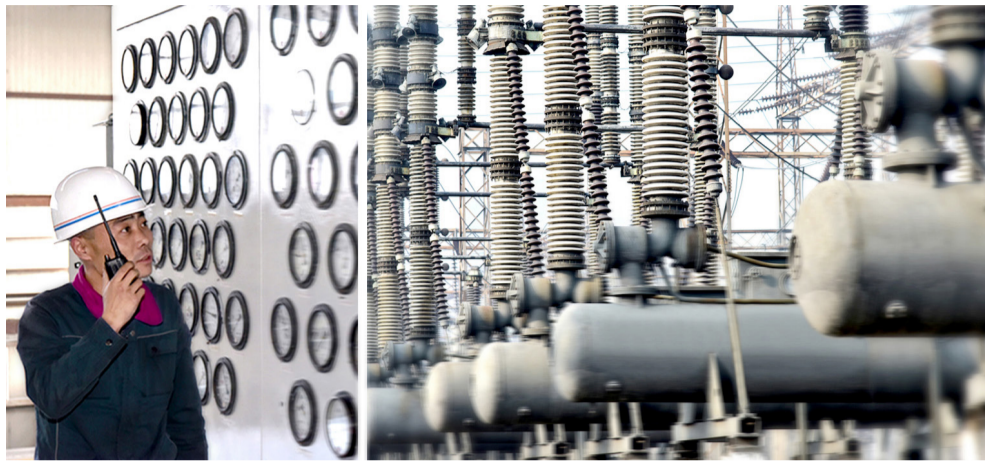
The workers of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex step up the production of iron and steel with a determination to attain at any cost this year's fighting goal set forth by the Party.

Smelters are boosting the production of Juche iron every day by staging a vigorous technical innovation competition.

They make strenuous efforts to acquire high technical knowledge and skills by effectively holding the study session of technical knowledge, experience-sharing meeting and others.

The employees of the oxygen plant branch factory carefully check and repair equipment while introducing technical innovation and rationalization plans for increased production. Those of the gas generator workshop increase production ever day by performing technical management of the production process in a responsible manner while widely applying rational furnace operating methods according to the qualitative indexes of fuels.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and



The daily production plans are overfulfilled at the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex.

the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex vigorously waged the patriotic struggle for increased production, turning out thousands of tons of more fertilizer than planned while saving a large amount of coal this year.

The working people of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex have achieved marked successes by putting efforts into the increased production of electric power.

According to data available, the complex has produced millions of kWh of more electric power than planned while saving a large quantity of coal this year.

While focusing on lowering the norm of materials consumption per unit and increasing the number of operating generators by raising the efficiency of generating equipment, its employees continued to update the

technical and economic indexes such as the increase in the number of working days per generator and heat and combustion efficiencies.

Many coal mines across the country have brought about an upswing in production.

Thanks to the energetic struggle of the officials in the coal-mining industry sector and coal miners to contribute to the prosperity and development of the country by producing more coal, coal production has increased remarkably up to now this year over the same period of last year.

The workers of the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex now stand at the forefront of the advance for a great upsurge.

The Phunggok Youth Coal Mine is overfulfilling its production plan every day by positively employing effective working methods while

actively waging the campaign to overtake, model after and share experience with others.

The Hoean and Namdok youth coal mines are boosting production every day by promoting close cooperation between shifts and introducing mining methods to suit the conditions of working faces.

While giving definite precedence to long-term tunnelling, the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex has waged the vigorous high-speed heading movement to secure enough reserve coal fields. The Anju Area Coal-mining Complex, the Kaecheon Area Coal-mining Complex, the Onsong Area Coal-mining Complex, the Chonnae Area Coal-mining Complex and others continue to expand the successes in production while giving definite precedence to the heading excavation and narrowing.

By channelling efforts into strengthening technical forces

By Kim Il Jin PT

These days the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 is overfulfilling its plan for the production of electric cables of various sizes.

"The secret of our success is the development and introduction of valuable technical innovation plans," said section chief Jo Song Uk.

It effectively runs the sci-tech learning space to help all its employees acquire knowledge for coming up with technical innovations and inventions according to their occupations.

This year alone, the workers of the factory presented dozens of technical innovation plans and inventions and introduced into practice several of them with high economic

effectiveness and profitability, thereby contributing to further revitalizing production.

Meanwhile, the factory is pressing on with the modernization of equipment in a planned way, thus achieving good results.

It upgraded a low-speed drawing machine to double the qualitative indices of products and newly made and introduced a winder for the plastic extrusion process to increase productivity 1.2 times as compared to before.

It also strives to develop new products. As a result, it produces a fireproof electrical wire using nano mica bands. It is said that the wire can be used at the temperatures between minus 60 degrees centigrade and plus 800 degrees centigrade.



Cable production is boosted at the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326. JO CHOL JU / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

High-quality phalwolphul sugar produced

By Choe Song Jun PT

Phalwolphul (stevia) sugar extracted from phalwolphul is a very profitable solution to the sugar problem, which accords with the actual situation of the country.

After gaining public favour at various exhibitions, including the Pyongyang municipal consumer goods exhibition and the light industry goods exhibition "Light Industry Development-2023",

phalwolphul sugar was registered as a February 2 Product last year.

"The sweet taste of phalwolphul sugar is hundreds of times stronger than white sugar, but the natural substance is not harmful to health even after an extended use and also has preventive and curative effects on diabetes, hypertension and other diseases," said Kim Myong Sik, senior engineer of the Pyongyang Phalwolphul Processing Factory.

According to him, phalwolphul sugar is widely used in the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

Even after extracting sugar, the remnants of stevia leaves still contain many organic substances so that they can be used as fertilizer effective for soil improvement.

The factory produces high-quality phalwolphul sugar by introducing advanced science and technology.

It has put the production

processes on a modern and germ-free basis and ensured domestic production of raw and other materials. It is now directing efforts to further improving the taste of phalwolphul sugar and increasing the output.

By applying various research successes like the air oxidation method for improving the features of the condensation process, an important part of sugar production, it increased the sugar extraction rate 1.2 times as compared to previously.

It also increased steam production while saving electricity, raised the capacity of the desalination and decolorization processes and established recycling processes in several production lines to ensure profitability.

Thus, it is producing more sugar than before with the same amount of raw materials, while improving its quality considerably.

Phalwolphul sugar produced by the factory is in high demand at many foodstuff factories across the country.



The Pyongyang Phalwolphul Processing Factory turns out a large quantity of stevia sugar. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Production boosted, per-unit coal consumption reduced

By Ri Sang Il PT

As the upward trend of the national economy continues, the demand for coal is on a constant rise.

In line with this, the metallurgical, chemical and electric-power industries and other economic sectors have further increased the development potential of the national economy by lowering the norm of coal consumption as much as possible.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex has run the pig iron production process on a more scientific and technological way and improved the quality indices of the fireproof material to lengthen the repair cycle of blast furnaces two to three times, thus saving thousands of tons of coal a year.

The Chongjin Steel Works established an anthracite granulation process and introduced a method of

using seawater effective in accelerating combustion and hardening, thereby ensuring production at a high level while lowering the norm of coal consumption per unit.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex has actively introduced a method of lowering the coal consumption norm.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex has improved the performance of thermal power generating equipment and converted the previous control system into a more advanced distributed control system, thereby saving a great deal of coal while producing hundreds of thousands of kWh of more electricity every day as compared to previously.

Other thermal power stations across the country have steadily lowered the coal consumption norms by conducting a positive mass technical innovation movement.

Building-materials production bases increase production capacity

By Kil Chung Il PT

With the regional and rural construction gaining momentum, provinces, cities and counties step up their efforts to lay a solid foundation for producing finishing materials.

South Hamgyong Province increases the production of

tiles, plastic sashes, paints and other materials needed for rural construction by expanding the production capacity of the Songchongang Tile Factory and other finishing materials producers.

It added a metal fittings production base to a daily necessities factory and a water supply pipe production base to

a plastic processing factory.

Cities and counties there also build their own production bases.

Kumya, Jongphyong, Hamju and other counties are setting up production processes whose production capacities are large enough to fully meet their regional demands and whose levels

are as high as those of the centrally-run factories.

As the experience of the province has been generalized to others and their successes are shared, the production bases of finishing materials have been newly built or renovated at high speed and normalize production in all provinces.



Production is normalized at a building-materials production base newly built in Kangnam County of Pyongyang Municipality. PAE CHOL SU / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

'Treasure station'

By Jong Chol PT

The Tanchon non-metal processing station has laid a new foundation for producing finishing materials to produce various kinds of such materials.

After developing a tile adhesive, it buckled down to the development of different kinds of paints including coating materials for the interior and exterior in high demand at construction sites.

The goal of the station is to simultaneously develop and produce various paints ranked among the best ones in the country.

Its strenuous efforts enabled the station to develop seven kinds of paints at a time and launch into production of them. And it developed in succession a tile filler and an artificial stone slab with magnesite dust ores as a raw material.

A little afterwards, it has also been producing heavy calcium carbonate by using the by-products from marble processing at a unit. It is in great demand as it is a good raw material for paints and paper.

The station is now recognized as a station that can develop anything if it wants and a unit with a competitive edge that cannot be neglected in the development of finishing materials.

"In a matter of some years, the variety of our products increased to dozens and our per-employee output value went up considerably. What makes us more proud is that our unit is called a 'treasure station' contributing to the living of the local people. We will keep the honour as a 'treasure station' by shaping a better future by our own efforts, valuing our own things," said Pak Hyon, chief of the station.

Attention paid to training skilled construction workers

By Han Jong Ho PT

Efforts are being made across the country to build up the ranks of skilled construction workers in order to push ahead with

rural construction.

Rangnang District in Pyongyang Municipality runs a skilled construction workers school in a methodological way.

It has added to the existing

teaching contents and methods such relevant information as construction methods of different modern structures and advanced construction sci-tech successes in order to provide students with

conditions and environment favourable for acquiring them.

It intensifies extracurricular practical training by involving students in the construction of dwelling houses.

In particular, it subdivided departments and training courses on the principle of specialization by jobs to enhance the level of education.

At present, the ranks of skilled construction workers

in the district have grown 4.7 times as much as those at the initial days of its construction unit, while the number of technical innovation plans presented keeps increasing with the passage of time.

Several construction units in Manpho City of Jagang Province also qualitatively train skilled workers with professional knowledge related to plastering, welding,

measuring, etc., while focusing on building operation.

Many other local areas, including Wonsan City of Kangwon Province, Jangjin County of South Hamgyong Province and Hwaphyong and Chosan counties of Jagang Province, are working to rapidly increase the ranks of skilled workers in order to thoroughly ensure the quality of structures.

Rural houses on the increase

By An Hyok Chol PT

New houses are being built in succession in different parts of the DPRK, ranging from a remote mountain village to a farm at the edge of Yonbaek Plain, a "granary" on the west coast of the country, also this year, the fifth year in implementing the Workers' Party of Korea's rural revolution programme in the new era, bringing about a sea change to the appearance of rural communities.

Agricultural workers of the Kujang and Muan farms in Tokchon City and the Sampha Farm in Sinyang County are now living in new dwelling houses designed in

diverse and unique styles to preserve the features peculiar to the mountainous areas and ensure modernity and aesthetic beauty.

House-moving also took place at many other farms, including the Choun Farm of Hamhung City, South Hamgyong Province, the Ssangbong Farm of Hoesang District in the same city and the Sillyang Farm of Songnim City, North Hwanghae Province.

Rural villages are spruced up each year, preserving their unique local charms and features. Dwelling houses have cosy living rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, warehouses and all others designed for the convenience

of their owners. And they go well with the distinctive landscapes adorned with different kinds of fruit trees and other good species of trees.

Agricultural workers give cheerful dance parties at such new ideal socialist villages as a token of their joy of receiving

new houses gratis from the state at the same time.

It is not just dwelling houses that are newly built in rural communities.

Modern public and production buildings rose up along with such splendid houses at different farms like the Chilgol Vegetable Farm

in Mangyongdae District of Pyongyang and the Toksan Farm under the South Hamgyong Provincial Rural Economy Committee.

All these are the outcome of the painstaking efforts of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un who puts his heart and soul into providing a

new life and new civilization to be envied by urbanites to agricultural workers who devote their patriotic efforts on windy fields all the year round in order to fill the granary of the country. Under his loving care, lots of new houses continue to be built in rural villages.



New farmhouses continue to spring up in rural communities across the country.

Korean-style new lead smelting technology developed

By Han Jong Ho PT

The Munphyong Smeltery has introduced a coke-free lead smelting technology into production.

The new lead smelting technology, the first of its kind in the world metallurgical industry, clearly proved its scientific accuracy in the period of the past five-year plan for national economic development.

Twenty years ago, the officials and working people of the smeltery put an end to the nonferrous metal production relying on imported coke and embarked on the road of Juche-based nonferrous metal production in high spirits.

They buckled down to the establishment of a production process entirely relying on the locally available fuel and groped their way to the building of a new Korean-style nonferrous metallurgical industry with decades-long painstaking quest and devoted efforts.

Fully conscious that

completing a coke-free smelting method at any cost is the only way for the smeltery to survive and the way to patriotism for building up independence of the country's economy, they made every possible effort. But the door to success did not open easily.

So the smeltery opted for introducing the nonferrous metal production method based on the method of using the blowing pipe-type oxidation furnace, one of the coke-free smelting methods which had become a global trend at that time.

It completed the technical process and gave it a trial run, but the cost for operating the furnace was said to be enormous.

"At that time we learned a lesson that we could not realize Juche-based lead production if we employ other's technology dogmatically without considering the specific conditions of our country," said Manager Kwon Yong Nam.

The employees of the smeltery hardened their will

again and redoubled efforts. In the course of it, they came up with an idea that they could make agglomerate with the help of a rotary kiln.

As the method of using rotary kiln was not found in any technical documents and there were no precedents for applying it in other countries, it provoked a heated argument among the authoritative scientists and technicians in the metallurgical circles.

But the smeltery developed the new technology inch by inch, switching from a small test furnace over to the pilot production process and then to the stage of industrialization with a determination that it should buckle down to the project without condition and succeed at any cost if it is possible even a little and that if it does not have a try, it will remain an empty word to put the nonferrous metallurgical industry on a Juche basis.

Finally, a lead smelting industry based on the new revolving furnace-electric furnace method in the world has been established.

To further perfect Juche-based iron production system

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Ministry of Metallurgical Industry is striving to further refine the Korean-style iron- and steel-making methods.

The ministry has taken practical measures to further perfect the Juche-based iron-making system on the basis of the detailed analysis of the existing production conditions at the iron and steel production bases and the experience gained so far in putting the metal industry on a Juche basis.

Officials and workers of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex are intensifying a technical campaign.

Amid the strenuous activities of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade, the complex is simultaneously pushing ahead with the work to raise the scientific level of all the processes for the production of Juche-based iron.

While giving precedence to technical preparations for remodelling the fire chamber of the concentrated ore drying furnace with emphasis put on increasing its capacity, blast furnace

workshops Nos. 1 and 2 are conducting a vigorous mass technical innovation movement to supply raw materials and fuel according to standards, including the particle size of anthracite.

The oxygen plant branch factory, too, smoothly produces high-purity oxygen while regularly readjusting and reinforcing the air filter system.

Amid the growing enthusiasm of the producers at all workshops to improve technical indices and raise actual yield in all elements of production, the technicians and skilled workers of the complex are fully displaying their ability to step up the work to increase the productivity of oxygen blast furnaces and improve the quality of iron and steel.

The workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex are also eager to consolidate the foundation for iron and steel production by dint of science and technology.

Though different in task, the technical innovation teams of the complex are putting spurs to the talent and research campaign with a desire to make new

innovations in the production of iron and steel.

The technical innovation teams set high goals, including the one of increasing the productivity of the oxidizing roasting pellets over 1.5 times as compared to previously, and relevant technicians and skilled workers are pooling their wisdom and efforts without vacillation.

The work to introduce a production management system for the oxygen blast furnaces in close contact with a research group of the Metal Engineering Faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology is also in full swing, thanks to the creative passion of the workers and technicians of the complex to increase the production of iron and steel and improve their quality.

Meanwhile, other different units of the metal industrial sector are stepping up the work to further perfect the Juche-based iron production system by fully relying on science and technology, including the Chollima Steel Complex which has pushed ahead with the work to determine a new iron production method.

Scientific research achievements of practical significance

By Choe Song Jun PT

Scientific research findings of great significance in reality have been announced in recent years, contributing to the country's economic development.

The technical group of the Tacan Heavy Machine Complex established a bearing steel production method using the pig iron made with the oxygen-blast furnace.

The complex developed the bearing steel production method using pig iron made with the oxygen-blast furnace and built a production process.

According to experts, the bearing steel produced by the complex is cheaper in price and much longer in lifespan than imported steel.

The Central Mining Research

Institute of the State Academy of Sciences set up a process of flotation based on air power loader.

It laid the foundations for boosting productivity by massively processing ores. On the basis of the analysis of data on the world trend related to the process of flotation, the scientists of the institute intensified research to develop an air power loader which can turn dressing plants into energy-, site- and labour-saving ones while expanding their processing capacity and succeeded in it. The research finding can reportedly be introduced into all dressing plants of the country irrespective of the kinds of minerals.

The Academy of Hydrometeorology under the State Hydro-Meteorological

Administration developed an integrated weather forecast system using AI technology.

It improves the accuracy of weather forecast and performs all processes from the acquisition of data to the presentation and general display of forecasts objectively, automatically and in real time by employing artificial intelligence technology.

The food research institute of the Academy of Food and Consumer Goods Industries under the Ministry of Regional Industry set up advanced production processes of wheat flour gluten reinforcing agents and natural preservatives.

The development and production of wheat flour gluten reinforcing agents and natural preservatives with local technology and raw materials opened up the prospects for producing special wheat flour suitable for making various kinds of tasty and quality processed wheat products in all regions of the country and boosting their storage safety. The researchers of the institute set themselves a goal of producing quality wheat products and developed and introduced novel ideas while confirming scientific technical indices which will help increase the intensity of gluten.

In cooperation with the Microbiology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences and other units they have already established a rational method of mixing new materials and are now stepping up the preparations for normalizing production.

Academy focuses on solving sci-tech problems arising in practice

Researchers are engrossed in improving automatic control systems at the Automation Institute under the State Academy of Sciences. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The State Academy of Sciences has solved urgent scientific and technological problems arising in practice including the reduction of costs and the ensuring of the sustainability of production through the improvement of the efficiency of the productive forces.

The scientists of Paper Engineering Institute, who were dispatched to the Unsan Paper Mill in South Phyongan Province, are further perfecting the paper production process by finding innovative ways to update technical indices at each process and machine while reducing production costs associated with raw materials, chemical agents, etc.

Those of the Control Machine Institute introduced a high-precision NC device, test robot and the like into production units last year. At present, they are working on the calculation of distance and speed control for

confirming the design and technical indices for their research project.

The institute is also developing a CNC device with the economic efficiency capable of enhancing the system reliability based on software structure and ensuring various kinds of functions of multi-axis, special and complex processing.

The scientists of the Automation Institute made lots of sci-tech achievements in the past, including the completion of research into an automatic combustion control system based on the principle of optimum amount of oxygen and the establishment of an integrated automation system for the thenardite production process. They are pushing ahead with the establishment of integrated automation systems for different production processes including that for the reduced iron production process based on coal gasification-vertical reduction furnace.



Employees of the State Hydro-Meteorological Administration strive to improve scientific accuracy and promptness of weather observation and forecast.

Distinctive school

By Ri Sang Il PT

Jonjin Senior Middle School in Rangnang District was newly built as an integrated one in November last year.

An integrated school is an educational institution established to make it possible for schools at all levels, ranging from kindergartens to primary schools and junior and senior middle schools, to organize and conduct education in a unified way in close contact with one another.

Kim Un Ok, principal of the school, said that such a school can give education in a systemic, unified and scientific way on the same line to suit the aptitudes and characters of individual students in the same campus and maximize the effectiveness of education by organically combining four school types in terms of management.

The school has distinctive educational conditions and environment for giving students and other children satisfactory sequential education and practical education according to their gifts and aptitudes.

Here are some parts of the school's educational environment different from those of other schools.

AI education room

The AI education room of the school is equipped with all kinds of modern educational facilities and equipment including robot for education to give education in AI technology stage by stage.

Kindergarten children play with robots as extracurricular activities to acquire knowledge which will enable them to receive next-stage education in AI technology and children in the primary school course learn simple algorithms.

Those in the junior middle school course receive education in programming, while those in the senior middle school course learn the ABC of AI technology through the designing, making and operation of robots that suit their levels.

TV broadcast and children's broadcast rooms

The school has a TV broadcast room and children's broadcast room.

Equipped with a new service system, the rooms serve as the



Kindergarten children and students get excellent education at Jonjin Senior Middle School, an integrated one, in Rangnang District, Pyongyang. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The rooms encourage students to do good things and develop their talents while studying hard and thereby take the stage to boast of their sources of pride. In particular, they are very influential as they inspire students to try to perform as a child announcer.

Teaching method laboratory

The school also has a teaching method laboratory equipped with modern educational means and various teaching resources, where teachers can have meetings according to school types and departments or joint department meetings.

There, teachers get together to intensify research for creating teaching methods, and the officials of the school, teachers in charge and those for subjects of special study pool their wisdom to discuss efficient teaching methods by taking students' results into account.

The database established in the laboratory supports teachers in their efforts to invent new teaching methods.

Practical classroom

Every classroom for the primary school course is provided with teaching aids needed for the implementation of the curriculum.

Little schoolchildren personally operate the teaching aids at after-school hours to consolidate the knowledge they have learned and prepare for the next lessons.

It is something new at the school that every student is allowed to handle teaching aids.

venue for various meetings, such as a meeting for honour students to

tell about their pride and a meeting to present talents, helping improve

the efficiency of education and edification.

New teaching methods developed in general education field

By Kil Chung Il PT

The general education institutions in Pyongyang Municipality intensify their efforts to develop new teaching methods conducive to training students as talents.

Changdok School worked out a heuristic teaching method to help students obtain a theoretical understanding of the contents of education through the course of visiting factories and enterprises related to the

contents of the next lessons after school and conceiving, designing and putting into effect the most realistic and rational experimental plan.

New teaching methods invented at Kang Pan Sok Senior Middle School, Moranbong Middle School No. 1 and other schools include a study guidance method based on the intelligent teaching control system, a student-oriented extracurricular

teaching method using a new extracurricular group operation support program and a teaching method to develop the space representation ability and ability to conceive through new teaching aids.

Many teaching methods are very helpful in systematically improving students' command of foreign languages according to school systems.

In particular, the method

of teaching students with high intuitional thinking abilities the rules on English pronunciation to suit their characteristics, which was worked out at Kim Song Ju Primary School, is effective in intensifying foreign language education for students at the stage of primary school.

Effective teaching methods have also been developed by preschool educational institutions.

Among them are children's

robot education support program for developing children's observation, memory, thinking and understanding, a teaching method helping children easily learn the content of the foreign language textbook for kindergarten by singing it to the tune of interesting songs and consolidate the pronunciations of words and sentences by playing a drama on the theme of fairy tale, and a teaching

method for solidifying the basic pronunciations and improving the speaking ability in foreign languages by encouraging children to often use the words and sentences they learned at every opportune time in their daily routine at kindergarten and family life. They are very helpful in promoting the kindergarten education according to the second universal 12-year compulsory education programme.

Magic performance adds to joy and optimism of audience

By Pang Un Ju PT

The magicians of the National Acrobatic Troupe have recently staged various numbers including fantasies “TV and a magician”, “A magician and chair” and “A disappeared girl” and rapports and fantasies “A magician on the screen” and “Inward thought”, gaining in popularity from the audience.

In fantasy “TV and a magician” the magician shows various fantastic scenes by using a large box. The box has four LED screens and they are sliding doors to the box. Through them the audience can see the actors and actresses in the box. They can see an actress on the LED screens change her attire in a moment and move though her body is divided into four parts. Particularly when the head of the magician on the LED screens goes up and down, the audience burst into enthusiastic applause.

“Magic is further developing not only by hand skills or equipment, but also by science and technology. This magic piece highlights both magical and visual effects by applying information technology,” said magician Kim Ju Song.

In fantasy “A magician and chair”, new chairs continue to come out from a square column-shaped box which is open at the top and bottom and the magician sits down on a chair in the middle of the

stage and disappears at the moment when the covering is removed.

“I could hardly stifle a laugh as I saw the magician, who sat on a chair in a white outer garment, saying that he would like to inform us, audience, of the secret of magic of disappearing in a moment, sneak out of the stage behind the covering. But when the laugh turned into a surprise, I came to know the charm of this magic piece,” said Yu Hak Jin, one of the audience.

The scene of the magician in a white outer garment slipping out of the stage is a comic element designed for relieving the audience of tension. When the magician is changed into a girl and the magician who performed on the stage appears in the auditorium, the laugh of the audience turns into a surprise.

Fantasy “A disappeared girl” also fully arouses audience’s curiosity.

They give unstinting applause to a beautiful girl magician who passes through the blades of a large electric fan which cut a sheaf of papers into pieces in a moment.

Magic piece “A magician on the screen” is a work which combines the rapport and fantasy.

Unlike the previous rapport, the magician shares a rapport with an audience member who is invited to the stage on the LED screen facing the auditorium. The magician on



Some scenes of performances given by magicians of the National Acrobatic Troupe. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

the screen breaks a balloon held by the invited person or correctly tells what his or her inward thought is. He

correctly guesses the words that only the invited person and audience know and shows what they are in the form of

actual things on the stage, surprising all the audience.

The mysterious and kaleidoscopic magic tricks

performed by magicians of the National Acrobatic Troupe add to the joy and optimism of the audience.

Korean costume shop gets increasing orders

By Pang Un Ju PT

Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) is the traditional costume favoured by the Korean women.

The Tongsong Korean

Costume Shop of the Central District General Tailor Shop on Chollima Street in the capital city of Pyongyang enjoys a high reputation among customers as it is a good maker of Korean costume.

According to Kim Myong

Hwa, head of the shop, in order to make Korean costume properly, it is important to know well about the features of Korean *chima* and *jogori* and its features are, in a nutshell, nobility, beauty and elegance in the aspects of

shape, colour and pattern.

She added that it is needed to preserve well the unique ratio of Korean costume, beauty of its gentle curves and rhythmicity of its shape, and especially to select colour well.

The shop lays particular stress on the correct selection of the colour of material in keeping with the customers’ ages, facial shapes and complexions.

Kim Myong Hwa has worked as the chief of the shop for a long time, accumulated rich experience and won diplomas several times at the national Korean costume shows in the past.

Each of her various designs for traditional Korean clothes had its distinctive features and beauty. Among them were a design for the wedding clothes in which

classic beauty and modern beauty were combined well and refined techniques of decoration were introduced, including hand embroidery and picture decoration, a design for the holiday clothes which had light pink flower patterns on a white ground and whose skirt hem was uniquely decorated in the shape of flower petals and a design for the costume whose deep blue skirt and light pink jacket were sparsely embroidered with chrysanthemum patterns.

The shop adheres to a principle of not remaking the Korean costume which was made earlier and everyone racks their brains to create novel and unique traditional clothes.

Therefore, it is said that every customer becomes a

regular, once they have their clothes made there.

“Upon hearing that this shop was an excellent maker of Korean costume, I visited it to place an order for *chima* and *jogori* some months ago. They made for me very nice clothes whose colour, pattern, decoration and all suited my figure and complexion. I have come here today to place an order for the wedding clothes of my daughter and for traditional clothes of my mother-in-law,” said Ri Jong Hwa, a resident in Sochang-dong of Central District.

Kim Myong Hwa said that the employees of the shop feel pride in being the makers of Korean costume and find the worth of their life in seeing customers love and favour the traditional clothes they made.



Employees discuss how to enhance features of Korean *chima* and *jogori* well at the Tongsong Korean Costume Shop of the Central District General Tailor Shop. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



The Rungna Amusement Park resounds with happy laughter of people.

Rungna Islet, a scenic spot in Pyongyang

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Rungna Islet is one of the scenic spots in Pyongyang.

The islet formed by accumulation of sediments in the Taedong River is 2.71 kilometres long, 6 kilometres round and about 10 metres above sea level on average.

The name of the islet in the Taedong River is derived from the sight of weeping willows with their long thin branches hanging down above the river like the spread rolls of silk.

The sight of mallards dabbling on the river meandering round the edge of Chongnyu Cliff of Moran Hill well-known for its scenic peaks is spectacular

against the backdrop of the landscape of the islet.

Located on the islet are May Day Stadium which looks like a magnolia blossom in full bloom, the Rungna People's Recreation Ground and Pyongyang International Football School.

The sports park near the football school has a football pitch, badminton, tennis and basketball courts and other sports grounds.

Keen amateurs practise sports skills or play matches there. Their faces are full of the joy of honing skills through continuous training, the pleasure of winners and the satisfaction after relieving fatigue through exercises.

The Rungna Amusement

Park is a favourite haunt of many people.

A sightseeing vehicle shuttles between districts 1 and 2 of the park for the convenience of visitors. Its resemblance to a steam engine makes it more eye-catching.

When the evening glow is reflected on the ripples of the Taedong River and electric lights are on, the park rings with howls of laughter.

The brightly-illuminated amusement facilities, such as the mad mouse with a steep, serpentine track, the octopus merry-go-round which revolves so fast that riders cannot distinguish the sky from the earth, the vertical swing and the wind shear, resound with continuous cheers of excitement.

The amusement arcade full of various game machines is a crowd-puller, and the Rungna 4D Simulation Cinema always has a full house.

Visitors experience the wonders of the ecological environment of the Jurassic era and the life-like fights of dinosaurs amid fear and tension, the fright of suddenly facing a shark in the Antarctic, the joy of zipping downhill at the snow-covered Masikryong Ski Resort and the thrill of crushing enemy ships on a bomber. They can also have a trip to world famous relics.

The Rungnado restaurant, noodle house, laver rice roll house and pancake house also satisfy the customers

with distinctive services.

In sultry summer, the Rungna Water Park is always crowded.

Water-sliding is the most popular activity in the water park, which is equipped with a diving tower, water slides, several pools and courts for volleyball, basketball and beach volleyball.

The sight of people sliding down on floats from the 18-metre-high tower along tracks with an incline of nearly 60 degrees offers a vicarious thrill.

Political and cultural festivals of national significance and major sports games are held at May Day Stadium with 150 000 seats. The stadium in a distinctive architectural style brims with great excitement whenever

grand mass gymnastics, artistic performances and sports games are held there.

There is also the national *ssirum* ground on the islet.

When a *ssirum* contest, a national sports game popular among the Korean people, is held there, the attention of the whole country is focused on the national *ssirum* ground. That is why it is called a "small but large sports arena".

The ginkgo tree on Rungna Islet which has grown for hundreds of years also adds beauty to its scenery.

A witness to the history of the islet which became more famous for the happy laughter of people along with its natural beauty, the tree was recently registered as a natural monument.



Rungna Water Park.



May Day Stadium.

On the strength of single-minded unity

By Pang Un Ju PT

Unity is the source of strength, and every country and nation seeks it.

The DPRK which already achieved single-minded unity makes steady development on the strength of it.

Single-minded unity is the state of people being joined together in one mind and for the common purpose.

The single-minded unity of the DPRK is the unity in which the masses of the people are united with inseparable ties centring on the leader.

The past 10-odd years in the course of development of the country were a period of unprecedented ordeals beset with tough challenges. But political stability was fully ensured in the country and the advantages of socialism were further displayed.

The Workers' Party of Korea adopted one policy after another to improve the people's living standards and make them enjoy a civilized and

affluent material and cultural life despite difficulties and implemented them persistently. The people, taking the afflictions of the country as their pain, supported every plan of the Party and did their best to carry them out.

When the hostile forces went to extremes in their moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK, it was the people's absolute trust that gave the Party infinite strength.

The genuine feature of the DPRK's single-minded unity is that it gets firmer, not weaker, in the face of manifold difficulties and obstacles.

Single-minded unity is the inexhaustible motive power for comprehensive rejuvenation and prosperity of the country.

The DPRK is now in a fresh golden age of development and a period of comprehensive development.

It was just thanks to the strength of single-minded unity that the country could open up the period of

comprehensive development in the difficult situation in which defending itself by overcoming all difficulties was a round of the revolution and pioneering.

As all the people pool their ideas and strength in their efforts to implement the policies of the state with absolute trust in it, they could herald a new era when all domains of politics, military, economy and culture develop at the same time and when the whole country, not only the capital city but also the regions, undergo a transformation all together through the regional development revolution, rural revolution and public health revolution.

Today the Korean people, invariably holding aloft the single-minded unity as the banner of struggle and advance, are further stepping up socialist construction which entered a new stage of overall development with the Ninth Congress of the WPK as a starting point.

'Unmasking the Appeal: countering nicotine and tobacco addiction'



Kim Yun Hui
Directress of the Tobacco Cessation Centre

Activities are now being conducted to prohibit smoking in the world.

Many countries have enacted and enforced tobacco-prohibition laws. Accordingly, smoking and tobacco advertising were prohibited in almost all public places.

The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day (May 31) is "Unmasking the Appeal: countering nicotine and tobacco addiction".

Smoking claims the lives of more people than natural calamities and accidents.

Cigarette smoke contains lots of harmful chemical substances such as nicotine, carbon monoxide, ammonia, methyl alcohol and arsenic.

Therefore, smoking can be referred to as a gradual suicide.

The problem is that most smokers do not give up smoking, although they know that it is hazardous to health.

There are several reasons for that. One of them is tobacco addiction.

Nicotine in cigarette smoke is a

kind of addictive substance, and a person who once got into a habit of smoking finds it hard to quit it. And many smokers almost neglect the warning of the danger of smoking as damage by smoking occurs gradually, not immediately.

Smoking seriously damages not only human health but also ecological environment.

Bad substances in cigarette smoke pollute clean air which people breathe. Smoking generates waste such as cigarette ash, butts and packs, and discarding cigarette butts without discretion is regarded as one of the main causes of fire.

As seen above, smoking has nothing beneficial to human life.

It is becoming a social trend to provide various special services for smoking quitters and to impose a lot of restrictions on smokers.

Steps are also being taken to help people quit smoking.

The no-smoking campaign has positively been conducted in our

country, too.

It has taken measures to restrict smoking in society since the late 1980s and waged a no-smoking campaign throughout the whole society since 2005, when it became a party to the framework convention on tobacco control of the WHO.

In 2020 the DPRK tobacco-prohibition law was adopted and its enforcement regulations and detailed rules were enacted.

Our Tobacco Cessation Centre puts up various printed matters and notices about the harmfulness of tobacco at places of its sale and smoking places across the country and conducts various information activities to encourage people to quit smoking.

It measures the nicotine accumulations in the human body and provides people with consultation to make them take an active part in the cessation campaign.

Such smoking cessation products as nutrition pills, nicotine-based pills, chewing gum and pipe are being produced, and books are published to help those who want to quit smoking.

Our country promotes exchanges and cooperation with the WHO in the field of tobacco control to share experience in cessation activities.

Smokers have to stop smoking for themselves and their families.

Regional development policy and rural revolution programme in new era

By Kim Rye Yong PT

The regional development policy and rural revolution programme in the new era of the Workers' Party of Korea are being implemented vigorously.

The core of the regional development policy in the new era is that anyone who is born in the DPRK should lead an abundant and civilized life under the socialist policy of the state, whether they live in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and they should do so without fail. And the Party's goal for socialist rural construction is to model all the rural communities across the country on the Juche idea and make them materially affluent.

In just two years after the regional development policy was put forward, new regional-industry factories have been built in cities and counties accounting for one fifth of the country, contributing to the economic development of regions and the improvement of the residents' living standards. Hospitals which provide advanced medical services and leisure complexes have been built to bring about a marked change in the promotion of the people's health and their cultural life.

In addition, in a few years after the rural revolution programme was adopted, splendid dwelling houses have sprung up in rural areas and changes began to take place in different aspects, including the structure of cereal production, mechanization of agriculture, irrigation system, farming methods and level of ideological consciousness and civilization of farm workers.

The reality proves that the regional development policy and rural revolution programme in the new era are the correct guidelines for achieving the development of regions in conformity with the period of the comprehensive development of socialism.

The WPK set forth a strategy for state building that the development of the regions leads to the overall prosperity and growth of the state and is putting big efforts to the regional development.

The regional industry, along with the centrally-run industry, plays an important role in developing the country's economy.

Successful implementation of the regional development policy and rural revolution programme can ensure the balance of the overall economy and thus enable the national economy to achieve independent and sustainable development.

In order for the regional development policy to sustain due vitality, it must be carried out in parallel with the rural revolution programme.

One of the key issues in implementing the regional development policy is the normal operation of the regional-industry factories and, to this end, it is necessary to supply enough raw materials and fuels to them and offer a proper balance between demand and supply.

Many of the regional-industry factories use agricultural produce as raw materials and various consumer goods produced by them are mainly conducive to meeting the demands of agricultural workers and other local people.

Therefore, only when the economic connection between the regional industry and agriculture is strengthened by radically increasing the agricultural productivity as indicated by the rural revolution programme, can the regional industry develop at a fast rate relying on the rich sources of raw materials and satisfy the growing material demand of regional people for consumer goods.

In order to put the whole country on an even cultural level by building up the regions to be as wonderful as the capital city and transforming the environment of the regional people for a cultured life, it is necessary to make radical changes in the appearance and environment of all rural communities as well as city and county seats.

By thoroughly implementing the rural revolution programme, a good environment for cultured life should be provided and positive changes be made in the rhythm, habit and way of life of agricultural workers.

In other words, only when the rural revolution programme is implemented vigorously can the regional development policy display its validity as a policy for eliminating the differences between urban and rural areas once and for all.

BYWORD

New life and civilization

The Workers' Party of Korea is constantly increasing its policies for the people to promote their wellbeing and realize their dreams and ideals.

The construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, pushed as the most important task of the Eighth Congress of the WPK, has been completed, with the result that nearly

60 000 flats and public buildings epitomizing advanced civilization have appeared in the Songsin and Songhwa area and the Hwasong area, while happy events of moving into new houses have taken place in succession across the country.

Many farms have turned into "rural towns" and "greenhouse towns",

changing the life of farmers.

Thanks to the Party's regional development policy, regional-industry factories and leisure complexes, modern hospitals, grain storage stations have been built in cities and counties across the country.

Art theatres, stadiums, gymnasiums, riding

clubs, air clubs, water parks, bathing beaches and other wonderful bases for cultural and leisure activities have also appeared across the country.

In the country which changes day after day, the Korean people are leading a happy life, creating a new life and civilization to their heart's content.

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African nations work to remove remnants from colonial days, promote independent development

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Many African countries are making more positive efforts to eliminate the remnants from colonial days and reject dominationism.

Recently, the Algerian ambassador to the United Nations censured France for its past crimes at an international meeting.

Exposing the fact that France had committed 17 nuclear tests in Algeria in the 1960s, he said that people suffering from congenital diseases were found around the test site, but the former has neither identified the exact test site nor provided necessary information. The French authorities have conducted a programme for eliminating pollution in French Polynesia, but, on the other hand, they refuse to accept the proposal concerning the removal of pollution in Algeria, he noted, adding that it can never be justified.

France occupied Algeria in the 1830s and enforced a harsh colonial rule over it.

Hundreds of thousands of Algerians have so far suffered pains due to the consequences of the nuclear test committed by France in Algeria during its colonial rule. Though the matter of eradicating the aftereffects of the damage has been persistently raised, France has turned its eyes away from it. The Algerian ambassador's remarks can be claimed to be a reflection of the consistent efforts of his government

to eliminate the remnants of colonial rule.

Earlier, the South African president demanded that Western countries make reparations for having plundered Africa in the colonial era. In the past centuries the Western powers had enslaved innumerable Africans and stolen a huge amount of wealth and lots of cultural relics from Africa while giving them inhuman treatment, he noted. Their colonial rule was so cruel and exploitation so systematic that African countries are still suffering from constant economic losses, pains and debt burden, he said, adding that Western countries should definitely make reparations for their past crimes.

Mauritius made a stand to do its best to put an end to the occupation of the Chagos Archipelago by the UK. The British government announced last April that it would hold off passing the bill that allows the transfer of dominion over the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. In this regard, the Mauritian minister of foreign affairs, regional integration and international trade said that his country has waged a struggle to regain the archipelago on the basis of international law over the past several decades and it is just the work to realize justice. His country would regain the Chagos Archipelago by mobilizing all diplomatic and legal means, he noted.

Ghana, Zimbabwe and

Madagascar have also taken a determined stand against the arrogant behaviour of Western countries.

Such moves, which have emerged as a trend in several African countries, are not a matter which can be viewed simply as an effort to remove the aftereffects of colonial rule.

They are a manifestation of their strong desire to reject the dominationist arbitrariness of the West and to be definitely on the right track of achieving independent development.

The African Union has set itself a goal of making Africa an "integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent which is propelled by the continental peoples themselves and represents a powerful force in the world arena" and is confidently opening up the road of independent development by its united efforts even under the complicated international political situation.

Last year, the African Development Bank, turning its attention to the fact that the economic growth rate of Africa rose to 3.7% in 2024, estimated that the continent would be the second rapidly developing region in the world to Asia.

After the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the inter-regional trade volume is reportedly expected to grow from US\$192.2 billion in 2023 to US\$520 billion in 2030.

Many countries in the continent

increase investments in technical innovations and talent development and actively push ahead with the establishment of research funds and technology areas.

An expert at Dar es Salaam University in Tanzania said that Africa has a shared history in which it put an end to colonial oppression and achieved independent development and that it is ready to greet a turning point in carving out its destiny.

Analysts comment that Africa is trying hard to reappraise its own development course and achieve political, economic and cultural independence free from the mode of imitating the Western development model.

With cooperation for the development and prosperity of the continent gaining impetus, the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union took place at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February.

The meeting held a serious discussion about the urgent issues arising in reality such as peace, political stability, economic development, regional integration, the enhancement of the status of Africa in the world and efforts to strengthen its unity as well as the issue of sustainable water management in the African continent. It marked another important occasion in the course of accelerating its independent development.

Plight of working people in Western countries

By Choe Song Jun PT

Working people forming the overwhelming majority of population in Western capitalist society, where money-almighty values reign, lead a subhuman life in constant anxiety and pain, being deprived of their elementary right to existence.

Here is some evidence revealing the terrible human rights situation in Western capitalist society.

According to the EU Commission, in the European Union the homeless amount to 1 million and one in five adults and one in four children are suffering dire poverty.

In its annual report for 2025, an American website said that there has been a sharp increase in the number of homeless people sleeping in streets or dwelling in cars, noting that many destitute persons eke out a precarious living in disused cars and even such places as sidewalks, alleys and roadsides. It is said that 44% of the homeless in the United States are sleeping outdoors without any protective facilities.

Human trafficking, forced

labour and sexual exploitation persisting in the United Kingdom clearly show the true nature of Western capitalist society.

According to the data released by IASC, a British human trafficking monitoring mechanism, more than 23 000 persons fell prey to human trafficking, forced labour and sexual exploitation in the UK in 2025, a 22% increase as against the previous year and also an all-time high.

Many people suffer extreme poverty as they have no job.

For instance, France's unemployment rate rose by 0.2% in the first quarter of this year and especially an increasing number of young people fail to get jobs. The number of the unemployed in the country is reportedly more than 2.6 million at present, an increase of over 68 000 as against the fourth quarter of 2025.

The aforesaid situations are not confined to some countries in the West. Similar facts are innumerable.

Working people can never avoid such miserable plight in capitalist society governed by the law of the jungle and money-almighty values.

Air pollution gets more serious

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Earth's atmosphere is a gaseous body surrounding the earth and has direct effects on the life and health of people.

However, the atmospheric environment has seriously been polluted in many parts of the world and to solve this issue is an urgent problem that can no longer be postponed.

According to data available, air pollution is a major contributor to different diseases, including cerebral apoplexy, heart troubles and lung cancer, and takes a leading position among the common causes of death.

In March this year, a Swiss organization released a report on the global situation of air pollution of last year.

According to it, the result of an analysis of the concentration of PM2.5, a fine dust, in the atmosphere of 9 446 cities in 143 countries and regions showed that air pollution might result in health damage centring on South Asia.

An emergency warning was issued on March 30 as regards the serious air pollution in the northern part of Thailand.

That day, the concentration of PM2.5 was reportedly far beyond the safety standard in the area.

In particular, the concentration in Chiang Mai was the highest at 292.6µg

per cubic metre.

On April 8, the PM2.5 concentration was more than twice that of the safety standard in several parts of Laos.

In December last year, an air quality assessment index of over 400 was recorded at 27 observation stations throughout Delhi, India, while in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, the PM2.5 concentration was about 13 times higher than the safety standard set by the World Health Organisation, causing public concern.

The World Meteorological Organization issued an estimate that 8 million people die early every year due to air pollution, noting that the cause of this is related to climate change.

Due to the climate change caused by global warming, high temperatures and droughts are persisting in different parts of the world and the number and scale of forest and field fires are growing, which is one of the main causes of air pollution.

Besides the pollution caused by natural disasters like sand dust, the emission of large amounts of dust, smoke and toxic gases from factories, enterprises, automobiles and airplanes is also an important cause of air pollution.

Experts say that polluted air threatens the existence of mankind, calling on all countries to pay greater attention to the efforts for preventing air pollution and take decisive measures.

Briefly

Russia

President decries Ukrainian terrorism

Russian President Vladimir Putin on May 22 condemned a terrorist attack by the Ukrainian army on a college in Lugansk.

There are no military targets, no objects of special agencies or related facilities near the college, he said, and stressed that the midnight attack on the college confirmed the terrorist and neo-Nazi nature of the Ukrainian authorities once again.

The claim that Ukrainian drones shot down by air defence means of Russia accidentally fell on that building is mere sophistry, he said, and entrusted the defence ministry with making a plan to cope with such crimes.

The drone attack on the college in Lugansk claimed six lives and left 39 wounded and 15 missing.

China

FM criticizes Japan for attempt to deploy US missiles

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry censured Japan for its move to deploy the US' medium-range missiles at a news conference on May 22.

In connection with the US' attempt to deploy an intermediate-range missile system, to be used in the US-Japan joint exercises, in Kagoshima Prefecture of Japan between June and September, the spokesman asserted that the missile system does more harm than good to regional peace and stability, as it is a strategic attack weapon that harms the legitimate security interests of other countries, threatens their strategic security and increases the danger of military confrontation and arms race.

Belarus

FM lambasts Lithuania for threatening national security

The Foreign Ministry of Belarus called the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Lithuanian embassy in Belarus on May 21 in connection with the violation of its airspace by the Ukrainian drones launched within the Lithuanian territory.

The Lithuanian authorities neither took any steps to prevent the launch of drones within its territory nor gave any advance notice about it, said the Foreign Ministry, denouncing it as a violation of international law creating direct danger to the security of Belarus.

US

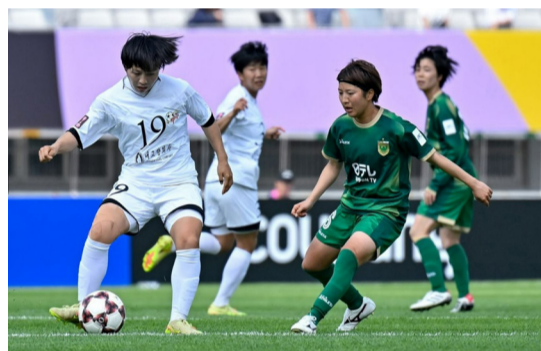
Chemical leakage at aerospace-related facility causes confusion

A chemical substance leakage accident took place at an aerospace-related manufacturing facility in California, the US.

According to local authorities, as the tank containing a highly volatile chemical substance overheated due to the failure in the cooling system, toxic gas began to leak from it, creating a danger of large-scale explosion or toxic pollution at the related facility in Orange County on May 21.

In this regard, an emergency was declared in the county, an order was issued to evacuate inhabitants and schools were closed.

Naegohyang wins 2025-2026 AFC Women's Champions League



The DPRK's Naegohyang team celebrates their victory at the 2025-2026 AFC Women's Champions League.

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The Naegohyang team of the DPRK won first place and lifted the trophy in the 2025-2026 AFC Women's Champions League.

The DPRK team, who proved successful in the preliminary and group matches held in Laos and Myanmar last August and November, beat the Ho Chi Minh City team of Vietnam 3-0 and the Suwon team of the ROK 2-1 in the quarterfinal and semifinal respectively on March 28 and May 20, and advanced to the final.

There took place the final match between the Naegohyang team and the Tokyo Verdy Beleza team of Japan on May 23.

The match was a fierce seesaw battle from the kick-off, as both teams showed a high level of abilities.

Naegohyang played the match in a dynamic way

while keeping to its tactical intention. In the 44th minute, No. 17 Kim Kyong Yong succeeded in scoring the opener with an excellent shot.

In the second half, both teams played more vigorously but failed to score any more goals.

In the match, the best Asian women's football team (club team) decider, the DPRK players defeated their Japanese rivals 1-0.

The trophy and gold medals were awarded to the Naegohyang players and the MVP accolade to Kim Kyong Yong at the awarding ceremony.

The praiseworthy success made by women footballers of the Naegohyang team offered confidence in victory and great encouragement to the people of the DPRK who are dynamically ushering in an era of comprehensive prosperity of the state in hearty response to the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Gymnasts successful at intl contests

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DPRK players returned home after taking part in the 7th Senior and Junior Trampoline Asian Championships and the 2nd Asian Trampoline Age Group Competition held in Hong Kong of China.

Kim Phyong Gyong won a gold medal in the A1 girl individual at the championships and competition.

Jong Mi Ryong and Ri Wi Ryong placed second respectively in the junior woman individual and A1 man individual and Kim

Yun Song and Kim Chol Bom third in the senior man synchronized.

The players, who demonstrated the honour of the country, were greeted by officials concerned, sportspersons and families at Pyongyang Railway Station on May 27.

Natural monument—Cornels at Pukchong

By Pang Un Ju PT

The trees are four cornels growing in Pongui-ri, Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province.

They were planted in around 1934.

They are 6.5 metres tall on average, and 1.5 metres round at the root neck. The crown is 7 metres wide from east to west and 5 metres from north to south.

Small yellow umbellar flowers open in groups of 20 to 30 earlier than leaves in around April and May.

They fruit and grow well.

The fruits are elliptical nuts and ripen turning red in around August and September.

Cornels are planted in parks or gardens for landscaping and the fruits are used as medicinal materials.

Cornels at Pukchong were designated as a natural

monument for their academic significance because they grow in the northernmost part of the country far beyond the limit of natural distribution of the species.



Spring amateur golf tournament held

By Song Jong Ho PT

A spring amateur golf tournament took place at the Pyongyang Golf Course.

The amateur golf tournament has been held every May and October since 2021, contributing to making golf culture widely known and improving the skills of amateur golfers.

The recent spring tournament was held as team events divided into the male category (category A) and the female category (category B).

The players of group B won the men's team event.

Group B consisted of the excellent players who won games several times in the previous annual tournaments and rookies as well. They presented thrilling and exciting scenes at important matches decisive of the group's victory. In

particular, Paek Sun Hak, Kim Chol and other veterans demonstrated such refined skills as powerful strokes at the starting point and superb putts, while displaying noble sportsmanship of encouraging and respecting each other and conceding in other's favour.

Female players in group B also won the women's team event.

Medals and diplomas were awarded to winners at the awarding ceremony. Kim Yong Il was presented with the stunt award for his refined skills. And the Madusan economic association and the Ryomyong Golf Travel Company were given the supporter's award for their contribution to the organizing of the tournament.



Scenes from the spring amateur golf tournament.

