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General Secretary Kim Jong Un sees performance of art groups of KPA officers' wives

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, saw a performance given by the art groups of officers' wives from large combined units of the Korean People's Army at the Mansudae Art Theatre on Wednesday.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un came to the auditorium of the theatre together with his wife Ri Sol Ju, enthusiastic cheers resounded the hall.

Among the audience were

Jo Yong Won and Ri Pyong Chol, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, and Jong Sang Hak, Ri Il Hwan, O Il Jong and other officials of the Party Central Committee.

Also seen there were Pak Jong Chon, Kwon Yong Jin, Kim Jong Gwan and other commanding officials of the armed forces organs.

The performance was given by members of art groups of officers' wives under several large combined units of the KPA.

They put on the stage a variety of numbers including poem recital,

large-scale *oungum* ensemble, solo and chorus, medleys of songs, large-ensemble tale recital, dialogic play, drum ensemble and song, narration and tale, drama tale, poem drama, real story drama, instrumental music ensemble and chorus.

The performers gave an impressive depiction of the noble ideological and spiritual world of the officers' wives who are keeping pace with their husbands serving in the army for the General Secretary on the sacred road of defending the country, people and revolution, with their destinies entrusted to the Party Central Committee.

When the performance was over,

the General Secretary warmly acknowledged the performers by waving back to them.

He expressed thanks to the performers, greatly satisfied with the fact that the officers' wives gave a fresh performance which is clear in ideological and political import and is of great cognitive and educational significance by singing highly of the Party's leadership exploits associated with the units of their husbands.

He said that the whole country should learn after the ardent patriotism, strong capacity for living and high ideological and spiritual world of the officers' wives.

He specified important tasks for guiding the work with officers' wives, saying that all the wives of servicemen throughout the army should be prepared to become steadfast women revolutionaries so that they would fulfill their duties as eternal cooks for the revolution, true daughters of the Party and dependable eldest daughters-in-law.

Calling the officers' wives an important force of the Korean revolution taking a big share in leading society with noble culture and high ideological

and moral traits and in displaying the patriotic spirit, he voiced his expectation and belief that they would make military posts and workplaces burn with enthusiasm for the revolution and struggle through revolutionary mass-based culture and art activities and positively propel the development of socialist civilization in the future, too.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un on Thursday met and had a group photo taken with the members of art groups of officers' wives at the office building of the Party Central Committee.

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TARGET

Economic plans completed in April

Different economic sectors and units carried out their April plans.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex directed efforts to building up its technical force and laying production foundations, thereby increasing tunnelling speed 1.2 times. The Kujang Area Coal-mining Complex completed its monthly plan by introducing various tunnelling methods according to rock conditions and increasing the proportion of the pit work done by machines.

The Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Tukjang and Kaechon area coal-mining complexes boosted mining and conveyance capacity to increase output.

The December 5 Youth Mine completed the mineral production plan on all indices while stepping up the establishment of a new production process. The Unpha, Sangnong and Riwon mines achieved good results as they gave priority to tunnelling.

Other mines overfulfilled

their production plans for apatite concentrate, while the Munphyong Smeltery, Taedonggang Battery Factory and several other units implemented their assignments.

The Sangwon and Suncheon cement complexes registered good records in the production of cement to be sent to major construction sites including the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang as they maintained close ties between processes and ensured the normal operation of equipment.

Forestry sectors in Jagang, Ryanggang and South Hamgyong provinces applied rational working methods to tree cutting and others to suit seasonal conditions and boosted the operation rate of facilities, thereby registering good results in log production.

The rail transport sector overfulfilled the freight transport plan for April by 5 percent.

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau fulfilled its freight transport plan at 106 percent.

The Hamhung, Kaechon, Chongjin and Rason railway bureaus overfulfilled their transport plans by giving precedence to the maintenance and repair of locomotives and freight cars and applying

operating methods in accordance with railroad conditions.

The Sinuiju Textile Mill, Suncheon Leather Shoes Factory and Sinuiju Footwear Factory exceeded production targets while focusing on the settlement of scientific and technological problems for recycling, while the Kangso Knitwear Factory and Pyongyang Hosiery Factory completed their production plans for knitwear and hosiery. The Sinuiju and Pyongyang cosmetics factories produced different kinds of cosmetics by holding fast to the domestic use and recycling of raw and other materials.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

ANNIVERSARY

Programme of great national unity provided during anti-Japanese war

Eighty-five years have passed since the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland was formed as the first national united front body in the history of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle of the Korean people.

In the mid-1930s it was an urgent requirement of the revolutionary situation to develop the anti-Japanese national united front movement onto a new higher stage.

General Kim Il Sung with keen insight into the requirements of the situation within and without and the developing Korean revolution put forward a policy of setting up a standing united front organization and expanding and developing the anti-Japanese national united front movement to a nationwide scale in close connection with the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and made energetic preparations to that end.

On May 5 1936 the historic inaugural meeting of the ARF took place in Donggang of China's Fusong with the attendance of the military and political cadres of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and

the delegates of the independence movement, Chondoists, peasants, teachers and workers from all parts of Korea.

At the meeting Kim Il Sung delivered a report on further expanding and developing the anti-Japanese national united front movement and taking the Korean revolution as a whole to a new upsurge.

And the Ten-Point Programme of the ARF and its Inaugural Declaration were published at the meeting.

The programme defined wide-ranging issues including those of defeating Japanese imperialism with the efforts of all members of the Korean nation and establishing a genuinely popular revolutionary government, building a revolutionary army to fight for national independence and enforcing all kinds of democratic reforms and the tasks concerning external activities as well.

Kim Il Sung was elected president of the ARF at the meeting according to the unanimous will and desire of the Korean people.

The ARF was the first standing anti-Japanese national united front body and a powerful

underground revolutionary organization rallying broad sections of patriotic forces.

After its inauguration, the network of its organizations was expanded from the northern areas of Korea centring on Mt Paektu to all other areas of the country, the vast areas of Northeast China and even to Japan, with the result that the ARF developed into a pan-national organization with hundreds of thousands of members.

It firmly rallied different classes and strata with different positions and political views into a single political force on the basis of community in national interests and aroused them to accomplishing the cause of national liberation.

The invaluable exploits of the national united front movement and the tradition of great national unity which were performed and established in the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle are still carried on today and serve as a tangible asset for socialist construction in the DPRK and the cause of national reunification.

Kim Un Sop

VISIT

Premier inspects tideland reclamation projects



Premier Kim Tok Hun (centre foreground) looks round the completed third and fourth districts of the Ryongmaedo tideland.

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, looked round the completed third and fourth districts of Ryongmaedo Tideland with officials of South Hwanghae Province and relevant units.

Making the rounds of the sea dikes of the tideland, he gave pep talks to the builders who reclaimed thousands of hectares of land and instructed officials to inform the relevant units of the completion.

He stressed the need to make

substantial contributions to the agricultural production of the country by introducing the strain highly resistant to salt. He took measures to proactively apply advanced methods and technical means into future reclamation projects to speed up construction with fewer materials.

He called on the builders to make a tangible contribution to implementing the decisions made at the Eighth Congress of the Party.

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Nationwide

Coal mines introduce innovation plans

The coal-mining industry sector introduced over 70 technical innovation plans this year.

The Jenam Coal Mine of the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex devised 20 technical innovation plans in the first quarter as it introduced a blasting method based on focusing charge into several coal mines on an expansion basis, a technology for improving the performance of compressors and a jig that can save over 20 percent of materials.

The Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex applied several kinds of new technologies while making and installing a new device for increasing the operating ratio of electric cars and improving the technical conditions of transport line, thus increasing the conveyance capacity of the complex by 1.2 times as compared to before.

The Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex also applied over 10 technical innovation plans to increase coal production as it established an efficient production process of metal support and made and introduced a device for ensuring the normal operation of coal

wagons in inclined shafts.

Ryanggang builds hundreds of hectares of herb gardens, medicinal tree forests

Ryanggang Province has created hundreds of hectares of herb gardens and medicinal tree forests and cultivated them in a scientific and technological way.

Unhug County that has provided a technical guarantee for mass-breeding seabuckthorn trees supplied Samjiyon City and other provincial areas with hundreds of thousands of the saplings this year alone.

The Paegam membranous milkvetch station built dozens of hectares of herb gardens and found out nearly a hundred hectares of land in a little over a year.

South Hwanghae plants wild fruit trees in thousands of hectares

Thousands of hectares of wild fruit tree forests have newly been planted in South Hwanghae Province. Many pine-nut trees, chestnut trees, *Aronia melanocarpa*, wild grape trees and tara vines were planted in this year's spring tree-planting season.

The population of Sinwon and Ongjin counties created hundreds of hectares of forests each by planting more than 10 kinds of wild fruit trees.

Other counties also planted

various kinds of wild fruit trees in high demand and with high productivity on the mountains in the right time on the principle of planting the right tree on the right soil.

Mobile fish farms built nationwide

Cage-net fish farms are now being built in different parts of the DPRK.

The Taedonggang Fish Farming and Seed Fish Production and Supply Centre in Pyongyang established cage-net fish breeding grounds that can monitor and control in real time feed supply, water temperature and pH to breed silver carp, carp, Ryongjong fish and grass fish.

South Hamgyong Province is pushing ahead with the construction of cage-net fish farms, while laying material and technical foundations for revitalizing fish farming.

The Hapho Fish Farm in Kumya County built a cage-net fish breeding ground covering over 3 000 square metres and a microorganism producing ground this year.

South Hwanghae, North Hamgyong and Jagang provinces take practical measures for raising the level of scientific and intensive farming of fishes after installing cage-net fish farms in tiers in rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

CAMPAIGN

Spring land management campaign gathers strength

Since the spring general mobilization campaign for land administration was launched, the people in the DPRK have carried out millions of cubic metres of river dredging and the building and technical improvement of road sections extending for hundreds of kilometres.

Thaechon County in North Phyongan Province is carrying on dozens of cubic metres of river dredging and banking every day by increasing the operation rate of vehicles after planting a vast area of bank-protecting forests.

Sunan and Ryokpho districts, Pyongyang, are also removing huge quantities of silt by dredging every day, while pressing on with the repairs of embankments in an efficient way.

Ryongsong District in the same city spruced up roads and Unnyul County of South Hwanghae Province and Thosan County of North Hwanghae Province built roads extending for thousands of metres respectively, while pushing the

widening and extensive repair of bridges. Such counties as Suan and Phyongsan in North Hwanghae Province finished concrete paving for roads in residential areas in a short period.

Many local areas across the country have painted coating materials on dwelling houses and public buildings to improve environment in a more hygienic and cultured way.

Meanwhile, members of the youth league and the women's union are also carrying on road improvement and waterway dredging in a qualitative way and also gardening as they set up flowerbeds and flowerpot stands and lay turfs in streets and villages.

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An embankment in Jongphyong County in South Hamgyong Province.

INAUGURATION

New institutes inaugurated under agricultural academy

The Agrobiolgy Institute, Plant Protection Institute, Agricultural Nanotechnology Institute and Agrochemistry Institute have been inaugurated in the area of the Academy of Agricultural Science.

The construction of the institutes equipped with dozens of up-to-date research rooms and labs, including the slow action fertilizer research room, gene analysis room and celworm research room, has laid a material and technical foundation for scientific research conducive to stable and sustainable development of agricultural production.

Ministries, national agencies and relevant units including the Ministry of Forestry, the

Ministry of Agriculture, the Bureau of Sericulture and Silk Industry, the Maritime Administration of the DPRK worked out the plans for each process in detail and supplied materials and equipment in time to finish the construction project successfully.

The completion of the modern institutes has made it possible to buckle down to monitoring and prediction and scientific research for developing and introducing biological means of exterminating harmful insects and other products by applying latest successes of modern biology including cell and gene engineering.

It has also provided a firm foundation for the research

into nanotechnology products using nanotechnology and supercritical fluid technology and agrochemical products like various kinds of fertilizers, nutrients and seed-covering materials and for the establishment of effective production methods and application technologies.

Ri Chol Man, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Ju Chol Gyu, vice premier of the Cabinet and minister of Agriculture, and officials concerned visited the newly-built institutes on May 2.

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Several institutes newly set up under the Academy of Agricultural Science.

ADDITIVE

Anion-generating additive makes paint friendlier to health, environment

The Central Mining Research Institute has recently brought out an anion-generating additive for paint from tourmaline.

The additive is added to normal paint to generate anion. Anion is called "air vitamin" for its special effects to relieve mental and physical fatigue, headache and insomnia.

The research into tourmaline is now widely conducted on a global scale to apply it to public health, environmental protection and other fields as tourmaline generates not only far infrared rays good for health but also anion.

A research team headed by section chief Ri Son Il set a goal to develop an additive that can generate anion when it is added to ordinary paint, intensified

research for it and established its manufacturing technology.

The additive, whose performance has been proved through the construction of different projects including the one of sprucing up the city of Samjiyon in Ryanggang Province, is attracting people's attention as it can effectively offer an environment with many anions.

In addition, the institute also developed a whitening-proof additive in collaboration with the road science institute.

The additive is aimed to prevent whitening which is commonly found in all structures coated with cement including interlock tiles.

In general, cement contains a small amount of glass calcium

which is soluble in water to react to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere on the surface of concrete mortar. As a result, white spots will appear on the surface of concrete after a while and this is called whitening.

The research to prevent whitening is intensified in the world since whitening lowers the quality of all concrete products or structures and damages their aesthetic values.

According to lead developer Choe Hyang Mi, whitening will effectively be prevented and the intensity of concrete be increased when the newly-developed additive is mixed with mortar at a certain rate.

By Sin Pyol PT

PROFILE

Young inventor contributes to shoe production

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory has improved the quality of vinyl chloride shoe soles by developing the recycling technology, which also contributes to increased production.

The factory has put efforts into research into recycling EVA waste. It is generally impossible to recycle used EVA due to crosslinking and blowing.

In 2013, it made some progress in research into recycling plastic waste, but the finding did not conform to its specific conditions.

Kim Kyong Hui (pictured) at its laboratory carried out in-depth research to suit its actual situation and in the direction of profitability, thereby succeeding in it within one year. She received her first state patent for the finding which realized the recycling of shoe soles.

She proceeded to research and develop printing ink based on domestic materials. She originally developed it with locally-available vinyl perchloride, but its flexibility was unsatisfactory for trainers. To solve this problem, she chose the other material which is cheaper and can ensure flexibility.

Her material- and labour-saving development costs half the previous one and makes it



possible to reduce the number of screen plate process from two to one. It also prevents the chapping of the printed part while ensuring the flexibility of shoes. In addition, the application of the laminating printing method has made it possible to print different kinds of patterns in relief while preventing ink from permeating through cloth and to lighten the products as well.

In the course of painstaking efforts, Kim came up with three inventions and two technical findings of national significance and over 30 other inventions and original plans.

She is now working on a new technical innovation with an eye to contributing to shoe production relying on domestic materials.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

MACHINE

Efficient bio-air purifier developed

The State Bacteria Preservation Institute under the State Academy of Sciences has developed a new type of bio-air conditioner.

"The bio-air conditioner biologically resolves and removes harmful gas from furniture in houses and offices and such industrial establishments as chemical

factories, and also the unpleasant smell in domestic animal houses and sewage disposal plants," said Yun Chol, section chief and lead developer.

It comes in two kinds according to gas disposal volume, gas density and disposal area.

The one for exterior use degrades and removes 1 500 to over 50 000 cubic metres of industrial waste gas per hour and the one for interior use 100 to 500 cubic metres of bad-smelling gas per hour.

The introduction of the bio-air conditioner into different units proved that the bad-smelling harmful gas purification ratio reaches over 90% and the dust collecting ratio more than 98%.

In particular, the purifier for interior use with bio-filtering carrier shows a more than 60 percent germ-eliminating effect and when an accessory combining TiO2 with ultraviolet lamp is added to it for air sterilization, it can raise the indoor germ-free level to 300 000.



Bio-air purifier resolves and removes harmful gases in a biological way.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Culture thrives again with Unjong tea



A waitress serves tea at the Unjong Teahouse (top). Bottled tea drinks roll off the production line. Products of the Unjong Tea Drink Factory.

PAK KWANG HUN

Last February, the Unjong Tea Drink Factory was inaugurated in Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

Tea has long been considered a “drink of spirits” which refreshes and calms the mind, as well as an elixir of life to cure all illnesses.

The Korean tea culture has a long-standing tradition.

History

The tea culture of Korea originated in the period of Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla that existed between the 3rd century BC and 10th century AD.

National classics *Samguksagi* (The Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) compiled in 1145 and *Samgukyusa* (The History of the Three Kingdoms) from the mid-thirteenth century and other historical records say that the Korean people drank tea from that period.

Samguksagi says that tea

began to be grown from the early seventh century and it came into vogue when tea trees were planted on Mt Jiri. A Koguryo tomb mural depicts people drinking tea.

Given the 2 000-year history of the cultivation of tea trees, the fact that the Koreans drank tea over 1 400 years ago shows that the tea culture of the nation has a very long tradition.

Later, the tea culture continued to develop through the periods of Palhae and Later Silla. During the Koryo dynasty, the production and popularization of elegant Koryo ceramics facilitated the vogue for Koryo tea which has a special flavour and fragrance.

The tea-drinking custom went on to prevail in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam, a national geography book of Korea compiled in 1530, says that tributes from southern regions to the central government

included various kinds of teas. A nineteenth century Silhak scholar Jong Yak Yong was nicknamed Tasan (mountain of tea trees) as he loved to grow tea trees on his own and enjoy the delicate flavour of tea.

Afterwards, the concept of tea gradually expanded to further diversify and develop the tea culture by including drinks made by infusing or brewing fruits and roots of chrysanthemum, matrimony vine, *Schizandra chinensis*, jujube, insam (ginseng) and other plants.

The excellent tea culture of Korea began to go downhill in the wake of the 1592-1598 Imjin Patriotic War and completely disappeared during Japanese colonial rule over Korea.

Rejuvenation

The tea culture of the Korean nation entered an era of development under the care of the great leaders of the DPRK.

With an intention to produce tea domestically and supply it to the people, President Kim Il Sung planted tea tree saplings in an experimental plot at his residence and personally selected the right soil suited to acclimatizing them in the country and took detailed measures for conducting research to this end.

True to his noble intention, agricultural scientists chose several tea tree species suitable for the climate and natural features of the country and with stronger resistance to cold and a better yield and established corresponding cultivation and tea leaf processing technologies. Therefore, high quality tea started to be produced on the hills of Kangnyong County, South Hwanghae Province.

In order to make the benevolent care of the President associated with the tea go down in history, Chairman Kim Jong Il named it “Unjong” (benevolence) and saw to it that the plantation was built in a more splendid way.

The Unjong Tea Plantation

located in Kangnyong County on the west coast of the country stretches for hundreds of hectares. This area is known as a “famous tea-growing place” and “pollution-free tea production base” for it is well ventilated and has the sunshine and annual mean temperature appropriate for the growth of tea trees.

The plantation spreads out on an annual basis and works to improve manuring and cultivation. As tea drinking becomes increasingly popular, the fresh scent of tea can now be noticed not only at public catering facilities but also in many houses.

Unjong tea has rich contents of caffeine and tannin and many vitamins including vitamin C.

Several years ago, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un took a measure to build a factory that produces tea drinks.

Industrial production

The Unjong Tea Drink Factory recently built in Namsa-ri, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, is a harmonious combination of a production building, subsidiary building and welfare service facilities.

According to Ryom Son Yong, manageress of the factory, now that the tea industry develops towards storing tea using the instant liquid storage method which preserves its traditional flavour, it is a worldwide trend to produce tea drinks and the consumption is constantly going up.

The production building is equipped with the processes for water purification, tea infusing and preparation and packaging and the whole production line is automated and streamlined on a high level.

“What is important in making a good tea is the quality of water used for infusing tea along with that of tea leaves,” said analyst Ri Ye Song. “The water in the area where the factory is located has long been known to have a good quality. However, in order to ensure the perfect water

quality, our water purification process has multi-medium, ion-exchange and precision filters.”

The factory focuses efforts on improving product quality in accordance with the trend of development of tea drink production towards preserving natural and nutritive qualities and developing new varieties.

Especially, it increasingly relies on advanced technologies to solve problems arising in the production such as losses of nutritive and aromatic substances and formation of turbid liquid in the wake of refrigeration.

At present, the factory turns out green and black teas and Cholgwanum tea in 0.5L bottles.

The ready-made tea drinks are much sought after by local customers.

“We are now about to finish a research project for producing tea drinks made with ginkgo and persimmon leaves, insam and *Schizandra chinensis* which were popular among Koreans in the past,” said Jong Song Hui, a management official of the factory.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



墨壑小茶竈離火
吳風形茶熟山僧
睡裏煙猶自青

Top: Mural depicts Koreans drinking tea (original work and black-and-white reproduction). Above: A poem about teapot written by Jong Yak Yong, a 19-century celebrity.

RECYCLING

Valuable materials obtained from granitic leftovers

The Faculty of Resources Sounding Engineering of Kim Chaek University of Technology has recently succeeded in making different materials from granitic waste.

The research group paid attention to the fact that leftovers from granite processing at a granite mine were exerting negative effects on the

ecological environment.

“We can make synthesized zeolite by treating feldspar extracted from granitic dust. It is conducive to saving resources of the country as much as possible, recycling waste and protecting the environment,” said Jong Chang Il, lecturer of the university.

They made synthesized

zeolite by calcining feldspar and sodium carbonate in leftovers like dust from the processes of cutting and grinding granites. Afterwards, they further intensified the research effort to synthesize other materials with a higher value from the mother liquor.

As a result, they extracted amorphous silicon dioxide and

potassium carbonate from the mother liquor.

After establishing the technology of recycling granitic leftovers, they set up a system of recirculating the substances coming out from the production.

The synthesized zeolite, silica, amorphous silicon dioxide and potassium carbonate obtained from leftovers are widely used in different sectors of the national economy including metallurgical, chemical, building materials, electronic and light industries as well as agriculture.

Especially, synthesized

zeolite, one of the micro-porous materials, is extensively applied as a depurative, adsorptive separating and filtering agent, additive for detergent, ion exchanger and catalyst carrier, and silica as a material for glass, ceramics, fireproofing and electronic devices and semiconductors.

While amorphous silicon dioxide is a reinforcing agent in the production of rubber, plastics, medicines and agrochemicals, potassium carbonate is used for making optical glass and potassic fertilizer.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



Two lives are in the hands of midwives

Follow the data, invest in midwives

May 5 is the International Day of the Midwife. This day was designated to enhance the responsibility and role of midwives and increase social interest in them.

Midwives take great responsibility and role in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and protecting their lives and health.

According to information released by the International Confederation of Midwives, the maternal death toll exacted by pregnancy and childbirth complications stands at 289 000 in the world every year and the number of stillborn children amounts to 2.6 million.

The confederation said that about 1.1 million health officials and 900 000 midwives are

needed in the world to ensure the satisfactory reproductive health of women including the maternal and newborn health and the health of adolescent girls. This shows that countries are required to increase the number of midwives and raise the quality of education of them.

UNFPA and the confederation set the theme of the International Day of the Midwife for this year as "Follow the data, invest in midwives".

A well-knit education system for the education and training of midwives is in force in Pyongyang and the provinces of the DPRK, and an education curriculum is being enforced to help students acquire the theory of premature delivery and practical skills as required by

international standards.

The government set the 2030 national Sustainable Development Goals to further increase the rate of childbirth assistance by professional medical workers and reduce the maternal and newborn mortality and is pushing ahead with detailed action plans to this end.

Thanks to state benefits, all pregnant women are receiving medical services including regular check-up and child delivery free of charge at the obstetrical and gynecological departments in provincial maternity hospitals and county and ri people's hospitals, as well as the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Rejoicing in baby's cry at its birth



There are people who always rejoice in hearing babies cry, though most of us do not like to hear their cry. They are obstetricians and midwives.

Choe Kyong Hwa (pictured) at obstetrical department No. 5 at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital has been working as midwife for 23 years since the age of 19.

After graduating from then Pyongyang Surgical College in 1998, she began to work as midwife at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

As to her first experience of receiving a baby in the delivery room, Choe recalled: "It is difficult to explain what I felt at the time. Anyway, I was happy. I cannot forget I felt a lump in my throat when the baby's mother said

before leaving the hospital: 'Sister Choe, I will bring up the child properly without fail.'"

What she found it most difficult as a midwife was to comfort and encourage nervous pregnant women.

"I had never gone through the throes of delivery, so I could not properly manage the situation whenever an expectant mother entered the delivery room very tense and scared," said Choe smilingly.

That was why Choe would get tense as much as pregnant women from the expected dates and she would also sweat along with the start of their regular labour pains.

And she is now a chief midwife known as one of the best midwives of the hospital.

In those years, she felt great pride of saving both mother and baby by ensuring safe delivery in an urgent circumstance.

Scarcely a day goes by without seeing the newborn at the hospital.

"I become more attached to my job whenever I meet new mothers and their families who leave the hospital with great joy and happiness and deeply appreciate our efforts and sincerity," Choe said.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Thanks to health workers for motherly care

All my siblings gave birth to their babies at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

When I was approaching for a blessed event, both of my elder sisters told me that I would feel how happy we, Korean women, are when I give birth to a baby at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. But at that time, I could not understand what they really meant.

I stayed in the hospital for five days, a brief yet unforgettable

moment in my life.

In the hospital my waters unexpectedly broke and I began to feel sudden pain. Tears welled up in my eyes as I was so worried about my unborn baby. But the doctors and midwife held my hands and gave me confidence and courage. After childbirth, they took care of me like my mother would do, sitting up all night beside my bed.

Giving birth to a child does not

mean the woman can discharge her duty as a mother.

The midwife in charge of me taught me how to breastfeed the baby and washed my laundry to tell me what the real love of a mother means.

During the days, all the doctors, nurses and practical nurses took care of me like their own flesh and blood.

I wanted to express my gratitude to them all for their warm affection and care. So I made a deep bow to them when I left the hospital.

Kim Un Hyang, 29-year-old resident of Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang

MERIDIAN CHART

Neural meridian chart helps standardize traditional therapies

As acupuncture and moxibustion are disseminated around the world, their advantages and vitality are being demonstrated powerfully at present.

Treatment based on acupuncture and moxibustion was applied more actively in the mid-20th century, but the practitioners of the traditional therapies were different in mode and view according to areas, countries and regions.

This necessitated putting the therapies on a scientific basis, including the naming of acupoints, the marking of their positions, apparatuses and rational treatment methods according to the causes and symptoms of diseases.

Early in the 1990s, such DPRK medical workers as Kim

Suk Yong, People's Scientist, Professor and PhD, and others at the Koryo Medicine General Hospital, unveiled a neural meridian chart showing the interrelationship between acupoints and nerves to draw the attention of the world acupuncture and moxibustion circles.

The chart that put the classical theories of the therapies on a scientific footing shows the terminology of neuroscience used in modern medicine for more than 200 of 361 acupoints and 36 segmenta medullae spinalis as well. The range of treatment at acupoints of 14 hard pulses is set along segmenta medullae spinalis and the chart clarified that the foci of hard pulse tubes are the same as those of nerves.

It was reprinted several times in the course of renewing the standard of the model and spread to over 30 countries of the world.

Some years ago, the DPRK researchers came up with a chart indicating the interrelationship between nerves and more than 210 acupoints, or over 10 more than the number in the early 1990s.

"Based on the principle of the chart, we are effectively treating diseases that are hard to be cured by modern medicine, including cerebral apoplexy, its sequelae and other nervous system disorders, and slipped disk that has been regarded as an epidemic in recent years," said 78-year-old Kim Suk Yong.

The Koryo Medicine

General Hospital has further upgraded the chart to develop an "electronic acupuncture and moxibustion modelling system of the neural meridian chart" which supports acupuncture and moxibustion education and treatment on the principle of modern medicine with the help of information technology and a "multi-

channel acupoints conduction system" which helps lower the morbidity of stroke, which are now in use in clinical practice.

Researchers are now conducting research to make a standard anatomical chart of hard pulse acupoints.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



Kim Suk Yong, 78, practises acupuncture at the Koryo Medicine General Hospital in Pyongyang.

Aboard the floating restaurant *Taedonggang*



Ri Sung Ik gives his impression of enjoying the beautiful scenery of the Taedong River which meanders downtown Pyongyang aboard the floating restaurant *Taedonggang*.

The vernal view of the Taedong River is now very alluring.

The fluvial scenery is so stunning that the Taedong has so many anecdotes to recount about illustrious persons. Among them was poet Kim Hwang Won in the period of Koryo (918-1392) who was fascinated by the picturesque

sight of the river and tried to write a poem about it, but gave up finishing it lamenting his lack of ability.

There are many scenic attractions on its shore and modern structures along its banks and lots of buildings are being built around it to transfigure the features of Pyongyang with each passing

day.

People like to enjoy these breathtaking sights aboard the floating restaurant *Taedonggang*.

The ship provides sightseeing tour and catering services with an accommodation capacity of 300 persons.

The two-storey boat is furnished with a banquet hall

and separate dining rooms and soft drinks are served on the platform of the bow.

According to waitress Kim Il Sim, clients say they have a special impression from the looks of Pyongyang seen from the middle of the river.

As the vessel goes upstream, clients view the Taedong Gate, Ryongwang Pavilion, Okryu Restaurant with gabled roofs covered with green tiles and the Chongnyu Pavilion on Chongnyu Cliff of Moran Hill and as it floats downstream, they enjoy the views of the Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant, Ryugyong Health Complex, People's Open-air Ice Rink, Mirae Scientists Street closely lined with different shapes of buildings and other modern structures.

"The most thrilling sights from the middle of the river are the Tower of the Juche Idea and a pair of fountains on its sides spurting water 150 metres high," said Yun Kwang Hyok who comes to board the ship every holiday including Sundays.

The amateur photographer is said to be fond of shooting photos of stunning views of the city on the ship and he keeps a photo album showing lots of structures including the tower and fountains.

The floating restaurant affords clients not only exciting views but also toothsome foods.

Chef Hong Song Ok said the



Restaurant cruiser *Taedonggang*, which provides sightseeing tour and catering services with an accommodation capacity of 300 persons, started service in April 2013.

slices of fresh raw carp and Ryongjong fish are not only savoury but highly medicinal.

The restaurant serves Taedonggang beer, Pyongyang cold noodles, *sinsollo*, a traditional dish in cooking brazier, Ryongjong fish soup, carp steamed with soybean paste and other foods peculiar to Korea and famous dishes of the world as well.

"The pleasure of excursion on the floating restaurant is not confined to the good taste of original foods and picturesque views," said manager Kang Pong Suk.

"In the past, the view of people seeing off guests on the Pothong River was one of the eight scenes of Pyongyang. But now the sight of passers-by friendly waving to the floating restaurant giving a whistle of departure and its passengers adds beauty to the scenery of the Taedong River."



From left: Passengers enjoy beautiful scenery on the vessel. Cooks are busy preparing dishes. Diners have a pleasant feast.

RYU KWANG HYOK

VIRTUE

Factory boasts laudable deeds

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill has produced many innovators, especially Ri Myong Sun, an exemplary worker of the times who is widely known throughout the country for carrying out monthly and yearly quotas ahead of schedule.

But the mill's pride is not confined to this.

There are many people who devote themselves to society and collective.

The mill has a diary recording laudable deeds of its employees.

"You can see all the members of our workshop in this book.

The contents help others know who they are," said Han Yong Gil, manager of the combined weaving workshop, as he brought out the several-volume diary.

The discoloured book contains good deeds of its employees, who found a lost thing to its owner, workteam members who spruced up a burnt-out house for a worker and gave him daily necessities, and a young weaver, who provided a fellow worker suffering from an illness with medicines and tonics for her health.

According to Han, all

workshops keep such diaries, to say nothing of the mill.

"Our mill is blessed with many innovators. An important thing is that those who lag behind are striving to overtake innovators. The same is the case with good things, I think. When a positive deed produces a hundred exploits, every workteam and workshop and the mill will be harmonious and thrive," said O Yong Gum at weaving workshop No. 2.

Every employee values such diaries, regarding them as a source of pride and the pride of the mill.

"Future generations will see such a diary and carry on the tradition of workteams, workshops and mill that left a beautiful and honourable mark in production and life," said Han.

By Kil Chung Il PT

ELDERLY

New exercise promotes old people's health

Recently, an exercise for the aged is being popularized across the DPRK.

The movements of the exercise can be easily executed with the help of simple apparatuses at any time and in any place.

It is largely composed of seven parts and over 60 movements.

For example, the chair exercise which is performed while sitting on an ordinary chair or standing with the hands holding the backboard of a chair can make the movement of joints and muscles of legs smooth.

The dumbbell exercise using one-kilogram dumbbells that

suit physical conditions of old people strengthens the muscles of different body parts, while the ring exercise improves eyesight and rhythmical and equilibratory senses and helps strengthen shoulder blades and arm muscles.

The twosome exercise which is done in pairs is good for improving the respiratory function and balance.

Old people may do the exercise from the beginning to the end or choose to do some parts of it.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

DPRK-CHINA

Leader's visit injects fresh vigour into traditional friendship

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited Dalian, China, on May 7-8 2018 and met with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The historic summit served as an important occasion in valuing and brilliantly carrying forward the fine tradition of the DPRK-China summit meeting provided by the old generations of preceding leaders of the two countries and advancing the DPRK-China friendship, the strategic option of the two Parties and two countries, in line with the requirements of the new era.

At the historic second summit with Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un said that Dalian is a meaningful place where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman

Kim Jong Il left their footprints that would remain etched in the annals of history of the DPRK-China friendship, adding that deep comradely trust and obligation between the leaders of the two countries serve as roots of the bond of kinship combining the two peoples with the same destiny that cannot be separated forever, and had constantly been carried forward for decades until today. And he expressed his willingness to join hands with friendly Chinese comrades in the historic journey for achieving peace and prosperity in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia and building a fair and just new world.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also said that he was attaching importance to the bilateral relations

of friendship and cooperation and would make every possible effort to honourably safeguard and develop them.

Kim Jong Un's another visit to China in June, a month afterwards, fully demonstrated at home and abroad that relations between the two Parties and countries are developing as special ones that are unprecedented in the world beyond traditional ones.

President Xi Jinping's Pyongyang visit in June 2019, a significant year that marked the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries, at the invitation of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un marked an important occasion in consolidating further the ties between the two Parties and two

countries which were forged by intention and attachment in the joint struggle against imperialism and for socialism and constituted the support and encouragement of the Chinese Party, government and people for the just cause of the Korean people.

It is the steadfast stand of the Workers' Party of Korea and DPRK government to further bolster up traditional bilateral ties as required by the new era.

The bilateral ties of friendship developing with socialism as the kernel will be further developed as required by the times thanks to the joint efforts of the peoples of the two countries.

By Ri Sang Il PT

RUSSIA

Victorious history will go on

On May 9 1945, 76 years ago from now, the army and people of the Soviet Union defeated Nazi Germany, thereby defending national security and dignity with honour. The war against fascist Germany was the life-and-death struggle decisive of the destiny of the Soviet people.

Nazi Germany made a sudden invasion upon the Soviet Union on June 22 1941 by mobilizing enormous troops and huge amount of military hardware.

By making the most of temporary numerical and technical superiority, the

invaders occupied its vast territory and committed a string of terrible massacres, destruction and plunder throughout the country.

The Soviet army and people, however, turned the tables of war in favour of them by displaying the self-sacrificing spirit and heroism to open up a radical turn for launching a decisive counterattack on the enemy. They displayed noble patriotism while devoting their lives at fierce battles during the war including battles at Stalingrad and Leningrad.

After liberating the whole

country from aggressors, they advanced towards Berlin, the stronghold of invasion.

The victorious Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people greatly encouraged the world's democratic forces in the liberation struggle against fascism for rescuing many European countries from the invasion of fascist Germany.

On the occasion of the war victory anniversary, a variety of events are held every year and Russia is making sure that its people and soldiers are educated in patriotism and continue to add brilliance to the history of

war victory.

Last year, Russia conducted a military parade in celebration of the 75th anniversary of war victory even in the face of rapid spread of COVID-19.

The Russian people's struggle for safeguarding national sovereignty and dignity still goes on today and such an effort will bear due fruit.

The Russian people's V-day is a day when the world peoples aspiring after independence and peace rejoice and proudly recollect together.

By Om Ryong PT

ISRAEL

Wrecker of peace, stability in Middle East

The Mideast situation is hitting the world headlines these days.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Syria in its statement on April 22 strongly denounced the Israeli air raid on its territory as a violation of its sovereignty and demanded the UN Security Council stop Israel from committing such infringement without delay.

At dawn that day, the Israeli air force mounted a missile attack on the outskirts of Damascus, wounding four soldiers of the Syrian government forces and causing material losses.

The following day there was a violent clash between the Palestinians and Israelis in al-Quds.

That day when the Arabs were holding a religious function in al-Quds on the occasion of Ramadan, the Lehava Group, a far-right organization of Israel, staged a demo against them.

Shouting such slogans as "Death to Muslims!" Zionists attempted to break into the al-Aqsa mosque, the holy place of Muslims, provoking the Palestinians' angry reaction which led to a collision. As a result, over 20 people were injured and some 50 arrested.

Such an assault by Zionists during Ramadan constitutes the wanton desecration of religious faith and a continuation of flagrant racial persecution.

The clash in al-Quds aroused the indignation of the entire Arab world.

Saying that he regards al-Quds as the red line for his country, the Jordanian King stressed that his country opposes the unilateral measures taken by Israel to change the legal status of holy places sacred to Muslims and Christians in the city.

A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry on April 24 criticized the act of aggression by Israeli occupationists on the holy place in al-Quds and called on the international community to prevent Israel from violating the human rights of Palestinians and making inroads into al-Quds.

With the incident as a momentum, there were combat actions between Hamas and Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip.

The former launched about

30 missiles to the southern part of Israel from the Gaza Strip and the locals in the region took to the streets to hold a demo burning tires as a token of solidarity with their fellow countrymen in al-Quds.

Meanwhile, Israeli fighters and tanks destroyed some structures of Hamas.

The chief of the general staff of the Iranian armed forces in a press interview about Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip warned that it would suffer a strong counter-attack.

The recent incidents were caused by the Zionists who, burning with a shameless territorial ambition, do not hesitate to perpetrate criminal acts as they behave self-conceitedly in disregard of sovereignty of other countries.

Through such reckless moves to disturb the regional peace and stability, Israel will incur a fiercer denunciation of the international community.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Briefly

China

President Xi stresses need to display spirit of preceding fighters

During his visit to a memorial hall in Guilin City of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on April 25, Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed to the need to bear in mind for ever the noble spirit displayed by the service personnel of the Red Army.

He called on everyone on the new long journey for attaining the "Second Century" goals to make a courageous advance towards great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Int'l organizations Concern over vaccination reality expressed

WHO, UNICEF and other international organizations issued a joint statement on April 26 to express serious concern about the world situation regarding vaccination against infectious diseases.

According to the statement, more than 50 countries and regions fail to give people vaccination properly and therefore about 228 million people are exposed to danger of contracting infectious diseases.

Zimbabwe Pharmaceutical industry to develop

The Zimbabwean government on April 27 approved a five-year plan to develop the pharmaceutical industry.

The plan aims to enhance the share of homemade medicines from the current 12% to 35%, the output of essential medicines from 30% to 60% and the export of medicines from 10% to 25% in the domestic medicine market in the coming five years.

Kenya Semiconductor factory built

A semiconductor factory was inaugurated on April 26 in the central part of Kenya.

President Uhuru Kenyatta who attended the opening ceremony said that it is the only manufacturing plant built by the efforts of the Kenyan people. Such factories will form a basis in turning the country into an industrialized state, he noted.

France Protest held against inequality

French people staged about 300 rounds of demonstrations in protest against the authorities' economic policy in Paris, Lyons and major cities.

The demonstrators demanded the redressing of social inequality, asserting that whereas immense wealth continues to be concentrated on the rich, the situation of the poor deteriorates with the passage of time.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

TAEKWON-DO

Woman achieves the impossible in martial art



“

And there was no guarantee that my physical conditions would be recovered. But I wanted to go the way I have chosen to the last.”

People's Athlete Paek Chun Ok

beginning the training, second and third dans after two years.

She made her international debut at the Eighth Taekwon-Do World Championships, coming third in the women's 58kg individual sparring.

She grew more confident after the first international event and trained hard to win a gold medal in the team sparring of the first junior Taekwon-Do world championships held the year after.

However, she was diagnosed as having the rupture of spleen and underwent a surgical operation to remove it during the training to prepare for the Ninth Taekwon-Do World Championships.

“Doctors said I had to give up professional career. My family members were also very worried about me. But I could not abandon my dream of winning the world championship,” recalled Paek.

Though her basic physical strength declined after being

hospitalized for months, she launched into the training with a decision to start out on her career again from the beginning.

“It was hard for me. And there was no guarantee that my physical conditions would be recovered. But I wanted to go the way I have chosen to the last,” said Paek.

Her painstaking efforts bore fruit: she was placed first and second in individual and team special technique respectively in the second junior Taekwon-Do world championships and won two gold medals in the same events in the third junior world Taekwon-Do championships. Later, she snatched a gold in the Tenth Taekwon-Do World Championships she had so long desired and became a Merited Athlete.

With such unrivalled special techniques as jump and high frontal kick, jump and spin kick, jump and turning side kick and others, she won the individual special technique event again in the 11th Taekwon-Do World Championships.

“Sportspeople's challenging spirit to achieve their goal and dream help them surpass their physical capacity. Many of them are training in such a spirit. I am only one of them,” she said.

After retiring, she worked as a coach of the Taekwon-Do Club of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee and trained promising reserve players.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

FOOD

Some national foods of wisdom

The Korean women have developed their unique national cooking culture as they made foods beneficial to health and longevity of humans for a long historical period.

The Korean people obtained a variety of nutrients and calories from polished rice

and other boiled cereals, while having amino acids from soybean paste or pickles, and supplemented vitamin C, iron and others by taking kimchi along with them.

The Korean kimchi, known as a world's health food among national dishes, clearly

showcases the intelligence of the Korean women.

They mostly prepared kimchi for winter as a subsidiary food as it is difficult to get fresh vegetables.

They made kimchi with unique taste by mixing raw materials (bok choy and radish) with seasoning, fish, pickles and fruit according to the taste of local areas, families and individuals.

They also used soya beans in their dietary life.

They succeeded in gaining nutrients that could only



Whole cabbage kimchi (left). Mullet soup (right).

FOLK DANCE

Turning round decorative tassels on cap



A scene from the mass gymnastics and artistic performance “The Glorious Country” in September 2018.

The dance turning round decorative tassels on cap is a distinctive one performed by men in traditional peasant dance peculiar to Korea.

A folk dance performed to the tune of farm music since olden times, the peasant dance is an optimistic, interesting and popular one of strong national tinge.

Its movements are virile since the peasant dance was the play of men and the main thing here is the dance turning round decorative tassels.

The basic movement of the dance, turning round decorative tassels is a stunt of revolving pheasant feather which has been hung at the top of a soldier's felt hat or glued the long white paper piece to it like a toy pinwheel.

There are dozens of main movements in turning round decorative tassels.

It adds further thrill to the Korean folk art when the dancer draws different shapes by turning the 12 metre-long decorative tassels as he moves round the stage.

According to the kinds of decorative tassels, the dance is classified into small, large and feather tassel ones. There are nimble and diverse skills such as turning outside decorative tassels on a cap, that of inside ones, that of both ones, that

of lightning ones, and left and right strikes.

The dance shows the well-knit collective harmony of rhythms since several dancers simultaneously revolve the same or various decorative tassels on caps.

The big tassel turning dance depicts different fortes as one or two dancers turn the 12 metre-long decorative tassels.

As dancers revolve such light cloth string as feather after tying it on top of a soldier's felt hat, the feather tassel turning dance gives a soft and delicate rhythmic sense.

The dance shows the optimistic life sentiments of the Korean people as dancers perform as they lightly turn decorative tassels on a cap by naturally harmonizing the expansion and contraction of legs and moving their necks to the tune of delightful and diverse farm music.

The techniques peculiar to the dance are newly being developed and enriched.

Today, the dance is performed as a massive, popular one at national events or year-end payment places on cooperative farms and an important number of artistic performance and mass gymnastics.

By Jong Chol PT

be taken through meat by developing processed bean products, prepared various sauces with beans to develop them into a favourite food of the Korean nation and made bean curd, bean sprouts and boiled ground bean.

With a deep understanding that water promotes human metabolism and is beneficial to health, they developed such foods containing much water as cold noodles, fish porridge, mullet soup, watery radish kimchi and *samgyethang*, or chicken boiled with insam.

And they made foods of edible greens by using the original tastes and pharmacological action of edible herbs while bringing out beef entrails soup, shank soup, steamed pork hoof, steamed beef springing with radish, pork sausage and pig-head aspic which make the most use of domestic animal meat.

Such national foods are now being further developed and enriched.

By Min Chol PT

