

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun

KCNA

All the people across the DPRK are filled with ardent yearning and boundless reverence for President Kim Il Sung, founding father of socialist Korea and great sage of the revolution, on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of his demise.

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, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun at 00:00 on July 8.

Accompanying him were Pak Thae Song, Choe

Ryong Hae and Jo Yong Won, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, other senior officials of the Party and the government, leading officials of the WPK Central

Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, the Cabinet, commissions and ministries and commanding officers of armed forces organs.

A flower basket in the name of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was laid before the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

eternal prosperity of our socialist state which is successfully realizing the ideals of the people in a comprehensive way, winning victory after victory from one century into the next.

Also laid were the flower baskets in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK State Affairs Commission, the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and the DPRK Cabinet.

Kim Jong Un paid high tribute to the great leaders in front of the statues.

At the halls, where the President and the Chairman lie in state, he made a deep bow of best wishes for their immortality.

He affirmed that the revolutionary careers and exploits of the President and the Chairman will shine forever along with the



Immortal exploits etched in history of building national defences

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un achieved great causes to be specially recorded in the history of building national defences to enhance the dignity and prestige of the DPRK to the highest level as a world military power.

In the present world of fierce contest between strength, he has pressed on with the building of national defences, regarding it as the top priority to guarantee the eternal security and prosperity of the nation. He has armed the Korean People's Army with the Juche-oriented military ideas, strategy and tactics of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and developed the KPA into elite revolutionary armed forces fully prepared politically, ideologically and in military technique.

He visited Kim Jong Il Military and Political University, Kim Il Sung Military University and O Jin U Artillery Academy to indicate the tasks and ways for training military talents. On his visits to training grounds, he said that he felt assured and proud to see the soldiers prepared as brave fighters like tightly-packed bullets and gave pep talks to the combatants who grew up to be reliable guards and passionate warriors of the KPA which always emerges victorious.

He organized the Fourth Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA and clarified the ways for turning battalions into combat groups that have enforced strict military discipline and assumed the appearance appropriate to a regular army.

He made painstaking efforts to

increase the defence capabilities to the world's best as he directed all kinds of military exercises and test-fires at training grounds clouded with powder smoke and dangerous firing lines.

The artillery firing drill of large combined units of the KPA, the training competition between tankmen's large combined units of the KPA and other military exercises guided by him served as important occasions in keeping the Korean revolutionary armed forces fully ready and in completely overpowering the challenges of aggressor forces in any battle circumstances.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un ensured the building of ultra-modern military hardware with his world-shaking pluck, iron will and matchless courage.

The super-powerful and ultra-modern military hardware and

strategic assets demonstrating the tremendous military power of the DPRK could not be achieved by ordinary imagination and resolution.

The military hardware of the DPRK, in terms of the righteous purpose and character, the indomitable spiritual strength and unheard-of fighting spirit embodied in them, has thousands of times greater—utterly incomparable—power than those the military-industrial complexes of imperialist countries manufacture in pursuance of massacre, destruction and economic profit.

Through the launch ceremonies of new-type multi-mission destroyers in April and June this year, he demonstrated once again the invariable will of the DPRK to confidently attain the phased goals for achieving the cause of building a powerful nation with a strong

army and modernizing a powerful army and opened up a new era of an advanced maritime power.

Military and technical superiority is no longer a monopoly of the imperialists and gone are the days forever when the enemies threatened and blackmailed the DPRK with A-bombs.

The DPRK will grow stronger in the future, too, as it boosts its defence capabilities for self-defence with the firm faith that military strength is the security, dignity and prestige of the country and people.

The status and absolute might of the DPRK as a world military power are irreversible.

The immortal exploits of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who built powerful national defences to guarantee the eternal security and prosperity of the nation, will shine forever.

On 31st anniv of demise of President Kim Il Sung

Nation honours memory of President Kim Il Sung

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All the people across the DPRK honoured the memory of President Kim Il Sung in the humblest reverence for him on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of his demise.

The national flags were hoisted at half-mast at the flagpoles across the country

and at institutions, industrial establishments, farms and schools on July 8.

Working people, service personnel, youth and students visited the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance,

to pay high tribute to the peerlessly great sages who devoted their all to the victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche and the cause of anti-imperialist independence all their lives.

The masses visited the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in other parts of the country and the mosaics depicting

the peerlessly great men to lay flower baskets, bouquets and flowers praying for their immortality.

Officials, members of the Workers' Party of Korea, working people, service personnel, youth and students across the country watched documentary films "Our Leader Praised by All People", "Finding Himself

among the People All His Life" and "The People Sing of Their Leader" at their workplaces, posts and homes.

Meetings were held in different parts of the country to tell stories about the virtues of the President in praise of his revolutionary career and exploits.

The speakers praised

the President for injecting immortal vitality into the ever-victorious history of the Korean revolution winning victory after victory with independent politics, self-supporting economy and self-reliant national defence and laying an eternal foundation for building a powerful and prosperous state.



Working people, service personnel, youth and students visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and mosaics depicting their images to pay homage to them.

Meetings praise noble virtues of President Kim Il Sung

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A meeting of workers and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) took place at the Central Hall of Workers in Pyongyang on July 3 to praise the noble virtues of President Kim Il Sung on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of his demise.

Present there were Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, officials of the GFTUK and workers and members of the GFTUK in Pyongyang.

An epic "Our Eternal Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung" was first recited at the meeting, which highly praised the great life of the popular leader who regarded "The people are God" as his lifetime motto and devoted his all to the country and the people.

And Kim Song Ho, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, took the floor to say that the warm love and trust and wise leadership of the President, who attached great significance to the position and role of the working class in the revolution and construction and glorified the life of the working class

on the highest level, were the key to making the GFTUK faithfully follow the road of loyalty and patriotism.

Other speakers expressed their determination to intensify the drive for increased production for the brighter future of the DPRK and greater happiness of its people, saying that the history of love for the people continues and the people's cherished desire is being translated into a brilliant reality on this land thanks to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who is holding the people in high esteem as heaven.

Youth and students met at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on July 7 to tell stories about the noble virtues of President Kim Il Sung on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of his demise.

Present there were Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, officials of the youth league and youth and students in Pyongyang.

Speakers at the meeting told about the immortal feats and noble personality of the President who put his heart and soul into training the new generation to become reserves of the revolution

and pillars of the country while giving priority to the youth work in the whole period of leading the revolution.

With the song "We Pledge" sung by those who took the platform resounding in the hall, all the participants renewed their will to fully demonstrate the mettle and spirit of the patriotic youth in the struggle to thoroughly implement the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea by upholding with single mind the leadership of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un.

Schoolchildren met at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace on July 6 to tell stories about the virtues of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il Sung on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of his demise.

At the meeting, speakers told about the immortal exploits of the great Generalissimo who put forward the schoolchildren as the king and treasure of the country and showed all loving care and benevolence for them.

They said that he made painstaking efforts to bring up the rising generations

to be reliable pillars who would shoulder the future of the country, kindly asking young schoolchildren about their study and life.

They referred to the pride of preparing themselves to be young revolutionaries and patriots under the care of the motherly Workers' Party of Korea, saying that they can never forget for all ages the benevolent image of the great Generalissimo who instilled the preciousness of the country into the schoolchildren.

Present at the meeting were Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, officials of the youth league and schoolchildren.

Agricultural workers and members of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea (UAWK) held a meeting on July 7 to tell stories about the noble virtues of President Kim Il Sung on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of his demise.

Officials and members of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea met at the Hall of Women in Pyongyang on July 4 to tell the stories about noble virtues of President Kim Il Sung on the same occasion.

Seminars on exploits of President Kim Il Sung held in different countries

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Seminars on the exploits of President Kim Il Sung took place in Mongolia, Pakistan, Bulgaria and Egypt on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of his demise.

Present there were personages of parliaments, political parties, organizations and institutions and members of organizations for the study of the Juche idea and organizations for friendship and solidarity with the DPRK people in the relevant countries.

Speeches were made at the seminars.

Personages of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship and Solidarity Committee, the Karachi Juche Study Centre of Pakistan, the Karachi Women's Organization for the Study of the Juche Idea of Pakistan and the Organization of Youth and Students of the Juche Idea in Karachi of Pakistan said the revolutionary ideas of President Kim Il Sung have been invariably carried forward in the DPRK though decades have passed and that the truthfulness and vitality of the Juche idea have been

clearly proved in the 21st century, too.

The exploits of President Kim Il Sung will be handed down century after century, they stressed.

Members of the State Great Hural of Mongolia and the president of J. Sambuu Herders Development Fund of Mongolia said that the Mongolian people are still ardently revering President Kim Il Sung, referring to the immortal exploits performed by the great leader for the development of friendly relations.

The chief and members of the Bulgarian Group for the Study of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism praised the President for having wisely led the Korean revolution and the world revolution under the uplifted banner of independence.

The vice-chairman of the Socialist Freedom Party of Egypt praised the President's immortal ideo-theoretical exploits, the exploits he performed for Korea's liberation and the victorious Fatherland Liberation War and his noble internationalist obligation.

Premier Pak inspects various sectors

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Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, inspected various fields.

He visited the construction site of the 10 000 flats at the fourth stage in the Hwasong area and learned about the progress made in the construction according to projects and units. And he stressed the need to ensure the quality and speed of projects by further enhancing the responsibility and role of officials of construction units and supervisory organs and

hasten the construction of public buildings and service amenities networks on the ground floors to successfully carry out the project tasks.

Learning about farming at the Rimok Farm in Sinchon County, the township farm in Thaethan County, the Jangsong Farm in Ongjin County, the Pumin Farm in Kangnyong County, the Hakchon Farm in Unchon County and other farms in South Hwanghae Province, the premier called for rationally organizing manpower to cope with climate change and increasing the operation rate of farm machines to finish the harvest, transport and threshing of wheat and barley in a short span of time

and for pushing ahead with the sowing as scheduled by selecting as after-crops the high-yielding varieties that suit the characteristics of fields and areas.

He underlined the importance for the farms in lowland areas to properly judge the natural disaster-prone places and take thorough measures for drainage and readjust paddy ridges in a qualitative way in order to prevent damage to crops.

Earlier, at the Songyong Paint Factory and the Unsan Prospecting Machine Factory, the premier referred to the practical issues and ways for further pushing ahead with the improvement of product quality and modernization of



Premier Pak Thae Song (middle) learns in detail about the immediate farming of the Township Farm of Kangnyong County.

production lines by dint of science and technology.

The field consultative meetings discussed the issue for the construction units to intensify the drive for saving materials and for the

agricultural sector to widely generalize the experience gained by the advanced units in farming, the issue of further perfecting the production lines as the energy- and cost-saving ones and the issue

for the leading economic officials to put the planning work on a scientific basis at a higher level and thoroughly establish discipline in implementing plans, and took relevant measures.

Enlarged plenary meetings held to implement decisions of 12th Plenary Meeting of Eighth Central Committee of WPK

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WPK Pyongyang municipal and provincial committees

Enlarged plenary meetings of the Pyongyang municipal and provincial committees of the Workers' Party of Korea took place from July 3 to 6 to implement the decisions of the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Present at the plenary meetings were members and alternate members of provincial Party committees.

The plenary meetings analysed and reviewed the work for the first half of this year and discussed practical issues for making more substantial progress in implementing the decisions

of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee.

Reports were made at the meetings.

The reporters stressed that the militant tasks set forth at the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee are the great action programme for bringing earlier the era of comprehensive prosperity of Korean-style socialism as soon as possible by firmly maintaining the upward trend of state development.

The plenary meetings analysed and reviewed the successes and experience gained and some deviations and lessons drawn in the

course of implementing the major policies of the Party and the state in the first half of the year. They also presented ways for conducting the work for the second half of the year.

At the plenary meetings, the reporters called upon all officials to hold fast to the idea of "The people are God", single-minded unity and self-reliance as the treasured sword.

Adopted at the plenary meetings with unanimous approval were decisions drawn up amid the immense enthusiasm of the participants.

Cabinet Party Committee

An enlarged plenary meeting of the Cabinet Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place on July 7 for the implementation of the decisions of the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Present there were Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and premier of the DPRK Cabinet, Pak Jong Gun, vice-premier of the Cabinet and chairman of the State Planning Commission, Kim Jong Gwan, vice-premier of the Cabinet, and other members

and alternate members of the Cabinet Party Committee. And officials concerned were present as observers.

The plenary meeting reviewed the work in the first half of the year for implementing the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK and discussed in depth the measures for perfectly carrying out the important tasks set forth at the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK by making more courageous, effective and intensive efforts.

Ri Yong Sik, chief

secretary of the Cabinet Party Committee, made a report.

The plenary meeting strictly analyzed and reviewed some shortcomings revealed in implementing the Party's decisions in the first half of the year and their causes and discussed the measures for achieving sustainable and stable development of the overall economy.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

The meeting adopted a decision for thoroughly carrying out the tasks set forth at the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Party committees of ministries and national agencies

Enlarged plenary meetings of the Workers' Party of Korea's committees of the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Land and Maritime Transport, the Pyongyang Construction Commission, the State Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Physical

Culture and Sports took place from July 3 to 9 for the implementation of the decisions of the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Present at the plenary meetings were members and alternate members of the relevant Party committees.

Also on hand as observers were officials concerned.

Reports and speeches were made at the meetings.

The meetings adopted decisions to ensure the thorough implementation of the policy tasks set forth by the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee.

Working people's organizations

The Thirteenth Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) took place on July 9.

Present there were members and alternate members of the Central Committee of the GFTUK. Also on hand as observers were trade union officials from Pyongyang and provinces.

The meeting discussed the issue of thoroughly implementing the decisions of the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, made a report.

The report analysed and reviewed the work of the

trade union in the first half of the year and referred to the measures for further enhancing the organizing ability and activity of trade union organizations at all levels as intended by the Party.

Speakers expressed their determination to display their redoubled efforts and fighting spirit in implementing the Party's decisions and thus demonstrate the might of the GFTUK, with a sense of responsibility that successes in the work of their sectors and units depend on them.

The meeting adopted with unanimous approval a decision reflecting the goals and tasks of the GFTUK to thoroughly implement the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee.

The Enlarged Meeting of the Fifteenth Plenary Meeting of the Tenth Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League and the Enlarged Meeting of the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea (UAWK) took place on the same day.

The meetings discussed the issue of thoroughly implementing the decisions of the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Relevant decisions were adopted at the meetings.

And the Enlarged Meeting of the 14th Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea was held on July 10.

Russian foreign minister arrives in DPRK

Sergei Lavrov, minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, arrived at Wonsan Kalma Airport on the evening of July 11 to visit the DPRK at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

He was greeted at the airport by Vice-Minister Kim Jong Gyu and other officials of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, Alexandr Matscgora,

ambassador of the Russian Federation to the DPRK, and his embassy staff members.

During his visit, talks will be held between the foreign ministers of the DPRK and Russia.

Economic sectors, units carry out first half-yearly plans

Key industry sectors rise up

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Amidst the vigorous all-people emulation drive for increased production to successfully complete the five-year plan, different economic sectors and units including the metal, chemical, electric power, coal and machine-building industries and rail transport sector fulfilled their plans for the first half of the year.

The Sangwon Cement Complex took the lead in the nationwide struggle for increased production.

After setting itself an ambitious goal to produce ten times more cement than the increased output in 2024, the complex encouraged the collective innovation drive from the beginning of the year to record the highest monthly production results in January since its inauguration and boost the cement production both in quality and quantity every month.

In May, it wound up the plan for increased production and successfully carried out the newly-added production tasks, renewing the highest production results of the complex again and overfulfilling its production plan for the first half of the year.

Officials, workers and technicians of the complex increased production by introducing valuable research findings including the new application of a vibration diagnosis technology, the improvement of dust-collection efficiency and the mixture of additives for optimizing products.

Following the examples of the Sangwon Cement Complex, the Sunchon Cement Complex improved the quality of its product while lowering the consumption of materials per unit and fiercely kindled the flames of innovation, thus producing much more cement than the increased production goal every day.

The Chonnaeri Cement Factory also increased the

clinker output per hour to achieve the peak production results since inauguration, while the Chollima Tile Factory overfulfilled the first half-yearly plan by 39 percent by widely encouraging the technical innovation drive for the domestic production of raw and other materials and equipment and the quality improvement of building materials.

Key industries, the main arteries of the national economy, have turned out for implementing the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The metallurgical industry sector established new standards and created new records while firmly consolidating the foundations for self-supporting production.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex took technical measures for improving the performance of furnaces and lengthening the repair cycle of the oxygen blast furnace and positively applied rational furnace operating methods conducive to raising the operation rate of equipment to produce much more molten iron while using much less fuel than before.

The Chollima Steel Complex, which built an efficient and advanced curved-type continuous ingot moulder true to the WPK's strategy of readjustment and reinforcement, ensured the normal operation of equipment including the UHP electric arc furnace to shorten the melting time and increase the per-charge molten iron output.

The Musan Mining Complex, which took a large step forward by carrying out a 650 000 cubic-metre blasting from the outset of this year, exceeded the first half-yearly target by increasing the production of concentrated iron ore 1.2 times and removing overburden more than 1.3 times over last year.

The Unnyul and Jaeryong

mines further produced much more iron ore than before and the Posan Iron Works, the Puryong Ferroalloy Factory, the Hungnam Electrode Factory and others carried out their plans every month by concentrating their efforts on increasing their production capacities.

The spirit of fresh innovation, bold creation and steady advance was fully displayed in the chemical industry sector.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex turned out thousands of tons of more fertilizers than planned while saving a great deal of anthracite coal every month, fulfilling its fertilizer production plan for the manuring year ahead of schedule.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex, the Sunchon Chemical Complex, the Ponghwa Chemical Factory, the Pyongyang Rubber Factory and other units carried out their daily plans without fail by operating equipment at full capacity.

The electric-power industry sector successfully completed the national economic plan for the first half of the year.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex remarkably decreased the coal consumption and generated tens of millions of kWh of more electricity than planned by further increasing the number of work days per ignition, ensuring the normal operation of the electric power system and boosting the performance of generators to enhance their capacities 1.2 times.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Station increased production after finishing the general overhaul of boilers, which had taken several months in the past, in some 50 days. The Chongchongang and Sunchon thermal power stations boosted the combustion efficiency and heat efficiency in boilers by remodelling the ignition band based on far-infrared heating

element and turning the boiler slag draw-out hole into a closed type.

The East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station produced a great deal of electricity every day by effectively conducting the technical innovation drive including the enhancing of the capacity of blowers and exhausters.

The Suphung, Jangjingang, Hochongang, Thaecheon and Sodusu power stations and other hydroelectric power plants improved the scientific level of water control, boosted the performance of generating facilities and stably maintained and increased the production of electric power.

The enthusiasm for increased production has been further heightened in the coal industry sector.

Coal miners at the Namyang Coal Mine under the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex produced tens of thousands of tons of more coal than the same period of last year, thereby completing the first half-yearly national economic plan first in the Ministry of Coal Industry.

The Sunchon and Pukchang area youth coal-mining complexes cut thousands of tons of more coal than assignments by widely encouraging the socialist patriotic movement for increased coal production.

The Kaechon, Anju, Kangdong, Hamnam and Myongchon area coal-mining complexes also carried out their first half-yearly plans by scientifically distributing the drilling and positively waging mass movements including those of working one more shift and helping next shift.

Officials and workers in the machine-building industry sector carried out their custom-built equipment production plan of the Ministry of Machine-building Industry for the first half of the year at 128.9 percent by demonstrating

unbounded enthusiasm for increased production.

The mining industry sector further boosted production.

Finding an essential way of increased production in reducing the production costs and increasing the actual extraction rate, the Munphyong Smelter carried out its first half-yearly plan on all indices by establishing a regular checking and repair system for ensuring the full operation of equipment including the electric furnace and positively employing the recycling method based on the zinc oxide production process.

Miners of the tunnelling pit of the Unpha Mine introduced a highly-efficient blasting method by waging a mass technical innovation drive, took measures for boosting the ore mining capacity and ensured the smooth ore conveying process to become the first unit that fulfilled the first half-yearly production plan at the mine.

The rail transport sector finished the freight transport plan of the Ministry of Railways for the first half of the year by vigorously waging the drive for transporting more freight and the workers of the forestry sector fully displayed their fighting spirit to hit the timber production goal for this year without fail at all workplaces.

Good results were also obtained in the light industry sector, which supports the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on bringing about a turn in diversifying consumer goods in terms of kind and shape and improving their quality with practical successes.

Factories of the Ministry of Light Industry and the Ministry of Regional Industry mapped out innovative phased plans for the production of school uniforms, shoes and bags to be supplied to the new pupils and students of primary schools, junior middle schools and universities and colleges across the country and worked hard to carry

them out.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, the Sinuiju Textile Mill, the Sariwon Textile Mill, the September Textile Mill and the Hamhung Woolen Textile Mill produced different kinds of cloths by concentrating on the development of new products and set an example in implementing the first half-yearly plans by increasing the ranks of skilled workers and vigorously conducting the multi-machine and multi-spindle tending movement.

The Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, the Sinuiju Footwear Factory, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, the Hamhung Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory, the Kyongsong Ceramic Factory and others produced quality consumer goods favoured and welcomed by the people.

The fisheries sector brought about a surge in the production of aquatic products by consolidating the production foundations.

The Mundok Fishery Station of the South Phyongan Provincial Fishery Management Bureau repaired fishing vessels and implements in a short time and made a good catch of fish by introducing an advanced fish detecting technique and employing fishing methods that suited the changing fishing conditions.

The Kim Chaek and Chongjin fishery stations of the North Hamgyong Provincial Fishery Management Bureau increased the fish catch by waging the fishing campaign in a flexible way to meet the marine conditions and the migration of fish.

Officials and employees of the Ongjin Offshore Farm and Kumipho Fishery Station gathered in more seaweeds than planned by applying scientific manuring and advanced cultivation methods and improving the operation rate of fishing vessels.



Technical progress and innovations are made to fulfil the first half-yearly national economic plans in different sectors and units.

Building-materials factory achieves high production growth

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Chollima General Building-materials Factory is boosting production by strengthening its technical forces.

"Now that production processes are being upgraded with intelligent and up-to-date facilities, it is an important factor in boosting production in a stable and sustainable way to increase technical forces capable of handling them skilfully," said Kim Jong Jin, deputy chief engineer of the factory.

The factory steadily trains its technical forces under its well-knit system of training technicians and skilled workers.

It set up a database of latest sci-tech information related to various building-materials production in contact with the Sci-Tech Complex, the State Commission of Science and Technology and the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology and operates a sci-tech learning space provided with many sci-tech books on a regular basis.

All the employees are working hard to enhance their technical skills to meet their occupational category and fulfilment of tasks.

According to the chief of the sci-tech learning space, many employees are involved in the study-while-you-work system to attend lectures and they have solved lots of sci-tech problems.

This year, the factory introduced an oxygen cutter gas control system, whose

performance has been improved, into the process of producing light steel structure, thus increasing its productivity 1.5 times while ensuring the convenience of oxygen cutting work.

Meanwhile, it raised quality and per-unit consumption and established a process control technology for single-purpose equipment to lay the material and technical foundations for setting up an integrated production system.

And it researched and made various colours of multi-colour patterned paint that can beautifully and gorgeously decorate the interior and external walls of structures and buildings. The paint can reportedly substitute for granite and other high-grade stone materials for concrete products.

It also newly developed various jigs and tools for ensuring precision in product processing.

The aluminium and plastic composite sash recently developed by the factory is winning high appraisal among experts for convenience in usage and the solidity of product. Made with high-purity aluminium as the raw material, it is highly effective in intercepting cold and radiating heat as compared to plastic or wooden sash and the surface is very smooth and does not oxidize and corrode.

Various plastic flowerpots, which bring great profits and have good ornamental effects, are winning popularity among users as they are convenient to use.



Building materials needed for major projects are produced at the Chollima General Building-materials Factory(top). RI RYON SONG/ THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Some of products of the factory(left).

Factory effectively uses by-product of corn processing

By Ri Myong Jun PT

The Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory has recently developed and introduced a new technique of making with cornhusk microcrystalline cellulose, which is used as an additive in foodstuff and medicines.

"We established a

technique of producing and supplying microcrystalline cellulose by our own efforts with a by-product of corn processing, which had been used as a feed for domestic animals in the past, as the main raw material. This has made it possible for the production units of processed flour products and medicines to improve the

quality of products while lowering their costs," said Ri Hyok Min, staffer at the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory.

The factory concentrated its efforts on devising a new technique for using cornhusk coming from production processes in large quantities in line with the characteristics of the factory specializing in the production of processed corn.

Technicians scientifically confirmed the main factors affecting the extraction rate of microcrystalline cellulose in the course of analyzing the structure of cornhusk and its ingredients and found out optimal technical indexes.

And they solved technical problems arising in clearly removing protein and starch from cornhusk and preserving the shape of cellulose.

They verified the rational concentration of bleaching solution and bleaching temperature and time capable of increasing the bleach

degree of the cellulose separated from cornhusk and the ground grain size capable of ensuring the quality indexes and, through the detailed analysis of the quality of the microcrystalline cellulose, proved that it is excellent in all the qualitative characteristics including grain size, degree of crystallinity and degree of whiteness.

On the basis of this, the factory set up a microcrystalline cellulose production process.

The factory's microcrystalline cellulose has been introduced into production of processed flour like pastry and yeast bread at the Kumsong Foodstuff Factory and different other foodstuff factories and into the production of tablets at pharmaceutical factories, proving highly effective in improving the quality of products.

At present, the factory is focusing on the research to improve the quality of corn starch and glucose syrup.



Technicians develop a new technique of making microcrystalline cellulose at the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory. WON TONG CHOL/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Biodegradable paper for covering soil produced

By Choe Song Jun PT

The Academy of Agricultural Science developed a technique for producing biodegradable paper for covering soil by an industrial method.

Its researchers, together with the scientists of the paper technology institute of the State Academy of Sciences, verified the possibility of industrial introduction for the development of biodegradable paper and ensured the domestic production of the covering material capable of lowering the water absorbability of paper.

As a result, such paper is being produced in different areas including Mundok County. And different cities and counties continue to increase the area of cover cultivation of crops using

biodegradable paper.

The cover cultivation of crops using biodegradable paper prevents soil pollution and erosion and loss of nutrients and decreases labour-consuming farming processes like weeding and ploughing.

As biodegradable paper is made with corn and reed straws, there is an abundant supply of its raw materials.

The paper has good prospects of introduction as paper mills in cities and counties can produce it with their production facilities.

The development and introduction of the highly profitable technique for producing paper for covering soil have made it possible to produce high and safe crop yield by overcoming the influence of disastrous abnormal weather in all regions of the country.

First winners of Natural Science Prize

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Natural Science Prize was set in the DPRK this year to be awarded to persons who have performed sci-tech feats conducive to the development of the country's economy and the improvement of the people's living standards.

The prize is awarded to one or two of research findings in the natural science sector every year for carrying out state assignments for sci-tech development and being registered as state sci-tech achievements and recognized worldwide. What is important is that the findings should be introduced into practice.

Last February the project "The explanation of light-material resonant interaction and its application" carried out by the nonlinear optics research group headed by Im Song Jin, candidate academician, professor, PhD and section chief of the Physics Faculty of Kim Il Sung University, became the first to be awarded the prize.

The research group known as an uncommon talent group is a group of young researchers who are in their 20s and 30s.

Im Song Jin, who received a doctorate in his 20s, is a renowned physicist who pioneered the field of nonlinear optics for the first time in the country and has specialized in relevant theoretical studies.

For the wonderful successes he made in the course of leading the research group to challenge and compete with the world, he won the February 16 Science and Technology Prize twice in 2017 and 2021 and was selected as one of the



Im Song Jin



Kim Kum Dong



Song Kil Song



Pae Ji Song



Ri Chol Song



Ho Kum Song



Han Yong Ha



Choe Chol Min

top national scientists and technicians in 2020.

As the author of the first booklet with the name of a DPRK scientist published in 2017 by the most prestigious scientific and technological publishing house in the world, he presented dozens of world-level essays including the one carried in an international scientific journal which is at the top of similar magazines in the world physical circles. Thus he was registered as a "scientist representing Koreans" in Who's Who in the World several times.

Ho Kum Song, Ri Chol Song and Pae Ji Song are also able researchers who were awarded doctorates in their 20s, and Song Kil Song and Kim Kum Dong

are postgraduates who got masters' degrees in their university days and recently presented a thesis for a doctorate each.

They, too, have annually published many essays in international scientific journals of authority in the world physical circles so far since 2017.

In the spirit of keeping their feet firmly planted on this land and looking out over the world, the research group has steadily conducted research on light-material resonant interaction, one of the world's cutting-edge basic science fields.

In the year when the research group received the February 16 Science and Technology Prize for

the second time, Im Song Jin endlessly asked himself a question: How much difference is there between theory and practice?

He thought that although they carried out many scientific research tasks, they were useless when they remained as only experimental successes on the desk without practical significance, and that it was important to formulate basic problems of principle theoretically but it was more important to substantially contribute to the development of the country's economy by positively introducing scientific research findings into reality. He had to decide on whether to pursue theoretical research for world

fame or practical research as required by the reality. Then he selected the latter, which was supported by all his colleagues.

Their first seed for research was to develop an infrared gas analysis device which was badly needed in rolled steel production at a metallurgical factory at that time.

But a clear-cut difference existed between theory and practice and the scientists began to lose confidence at repeated failures.

Some people gossiped about them, saying that they should remain content with their academic authority and fame, because if the "theorists" plunged into the reality to spend energy and time in vain, they might ruin

their reputation.

But with one accord the scientists made strenuous efforts to succeed in researching and making the first infrared gas analysis device and introduced it into a chemical factory.

The introduction of the device into the factory was not easy at all.

"At the factory we came to know we had really many things to do. But what worried us was that its workers did not believe us scientists," recalled Im Song Jin.

He said that they hesitated without confidence, saying that they had tried to make the expensive analysis device by themselves but in vain only to waste money and time.

Im Song Jin and other scientists felt their pride wounded when their wisdom, talents and sincerity were ignored, he recalled.

But what hurt their pride more was that the factory was relying on an imported analysis device equivalent to the eye of the production process, he added.

So they decided to compare the imported device with their development on the spot.

The test result amazed all the workers.

The real-time analysis values of their device tallied with those of the imported one. During the test several problems arose from the imported device, but the domestically made device has run normally until now.

Now all major chemical factories require the analysis device made by the scientists.

The country has given the high honour to such patriotic scientists who support it with laudable sci-tech achievements.

Amid a wave of zeal for sci-tech development

By Choe Song Jun PT

In the DPRK the February 16 Science and Technology Prize, the top prize in the sci-tech field of the country, is awarded to those who made distinguished contributions to the development of the economy, the improvement of the people's livelihood and the development of science and technology of the country.

Well over a thousand scientists and technicians have received this prize over the past two decades since it was awarded in 2004.

The recently instituted Natural Science Prize is awarded to those who have provided the scientific and theoretical basis of great significance in economic construction by making outstanding contributions

to the development of new scientific theories and methodologies in the natural science field.

The Technical Innovation Prize was instituted to encourage scientists and technicians to conduct research and introduction more energetically and it is awarded to those who produced and introduced valuable sci-tech findings, thus making huge contributions to economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, having the findings registered as state sci-tech achievements and achieving the relevant economic effectiveness.

When the winners of natural science and technical innovation prizes have improved their findings up to the standard for selecting the top sci-tech prize, they

are awarded the February 16 prize.

The top scientists and technicians have been selected from among the winners of this prize every year since 2016, and over 40 persons have so far been selected as top scientists and technicians of the country.

Some years ago, the Top Inventor Prize was enacted as part of the efforts to fire the masses with an enthusiasm for invention and produce more world inventions. The prize is awarded to anyone who has come up with cutting-edge technology exceeding the world's advanced level and a distinguished invention making a big contribution to economic development and the improvement of the people's standards of living.

This prize has so far been awarded to 14 persons.

Scientific talents rating management system introduced

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Pyongyang Technology Corporation has produced good results by introducing a scientific talents rating management system.

Its evaluation items and specified indexes are very detailed and the scientific accuracy and precision of analysis improve as the indexes get more detailed, said Jang Kyong Chol, an official of the corporation.

As for the research and development achievement item, for example, there are over ten specified indexes. These indexes are steadily updated by accepting the opinions of employees.

This year, the corporation has shortened the talents rating period from six months to three.

It attaches importance to



Researchers discuss how to develop a new application program at the Pyongyang Technology Corporation.
KIM YONG CHAN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

the role of its science council.

The council deliberates on the analysis of document made by every researcher and the course of development of technology in order to inform them of the knacks of applying advanced technologies and correct development orientations.

This plays an important role in making them conduct all development projects in the most correct way and at the highest qualitative level.

As a result, the corporation achieved lots of successes in fulfilling valuable research tasks in the first half of the year.

Quintuplets let out their first cry

“

But for the loving care of the motherly Party and the benefits of the socialist public health system, our children, whose lives hung in the balance, would not have been alive. The great socialist family defended and tended by our Party, the greatest and most benevolent in the world, and our system are like the parents' home of all of us,” Son Chung Hyo and Pak Kyong Sim, parents of the quintuplets, said with excitement.

By Pang Un Ju PT

News of quintuplets' birth amazes whole country

Pak Kyong Sim, a 28-year-old woman living in neighbourhood unit No. 76 in Janghyon-dong, Moranbong District in Pyongyang, gave birth to quintuplets (three girls and two boys), the first of their kind in the DPRK, on January 31.

The news of the birth of the quintuplets born in this significant year of the 45th anniversary of the completion of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, which all women of the country call their parents' home, delighted the people across the country.

“Will the quintuplets be safe?”

“The doctors and nurses of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital are staying up all night for the resuscitation of the quintuplets.”

On June 19, 140 days after their birth, the quintuplets left the hospital in good health thanks to its medical workers, amid the blessings of its doctors and nurses and many other people.

At that time, the quintuplets all weighed more than 4.7kg and the fourth (boy) of them weighed as much as 6.48kg.

Now they are growing up healthily at the Pyongyang Baby Home located in the best place on the banks of the Taedong River, enjoying the benefits of the state.

140 days of sincere efforts

“The natural occurrence rate of quintuplets pregnancy is only 0.000000015% worldwide,” said Pak Song Bong, deputy director of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. “Previously quintuplets were born from time to time in different countries, but most of them were neglected because

their resuscitation required the most advanced medical technology and huge funds.”

When Pak Kyong Sim, who was getting treatment at the hospital after being diagnosed as having multiple pregnancy, gave birth to the quintuplets on January 31, the babies were in a critical condition.

At that time the infants weighed only 1.28kg, 1.58kg, 1.29kg, 1.42kg and 1.11kg and were considerably poorer in nutrition and immunity than triplets or quadruplets.

The second and fourth babies showed spotted skin and central neuropathic symptoms caused by hypoxia, the third failed to cry at birth, and the fifth showed a sharp decrease in weight, worrying all the medical workers of the hospital.

With a determination to resuscitate the babies, the medical workers pooled their skills, wisdom and efforts.

Each of the babies was put under the care of a doctor, senior doctor, and department head along with the formation of strong treatment, auxiliary diagnosis test, medicine supply and hygiene and anti-epidemic teams, and consultative meetings were often held for their resuscitation.

Scientific treatment methods, including those of ensuring neutral temperature in incubators and controlling environment by means of a noise measurement program, were introduced and the Okryu Children's Hospital and other central-level hospitals joined in the relevant treatments. Authoritative veteran doctors also helped the medical workers while staying by the incubators.

When they saw the relevant test results showing that their resuscitation entered a successful stage more than 50 days after the beginning of the

intensive care, the doctors and nurses embraced each other in tears of joy.

The medical workers also made a sincere effort to nurse the mother of the quintuplets back to health.

At that time, the woman showed the contraction insufficiency of the womb due to its hyperextension. There were suggestions that the womb be extracted because if it was left in such state, it might become seriously inflamed, having a negative effect on the restoration of her health. The medical workers, however, pooled their wisdom and skills to restore the woman back to health.

After hearing that a young couple in Moranbong District had quintuplets, officials of the Ministry of Public Health, the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office and many other institutions and industrial establishments and Pyongyang citizens sent various rare medicines and materials to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

Thanks to the sincerity of such kind people, the quintuplets grew up healthily day by day and their mother was restored to health.

“But for the loving care of the motherly Party and the benefits of the socialist public health system, our children, whose lives hung in the balance, would not have been alive. The great socialist family defended and tended by our Party, the greatest and most benevolent in the world, and our system are like the parents' home of all of us,” Son Chung Hyo and Pak Kyong Sim, parents of the quintuplets, said with excitement.

They gave the babies names with the Korean letters *Chung, Song, Ta, Ha* and *Ri* respectively in the hope that they *will be faithful* to the socialist motherland to return its great favour.

As music teacher for over 60 years

War veteran Kim Cho Sim meets her disciples. She still works at a music school affiliated to Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music and Dance. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES



By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

Kim Cho Sim, is a famous singing teacher of the country. She is still active at a music school affiliated to Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music and Dance.

She is now 93 years old.

Born to a poor peasant's family in Chongjin City of North Hamgyong Province on October 22 1932, she is said to have loved singing songs from childhood. But she could not sing Korean songs under the pressure of a Japanese primary school teacher during the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea.

Her wish was fulfilled only after national liberation.

She sang songs of building a new Korea while giving full play to her talent at the middle school and students' art festivals, drawing attention of all the citizens of Chongjin as a singer with a bright future.

When the US imperialists and their stooges started the war of aggression on this land in June 1950, she joined the army.

She was 18 years old at that time.

“The stage was precious, but more precious was the country. So I volunteered to join the Korean People's Army,” Kim recalled.

A vocalist of the then Ministry of the Interior Song and Dance Ensemble, she jumped into the flames of the raging war. Her songs resounded in the heights where battles were fought and liberated towns and villages, offering great encouragement to the Korean people and soldiers and serving as bullets for annihilating the enemy.

She did not sing songs only.

She carried ammunition to the heights clouded with powder smoke and brought the wounded soldiers back to the rear, fearless of death. In the course of it, she was severely wounded in the head, arms and legs. In the three-year war she was awarded two Distinguished Military Service Medals.

After the war, too, she encouraged the people across the country who had turned out for postwar reconstruction by singing songs enthusiastically as the women's chorus team leader of the then Central Broadcasting Art Troupe.

When the central TV broadcasting tower was built for the first time in the country, her songs resounded across the country, adding to the joy of the local people.

When she was unable to stand on the stage any longer due to the aftereffects of the injuries she had suffered during the war, the country saw that she continued to work as a teacher.

For over 60 years since then, she has worked as a music teacher, adding glory to her life.

When she was a music teacher at Pyongyang Inhung Middle School, the schoolgirls' chorus team instructed by her received wide acclaim from the audience at the national schoolchildren's art festivals and joined the annual schoolchildren's New Year performance to give pleasure to President Kim Il Sung.

Later, she worked as a teacher of the early vocal music course at the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace under the deep care of Chairman Kim Jong Il,

training many talented singers on the basis of the unique Korean-style vocalism.

Among her former students are many People's and Merited Artistes and teachers who are well known to the Korean people.

“Years have gone by. But I can still pursue a successful teaching career full of energy because the policies and benefits of the country for war veterans serve as nutrients of my life,” Kim said.

Many people ask her to spend the rest of her life in comfort. But she works harder to fulfil her duty as an educator to return the favours she received from the country which brought her up to become a Labour Hero, People's Teacher and Merited Artist.

Seen on a wall of her house are photos she posed for with Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, certificates of state commendations and certificates of participation in national conferences.

Chairman Kim Jong Il praised her as a person of meritorious deeds who had trained talented singers and saw that high state commendations were awarded to her. General Secretary Kim Jong Un warmly shook hands with her participating in the Seventh National Conference of War Veterans and heartily wished her good health again and again.

“I don't care about my age. I only want to train my students well to the last moments of my life so that they can bring honour to the country,” said the teacher in her 90s. “This is the greeting a war veteran offers to the benevolent country.”



By Han Jong Ho PT

The Okryu Restaurant, a Korean-style majestic building standing on the shore of the Taedong River meandering through the capital city of Pyongyang, is always crowded with people.

The name of the restaurant reminds the Koreans first of the famous Pyongyang cold noodles, one of the four specialities of Pyongyang.

In other words, the Pyongyang cold noodles represent the restaurant and are the most typical food of the Korean nation.

Tens of millions of people have tasted the noodles in the eatery since its inauguration in 1960.

The Koreans like cold noodles so much that it became their dietary habit to have them as a meal every day. Especially, the demand

for them is very high in scorching summer among four seasons.

The food is famous since every component of it is distinctive, such as the chewy strips of the noodles, mellow meat stock, garnishes of harmonious taste and brass vessels enhancing the quality of the dish.

The meat stock is very important in the noodles. In order to make it beef, pork and chicken are boiled slowly in cold water while scooping foam and fat, soy sauce and salt are added and the stock is brought to the boil again before it is filtered with a sieve and cooled. The meat stock is mixed with watery radish kimchi juice and the mixture is clear, refreshing and savoury.

Not content with only one vessel of the noodles, many diners have two unashamedly, saying that

they have an additional stomach for noodles.

The noodles in a flat vessel covered with meat are also a popular dish of the Okryu Restaurant.

The dish is mainly made of buckwheat noodles and chicken and can be claimed to be the best food in nutritive value and flavour and in relieving midsummer heat.

Everyone at the table beams—the diners mixing the appetizing chicken on the flat vessel with spices and the waitresses pouring fragrant meat stock on the coiled noodles.

The restaurant is also visited by many overseas Koreans and foreigners.

Overseas Koreans who tasted the Pyongyang cold noodles say that visitors to Pyongyang will feel regret all their lives if they fail to have the Pyongyang cold noodles, while foreign visitors who



Many people savour the refreshing Pyongyang cold noodles at the Okryu Restaurant. RYU KWANG HYOK/THE PYONGYANG TIMES



took a liking to the noodles say they look for the Korean dish back home, adding they never forget the Korean word “kuksu(noodles)”.

The Delicacy House of the Okryu Restaurant serves rare foods made of terrapin and sturgeon.

Diners contentedly take the special dishes and some

families, working people from the same workshop and others spend a good time relishing *sinsollo* and *yakpap*, traditional Korean foods full of national flavour.

Sixty-five years have

passed since the Okryu Restaurant opened and it is loved by people as a popular public catering facility which brings happy smile and national flavour to visitors.

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Sojang Yongmyong Shop in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, draws a large number of visitors every day.

They say that the shop is located in a nice place but what they like more about the place is its green service environment.

There are various kinds of plants that have a high ornamental value and air purifying effect, including Queensland umbrella tree, taro, banana and lilyturf as well as tufted bracket plant which is called a “green air purifier” and aspidistra which absorbs and purifies over 80 percent of the harmful substances

in the air.

“We put effort into greening the indoor environment by growing plants that are good for the health of customers,” said Pak Hyon A, manageress of the shop. “We propagated plants by ourselves and purchased rare plants, thus creating this spectacular scene.”

There are 2 000 pots planted with over 100 species of plants in the corridor and stairs of the two-storey shop.

With the light-blue indirect lighting and spotlights in more than ten colours, the pots look enchantingly beautiful.

Cactuses with thick and tall stems and leafy ornamental plants whose green foliage stretching out in all directions are placed along the hall leading to the daily necessities stands on the first and second floors, so that visitors would feel like they are guided into a forest.



The soft drink stand decorated with ivies and other species of trees reminds customers of a forest to give them a sense of comfort and security.

The bird’s nest decorations going well with the lights on the ceiling and the vines that have grown up high to cover the walls further enhance the ornamental effects of the plants placed on the floor.

According to Kim Mi Song, a staffer of the shop, they arranged briefing boards before the flowers to give visitors some common sense about the flowers.

The shop has a greenhouse on the roof, where they grow flowers.

Welfare service facilities given facelift

By Kim Kwon PT

Welfare service facilities in Pyongyang have been renovated.

The service environment and conditions of over 300 barber shops, beauty salons and tailor shops in the city have been upgraded in the past two years.

The Pyongyang Municipal People’s Committee created a model unit and disseminated its successes and experience.

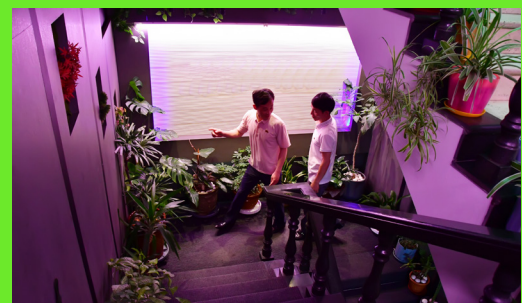
The barber shops and beauty salons in Central and Phyongchon districts were renovated to suit modern aesthetic tastes. In Songyo District, the barber shop and beauty salon on Chongnyon Street and the Mujin bathhouse were refurbished and hair-washing machines equipped with hot shower were installed in front of barber chairs.

Taedonggang District has improved the hygienic environment and service level of barber shops, beauty salons and bathhouses.

The projects for renovating the Songbuk beauty salon in Moranbong District and the Hasin barber shop in Sosong District were finished ahead of schedule.

The renovated welfare service facilities are visited by many citizens every day.

The tailor shops with distinctively built product sample rooms and workrooms are crowded with customers.



Customers get pleasant feelings in green service environment at the Sojang Yongmyong Shop in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Global geopark Mt Paektu area (1)

By Kim Kwon PT

The Mt Paektu area of the DPRK was registered as a global geopark at the 221st executive council meeting of UNESCO, further highlighting the geological significance and tourist value of the ancestral mountain of the Korean nation.

Over 30 geosites in the Mt Paektu Geopark, a treasure of the world, are to be introduced in serial form.

Mt Paektu volcano

The Mt Paektu volcano is a composite volcanic cone formed by several eruptions of trachytic, trachydacitic and rhyolitic magmas on the Paektu lava plateau that had already been formed by effusive eruption of para-alkaline basaltic magmas between the upper Neocene (from 25 million years ago to 2 million years ago in geological age) and the lower Quaternary (from about 2 million years ago to the present).

On the top of the volcanic body of the mountain, there is a caldera formed by the collapse of mountain body after the Millennium Eruption and it was filled with water to form Lake Chon.

The main mountain body

of Mt Paektu is the plateau area covering from the line bordering the alpine flatland rising with the boundary clearly distinct from the low flatland area in the surroundings, to the top of the mountain and this main mountain body is called Mt Paektu.

This main body is nearly oval in plane and dome-shaped in section. It is a high and rugged rocky mountain with many layers of trachytic lavas.

It is 2 750m above sea level and its relative altitude from the water surface of Lake Chon is 560 metres.

Lake Chon of Mt Paektu is surrounded by such mountain peaks as Janggun, Hyangdo, Hacppal and Ssangmujigae. Of them the highest peak is Janggun Peak, rising 2 750 metres high.

These peaks themselves are craters and are at the points where the radial and ring-shaped faults centred on Lake Chon intersect.

The Mt Paektu volcano is one of the large and rare composite volcanic bodies, which were formed through almost all stages of volcanic eruptions, is in a best state of preservation in the world and is a very important research base in volcanology, displaying volcanic rocks and layers of various forms



Jong Il Peak.

of volcanic eruptions.

Jong Il Peak

Jong Il Peak stands imposingly on the banks of the Soback Stream as if demonstrating its brave spirit with magnificent yet mysterious shape. It is 1 798 metres above sea level.

Originally, it was named Jangsu Peak.

In August 1988, President Kim Il Sung visited the birthplace of Chairman Kim Jong Il in the Paektusan Secret Camp and said the peak near his birthplace looked very mysterious. And hearing that it was named

Jangsu Peak, he said it would be better to be called Jong Il Peak in the meaning that it is where Chairman Kim Jong Il was born.

Jong Il Peak is about 200 metres high from the Chairman's birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp.

It is a volcanic neck, which was formed in such a way that highly viscous trachytic magmas gradually ascended and solidified in the Pleistocene epoch (about 2 million years ago), then the country rocks were eroded and denuded, and the plug mass was preserved.

Here, the volcanic vent refers to the passage of eruption of magma from the magma basin in the depth of the volcanic body up to the land surface. In the old volcanoes, the section of the volcanic vent is exposed in case all or part of the volcanic body is cut off by glaciers and other erosions.

A volcanic vent body rising on the Paektu lava plateau, the peak consists of trachyte.

The characteristics of this trachyte are that it has sanidine phenocryst and pyrites exist in a state of disseminated ore.

Jong Il Peak structurally stands at the intersection of the north-northwestern fault, the major-axis direction of the Kanbaek caldera, and the Sobacksu fault in the

northeast-eastern direction and is the only volcanic vent body remaining in the Kanbaek caldera. Here, caldera refers to a large crater on the volcanic crest, which is at least one kilometre in diameter.

The front surface of Jong Il Peak is a cliff, 50m wide at the top, 80m wide at the bottom and about 100m high.

The north side is connected to Saja Peak with a gradual descent.

One of the unique spectacular natural sights of the volcano group of Mt Kanbaek, Jong Il Peak is the largest lava neck in the Paektu volcanic belt.

Especially, as it is a rare volcanic vent body in the volcanic area of the Quaternary epoch in the world, it is a geosite of international significance.

Hyangdo Peak volcano

The Hyangdo Peak volcano is one of the peaks rising in the east of the outer rim of Lake Chon caldera, 0.98km northeast of the Janggun Peak volcano. It is the third highest of the peaks of Mt Paektu and 2 712 metres above sea level.

The volcano is a volcanic body formed by the eruption of the magmas of trachydacite in the fourth stage of the eruption of the

Mt Paektu volcano. At the base of the body, trachyte and trachydacite equivalent for Mt Pukphothae Bed are piled up 440m above the water surface of the lake.

The Hyangdo Peak Bed, 76m in thickness, was formed through over 10 alternate occurrences of effusive and small explosive eruptions of trachydacitic magmas at the crossing point of the radial fault and the first ring-shaped fault in the south-eastern direction.

The top surface is covered with white pumice to a thickness of 1-15m.

A portion of Hyangdo Peak collapsed on the side of Lake Chon to produce cliffs and, as a result, the cliffs where the Hyangdo Peak Bed developed had a gradient of 75-80°, while the cliffs where the Mt Pukphothae Bed developed had a gradient of 45-65°. The gradient of Hyangdo Peak at the outside of Lake Chon is 25-30° and is steeper than that of Janggun Peak.

The volcano is a geosite of great significance in the study of the eruption process of the Mt Paektu volcano, as it provides the views of the layers of pyroclastic rocks, products of explosive eruption, and dense lava flows, products of effusive eruption, in a geological section.



The Hyangdo Peak volcano.

Banner of guidance opening up era of overall national prosperity

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The fundamental factor determining the rise and fall of a state is, above all, a guiding idea, a guiding ideology.

When all policies are established by a guiding ideology and scientific and timely policies are successfully implemented, a state can achieve development.

Over the past decade the DPRK has made amazing progress in politics, national defence, economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards after surely entering the stage of the overall development of socialism under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The country's external position has rapidly risen and new streets and new modern houses have mushroomed in the capital and rural areas across the country, thus opening up a new history of great changes, and all the economic sectors have exerted themselves to develop.

This is because the revolutionary ideas of the respected Comrade

Kim Jong Un clearly indicated the road ahead of the country.

His revolutionary ideas are a precious guideline for training all the people to be the builders of a powerful country and true patriots.

The idea of preparing all the working people to be possessed of a high degree of political consciousness and revolutionary outlook on morality and of virtue and traits, the idea of raising a strong wind of education in the revolutionary traditions and the policy of making all the people well versed in science and technology are the nutritive elements for training the passionate fighters, who are infinitely loyal to the Party and the revolution, and communist people with advanced science and technology and cultural knowledge.

In the course of making the General Secretary's revolutionary ideas their faith, the Korean people have keenly realized what the great struggle of today is and what fighting tasks face them and that only victory and glory are in store for them.

His revolutionary ideas constitute an encyclopedia that brings about substantial and

simultaneous development in the overall state building.

The revolutionary ideas clearly indicate the policies for bringing about changes and innovations in the overall space of socialist construction and the improvement of the people's livelihood in a multi-stage, three-dimensional and offensive way. The ideas, lines and policies advanced by him, including the programme for the rural revolution in the new era, the Regional Development 20x10 Policy and the idea of ushering in a great heyday of construction, are the weapon of struggle for Korean-style socialism to make substantial changes and achieve practical successes.

He has clarified new guidelines for continuous innovation and uninterrupted leap to accelerate the comprehensive development of socialist construction with his far-sighted wisdom and energetic ideological and theoretical activities.

The idea of bringing about a revolution in public health in the new era, the idea of building three essential projects and other ideas and theories of the General Secretary clearly indicate the orientation and ways for bringing about great changes

and dynamic leaps in overall socialist construction.

The country has a large number of patriots who are working heart and soul to develop the Juche-based weaponry in order to raise the national defence capabilities to an unparalleled level and striving beyond the limits of their level, ability and potential to put their sectors and units in the vanguard of the times. It is the Korean people who are making all efforts to build a powerful country with an ambition and courage to lead the world by dint of self-reliance.

The noble spiritual world and fighting spirit with which everyone devotes their all to building a powerful country envied by the world people are the traits that can be displayed only by the Korean people who cherish as their faith that they will succeed in doing anything without fail if they do it as indicated by the General Secretary.

The Korean people will surely bring about a bright future of Juche Korea with his revolutionary ideas as their guideline and become the first to step into communist society which mankind takes as their ideal and has desired for centuries.

KCNA commentary on Zionists' reckless moves

Israel's "war machine" which plunged the whole area of Gaza in blood is running madly.

The Gaza area has already turned into a "ground hell" where the environment of human existence was completely destroyed due to the war that has been going on for nearly two years.

Since October 2023, the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli army has increased to at least 56 000 and all the inhabitants in the Gaza Strip are facing food shortage. Of them, 470 000 are in "fatal hunger", the worst stage in the international index on the food situation.

Even in the present situation that the humanitarian crisis has reached its extreme phase, Israeli murderers are constantly expanding military attacks in the Gaza Strip, which was turned into ruins, updating the record of genocide every day.

Then, what is the end of this bloody massacre and destruction?

The Zionists have justified their unethical atrocities in the Gaza Strip under the pretext of the "hostage rescue" and "sweeping of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine)" and have so far misled the public as if they were the end of bloodshed.

In the early days of the Gaza crisis, the Israeli prime minister asserted that Israel had no idea of permanently occupying Gaza or making the civilians emigrate from it, and that "the aim is to sweep away Hamas in Gaza and obtain the release of hostages".

In actuality, however, the sweeping of Hamas has already turned into massacre of civilians, total destruction of existence environment and forcible exile of the inhabitants in Gaza and the release of hostages was put aside long ago.

Voices of demanding the end of war and achieving a humanitarian ceasefire are growing in Israel, saying that "sweeping of Hamas", the main goal of the war, has not been achieved and the release of hostages is not feasible without negotiation. But the Zionists

are persistently turning away their faces from this reality.

It is proved by the acts of the Israeli warmongers who deliberately broke the hard-won ceasefire through the mediation of the international community in the past and gradually expanded the war, thus blowing the chance to exchange thousands of Palestinian prisoners for their hostages.

The Israeli prime minister, who has recently become more upbeat under the patronage of his American master, is openly saying that there is no way to stop the war even if Israel brings hostages, suddenly changing his previous attitude of giving priority to the release of hostages.

The Israeli military warmongers' rhetoric is more direct. They asserted that "we will act with all our efforts and will not stop action until all the goals are achieved, including the voluntary emigration plan of the Gaza residents" and "unlike in the past, the Israeli Defense Forces will not withdraw from the seized areas (although the Gaza war ends)," openly agitating full occupation and annexation of the Gaza Strip.

The reality clearly shows that even if all the hostages are released, the bloody military atrocities in Gaza will continue with no reason and justification, and that only the result of the complete annexation of Gaza is the ultimate goal pursued by Israel and its behind-the-scenes forces.

After all, the Zionists are committing heinous crimes of sacrificing not only the lives of Israeli hostages but also the lives of millions of Palestinians to the Jewish state's wild ambition for territorial annexation and taking them hostages for realizing their ambition to dominate the Middle East.

The Jewish state's crime to make a scapegoat of peace in the Middle East and the rest of the world for realizing its expansionist ambition can never be tolerated.

To settle population problems

Many countries are facing serious population problems, including fertility decline and population aging, due to economic inequality, difficulty of getting jobs, unstable living conditions and the like.

The UNFPA set "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world" as the theme on the occasion of World Population Day (July 11).

In our country a stable socio-economic environment has been created for young people to make homes and procreate and bring up many children.

Various measures of

preferential treatment have been taken for families with more than three children, including the preferential allocation of dwelling houses and the provision of special subsidies according to the number of children.

The state takes full charge of the upbringing of children as it daily supplies them with dairy products free and upgrades childcare conditions and environment.

The country has established a medical service system whereby people freely receive maternity care including antenatal, delivery and postnatal care and various kinds of reproductive health services and constantly consolidated the material and

Kim Nam Il, senior fellow of the Population Centre



technical foundations of the public health sector.

Multiple births are regarded as an auspicious event in the country and women are encouraged to produce and raise many children.

Quintuplets, the first of their kind in the country, left the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, which all the Korean women call their "parents' home", on June 19 this year amid the blessings of many people and the 562nd triplets of the hospital

left it the following day.

Prolific mothers are held in high esteem as mother heroines and the national conference of mothers is held in splendour.

On the occasion of World Population Day this year, activities were conducted to motivate people to honour the women who give birth to many children and bring them up well and give wide publicity to the importance of solving the population problems.

BYWORD

For Pyongyang, our capital!

For Pyongyang, our capital!—this expression is on everyone's lips in the city.

The appearance of Pyongyang has changed beyond recognition in the past over ten years.

In recent years alone, the ideal streets of the people including Songhwa, Hwasong, Rimhung and

Jonwi streets sprang up along with many bases for the people's cultural life, which are incomparable with the previous ones in terms of modernity, artistic quality and convenience.

The inauguration ceremony of the third-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area took place

last April and the fourth-stage construction project is now underway.

It is the Workers' Party of Korea's policy plan on the capital city construction to complete the construction of the Hwasong area and expand the formation of streets of Pyongyang in the direction of Kangdong as the next stage.

The appearance of Pyongyang will become more splendid in the future thanks to the unanimous desire of the working people to devote their all for Pyongyang, our capital, which will be more beautiful and more civilized and for our future which will be happier in the city.

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US’ attempts to use nuclear weapons during Korean war

By Choe Song Jun PT

The US imperialists did not hesitate to commit the crime of nuclear blackmail against the DPRK in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War.

The US, which had developed nuclear weapons and performed nuclear tests during the Second World War, fell into expansive delusion about nuclear weapons and openly boasted that it would not hesitate to use A-bombs, if it was deemed necessary for its security.

The plan for using nuclear weapons in Korea was contained in a part of the plan for an all-out nuclear war against socialist countries, which was worked out by the

US Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1949.

According to it, an army group involving the US 1st Marine Corps and Chiang Kai-shek’s 400 000 troops was to land on the northwest coast of Korea, another army group comprising part of the US 1st Marine Corps andChiang Kai-shek’s 100 000 troops on the northeast coast of Korea and the US 8th Army to attack northward of the 38th Parallel, after cutting off all support from outside by dropping several A-bombs in the northern border areas of the DPRK.

The US hatched plots several times to use A-bombs on every occasion during the war.

Driven into a tight corner by the powerful

counterattack of the Korean People’s Army in the initial stage of the war, the US shipped A-bombs into the ROK in August 1950. To use A-bombs in the actual war the relevant personnel of the operations study office under the US Department of the Army appeared in the ROK. They inspected the battlefields and offered their study results on the possibility of using A-bomb to the headquarters of the US Armed Forces in the Far East.

When the Christmas general offensive was frustrated by the counterattack of the KPA in November 1950, the US imperialists intensively discussed the issue of using A-bomb. Later, a B-47 strategic bomber carrying

A-bombs was deployed at the US air force base in Okinawa. Atomic bombs were also mounted on a US aircraft carrier standing by in the waters off the Korean peninsula.

MacArthur, commander of the US forces in the Far East, said in December 1950 that they would form a radioactive corridor in the northern part of the DPRK from the East Sea to the West Sea and no living organisms would revive in the region for 60 or 120 years.

According to the order of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff issued in April 1951 to launch a “retaliatory attack” with A-bombs, B-29 strategic bombers of the US air force conducted test flights for dropping A-bombs in the sky over

Pyongyang.

The FBI’s report dated April 20 1951 said that the US planned to create a “no-human zone” to which no one could have access by scattering plutonium, nuclear waste and other radioactive materials in a large quantity in the areas crossing the Korean peninsula during the war.

Pinning greater hope on the use of A-bombs in a bid to reverse the worsening situation of the war, the US imperialists resorted to every possible means to carry out the plan in 1953, the last year of the war.

The DPRK people will not forgive the US’ attempt to use nuclear weapons, a war crime. And they will surely make it pay dearly for that.

Giving priority to education is for future

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Education is an undertaking for the future.

In recent years, developing countries have been attaching importance to education and increasing state investment in the education sector.

Mongolia decided to add artificial intelligence subject to the curricula of all secondary schools. It is implementing a project for training 30 AI teachers using a program developed by a research team. It is also planning to set the day of artificial intelligence in October.

Indonesia has announced a programme for establishing 200 boarding primary schools that would educate children of poor families free of charge. Not only the school expenses but also the funds needed for the feeding and boarding are free, and public facilities run by central or local governments are planned to be used as the educational facilities.

The president of Zambia visited his old school in May and talked with the teaching staff, reaffirming his commitment to supporting the educational sector. Saying that education is everything to them, he reiterated the government’s stand of giving top priority to the development of the country’s education.

The Egyptian prime minister at a cabinet meeting recalled once again the president’s instruction on strengthening the government’s support to applied technology schools in the field of information

and communications, and said that it is necessary to strengthen the support to and research in the field of information and communications technology which will be one of the core pillars of development and leap forward in various fields in the future.

The president of Mauritania gave a reception for representatives of students on the occasion of Ramadan, and stressed that he would double the state budget allocated to the higher education sector, improve the studying and living conditions of students and take necessary measures to raise the scientific research system to the level of advanced countries. He also said that he would build a new veterinary college and agricultural science college within a few years, modernize clinics and canteens of all colleges and establish online education dissemination centres in the capital and local areas so that everyone can receive college education.

Nigeria has recently established a special school for young people to teach them modern science and technology. The school, which has branches in six parts of the country, aims to educate and train young people to realize their dreams and contribute to social development of their regions. At present, more than 60 million young people at home and abroad are reportedly hoping to attend the school.

Besides, many countries like Pakistan, Algeria, Afghanistan, Cambodia, South Africa and Lesotho are putting great efforts into developing education while prioritizing talents.

Resentful spirits

By Song Jong Ho PT

On July 9 1944, a Japanese transport ship sank in the waters off the Kurile chain after being hit by torpedoes of the allied forces.

The ship was the Taiheimaru of the Japanese Taiyo Joint-stock Shipping Company, which the Japanese imperialists had mobilized to transport manpower and materials needed for the construction of military bases.

It was common for the belligerent countries to sink their rivals’ transport ships during the Second World War.

But the sinking of the Taiheimaru should not go unnoticed because innocent young and middle-aged Koreans were buried at sea in the incident.

At that time, the Japanese imperialists, who had a premonition of their defeat, regarded the islands in the northern part of the Kurile chain as a strategic point for defending the Japanese mainland and were tenaciously building military bases like airports there.

One day in July 1944, the Japanese imperialists forced the Koreans who had been worked for the construction of military bases in Otaru, Hokkaido, into the ship on the pretext of moving them to other construction sites on the Kurile chain.

Thus the ship was carrying more than 1 000 forcibly drafted Koreans along with Japanese imperialist aggressor

troops and large quantities of various kinds of munitions and building materials.

Though they anticipated that the ship could be attacked by the allied forces during the voyage, the Japanese imperialists did not give the Koreans life jackets for use in emergency. On the contrary, they locked them in small rooms and let the latter to go in and out only through holes in their ceilings.

While sailing in that condition, the Taiheimaru was hit by two torpedoes launched by a US army submarine in the waters off the Kurile chain on the morning of July 9.

After two great explosions, sea water mercilessly rushed into the ship’s hold. The temperature of the sea water around the Kurile chain was 4°C and the water was very cold even in summer.

That day over 650 of the Koreans on board the ship died.

Hwang Jong Su, one of the forcibly drafted Koreans, recalled, “Determined to be alive to return home at any cost, I managed to find a hole and get on the deck of the ship. Then I saw a gruesome scene of people having died on the spot or bleeding.”

Decades have passed since then, but their souls cannot rest in peace still harbouring grudge.

Japan, however, has not yet honestly reflected on and apologized for its past crimes but is hell-bent on the moves for reinvasion of the DPRK.

History will never forget Japan’s past crimes.

Briefly

Mexico

President rejects US’ immigration policy

The Mexican President opposed the immigration policy of the US on July 4.

As regards the fact that the US Congress recently passed a budget bill on allocating a large sum of money for expelling immigrants forcibly and increasing detaining facilities in border areas, she asserted that the immigration problem should be solved through cooperation between the two countries, not in a forcible way.

Saying her country is tightening control in border areas and striving to prevent the inflow of immigrants, she clarified that Mexico cannot agree with the immigration policy of the US.

Russia

FM: Dollar has been discredited

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in his speech at the BRICS Summit on July 6 asserted that the US dollar has been discredited.

As the US has recklessly enforced illegal and unilateral sanctions and abused its dollar as a means of “punishment”, the world economic order has been destroyed and the American currency, which was previously regarded as a reliable means of payment, has been discredited, he said.

He added that the debt situation of the US has spiralled out of control as its state debt has reached a record high of US\$37 trillion.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign minister calls for ceasefire in Gaza

The Saudi Arabian foreign minister called for a lasting ceasefire in the Gaza Strip at a press conference during his visit to Russia on July 4.

Answering a question about the possibility of normalizing relations with Israel, he said that his country’s present priority is to achieve a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

He censured Israel for reducing Gaza to ruins and massacring citizens, adding it is completely worthless and intolerable and must be discontinued.

US

Protest actions mounted against unjust policy, bills

On July 4, mass protest actions were staged across the US against the authorities’ unreasonable immigration policy and new tax and expenditure bills.

In Los Angeles, hundreds of demonstrators gathered before the building where the immigration court is situated and denounced the authorities’ policy of immigration, shouting “No more occupation! No more deportation!”

A member of the California state legislature in a speech before Los Angeles citizens branded the new tax and expenditure bill as a “big, beautiful scam”.

Many people in Chicago and other cities criticized the immigration policy, decrying that human rights are under attack.

Media outlets commented that the protest actions show that the public opposition is mounting against the US administration’s policy that benefits only the rich.

DPRK players increase tally of wins at international events



By Ri Sung Ik PT

DPRK players won many medals in the international competitions in the first half of the year.

Women boxers bagged one gold and two bronze medals at the 2025 IBA World Women's Boxing Championships held in March in Serbia. The event drew more than 230 players from 51 countries and regions of the world.

The gold medallist was Pang Chol Mi who had been successful at several international games including the 2018 IBA World Women's Boxing Championships and the 33rd Olympic Games. She competed in the 52kg category.

The 2025 Konstantin Korotkov International Boxing Tournament took place in Russia in April.

It brought together over 140 men and women players from 16 countries and regions. The DPRK

boxers won four gold medals in the women's 50kg, 54kg, 57kg and 66kg categories, one silver in the men's 48kg event and three bronzes in the women's 60kg and men's 51kg and 60kg categories.

The DPRK weightlifters shook the international weightlifting circles again.

Four men and women weightlifters obtained nine gold and three silver medals in the 2025 Asian Weightlifting Championships held in China in May.

Particularly, Song Kuk Hyang set new world and Asian records and won first place in jerk and total respectively and came second in snatch in the women's 71kg category. She was awarded the MVP award of the championships.

DPRK weightlifters also won three gold medals in the junior women's 81kg category and a silver medal in snatch of the junior men's 61kg category at the 2025 IWF World Youth and Junior

Championships.

Wrestlers won 13 medals including four golds at the 2025 Asian Wrestling Championship.

More than 360 male and female wrestlers from over 20 countries and regions took part in the championship held in March and competed in 10 categories of Greco-Roman, freestyle and women's wrestling events.

DPRK wrestlers won gold medals in the 60kg category of Greco-Roman wrestling, the 53kg and 55kg categories of women's wrestling and the 57kg category of freestyle wrestling. They finished runners-up in the 57kg, 59kg, 62kg and 68kg categories of women's wrestling and came third in the 55kg, 63kg and 67kg categories of Greco-Roman wrestling, the 50kg category of women's wrestling and the 65kg category of freestyle wrestling.

At the 2025 U-17, U-23 Asian Wrestling Championships they

received gold medals in the U-23 freestyle wrestling 57kg category and women's wrestling 53 and 57 kg categories.

DPRK athletes also earned gold medals in several international games.

They won a gold medal at the 20th Asian Marathon Championships held in March.

In the men's marathon Han Il Ryong renewed the record of the championships established in 2004 by clocking 2 hours, 11 minutes and 18 seconds which reduced the previous time by 14 seconds.

They won the male, female and half marathon events of the 31st Pyongyang International Marathon in April.

They also obtained gold medals in the men's and women's 5 000m races respectively and silver medals in the women's 5 000m and 1 500m races at the Chinese Taipei Athletics Open 2025 held in June.

DPRK shooters collected five

medals including three golds at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup 2025.

The tournament, held in Thailand in February, brought together more than 300 men and women players from over 20 countries and regions. DPRK players took first place in the men's 10m air pistol shooting team event by scoring 1 741 points and won gold medals in the men's 10m air pistol and the junior mixed team 10m air pistol shooting events respectively.

DPRK artistic gymnasts finished runners-up in the women's vaulting horse and balance beam and came third in the women's floor exercise at the 2025 FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatuses World Cup.

Judoists were placed third in the women's 48kg, 63kg and 70kg categories of the 2025 Asian Judo Championships and skaters took the second place at the pair skating of the Ninth Winter Asian Games held in China.

DPRK players return home

KCNA

DPRK players returned home on July 8 after taking part in the ITTF World Para Future Taipei 2025 and the ITTF World Para Challenger Kaohsiung 2025.

The international games brought

together well over 100 players from more than 10 countries and regions including the DPRK, India and France.

DPRK players bagged five medals including two golds.

Kim Yong Rok and Pak Kum Jin won the first place in men's doubles (TT7) of the ITTF World

Para Future Taipei 2025 and Kim Yong Rok took the first place in men's singles (TT7) of the ITTF World Para Challenger Kaohsiung 2025.

Players and coaches were greeted at Pyongyang International Airport by officials concerned and family members.

DPRK team qualified for 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup finals

KCNA

Matches of group H for the qualification for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup finals took place in Tajikistan.

The matches were held on a round-robin basis, divided into eight groups. Eight teams which won the

first place in each group and the top three teams in the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup will advance to the final tournament, together with the team of the host nation.

The DPRK team took the first place in its group by beating the Tajik and Palestinian teams 10-0 respectively on June 29 and July

2 and the Malaysian team 6-0 on July 5, qualifying for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup finals.

Meanwhile, DPRK players Jon Ju Phyong and Jo Hong Rim came third in the U-19 mixed doubles of the 29th Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships held in Uzbekistan.

Ginkgo trees at Songgyungwan

By Choe Song Jun PT

Ginkgo trees at Songgyungwan, registered as a living monument, stand on the campus of Koryo Songgyungwan which was the top educational institution in the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392).

The tree in the east is 31.5 metres high, 6.3 metres round at the root neck and 5.6 metres round at the chest height. Its round crown is 20 metres wide.

The one in the west is 33.7 metres high, 6.7 metres round at the root neck,

and 5.6 metres round at the chest height. Its round crown is 28.7 metres wide, so it is wider than that of the one in the east. What is noteworthy is that the leaves of the tree put on autumnal tints before those of the one in the east.

The trees add beauty to the buildings of Songgyungwan, historical relics from the period of Koryo Kingdom.

