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Kim Jong Un presides over Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea opened on June 15.

The WPK Central Committee convened the meeting in order to conduct an intermediate review of the implementation of major policies of the Party and the state for 2021, which were put forward at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee, take measures to settle urgent pending issues in economic work and the people's livelihood and discuss and

decide on the matter of powerfully and correctly pushing ahead with crucial national affairs in line with the prevailing situation.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, conducted the meeting.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un appeared on the platform of the meeting hall together with members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers for the General Secretary wisely leading the historic struggle of the Party and people toward a new victory of socialist construction with

his outstanding ideas and theories and energetic leadership activities.

Besides the members of the Party's central leadership body, officials of the departments of the Party Central Committee and ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs and leading officials of province-level guidance organs, cities, counties and complexes were present there as observers.

Kim Jong Un presided over the plenum upon authorization of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

The General Secretary highly

appreciated the positive achievements which have been made in Party and state work and the revolutionary zeal of the people which has been boosted so far since the whole Party confirmed and started carrying out the first-year plan for implementing the decisions of the Party congress.

The subjective and objective conditions and environment for the revolutionary struggle have become worse this year, but the country's economy is picking up as a whole as evidenced by the implementation of the first half-yearly plan for total industrial output at 144 percent, a 25

percent increase as against the same period of last year, and the huge growth in terms of actual amount of goods, he said.

He said that a series of deviations were revealed in the course of carrying out the national plan and policy tasks owing to different kinds of obstacles and difficulties facing the country at present.

In particular, the people's food situation is now getting tense as the agricultural sector failed to fulfil its grain production plan due to last year's damage by typhoons, he said, pointing to the need

to take a positive measure to settle the problem in the plenary meeting.

It is high time to give full play to the indomitable revolutionary spirit and the fighting traits of self-reliance and fortitude, the vital power peculiar to the Korean revolution, he said, noting that it is the main purpose of convening the plenary meeting to take thorough measures for fulfilling this year's policy tasks without fail by further keeping up the surging fighting spirit of the whole Party and all the people.

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He suggested agenda items to be taken up for discussion at the meeting.

Major items on the agenda were the review of the execution of major state policies for the first half of the year and relevant measures, the issue of directing all efforts to farming this year, the matter of fully providing for the protracted nature of the emergency infectious disease prevention situation, the analysis of the current international situation and the Party's corresponding direction, the issue of stabilizing and improving the people's living standards, that of improving and strengthening the Party's childcare policy and the organizational issue.

Members of the Party Central Committee decided on the agenda items with unanimous approval.

The plenary meeting discussed the first agenda item.

Reported to the meeting were actual data on the execution of major policy tasks for the first half of the year and issues that require urgent Party and state measures.

Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and premier of the Cabinet, made a detailed report on the execution of the policy tasks for the economic field for this year, Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, a detailed report on the work of the KPA, and Kim Jae Ryong, department director of the Party Central Committee, a detailed report on the campaign against anti-

socialist and non-socialist practices.

The General Secretary made a concluding speech on the matters brought up for discussion on the first agenda item.

In the concluding speech, he conducted a detailed analysis and review of the work of each sector and unit of the national economy for the first half of the year and set forth the tasks and ways for each sector to bring about substantial changes and development-oriented results without fail and to provide a firm guarantee for carrying out the five-year plan.

He called for mapping out economic plans and managing economic work properly in a responsible manner and carrying out this year's economic plan without fail by completely relying on advanced science and technology, while expanding the achievements and experience gained in the key industrial sectors like metal, chemistry, electricity, coal and construction and building materials and in all other sectors like light industry, fishery, urban management and land and environment protection and overcoming deviations and shortcomings.

He emphasized that different sectors of cultural construction including education, public health and art and literature should innovatively organize and carry on their work in line with the actual conditions and policy requirements so as to give fuller play to the advantages of the socialist system.

He clarified the principled issues which should be regarded as guidelines in waging in a more offensive and efficient way the

struggle against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices on which the future of Korean-style socialism and the destiny of the people hinge.

The General Secretary indicated important tasks to be tackled in further developing Party work at present, saying that the innovation and strengthening of Party work would lead to consolidating steel strong the might of the Party and the revolutionary ranks and to fully ensuring the Party's political leadership over the revolution and construction.

Finishing the concluding speech on the first agenda item, he stressed that all the sectors and units should be fully aware of their sacred responsibility and duty before the Party and revolution and make redoubled efforts to successfully attain the fighting goals for this year.

There was a discussion of the second agenda item at the plenary meeting.

Ri Chol Man, department director of the Party Central Committee, made a detailed report on the actual state of farming up to present.

To farm properly is a militant task our Party and state should give top priority to and fulfil preferentially in order to provide the people with a stable life and successfully step up socialist construction at present, the General Secretary noted, adding that it is essential for the whole Party and state to concentrate on farming by drawing a lesson from last year's farming and under this year's unfavourable conditions.

He stressed the need for agricultural and meteorological observation fields to take measures to minimize natural

disaster in close cooperation with each other and for every other sector to powerfully support them by setting it as a key issue for attaining this year's goal of grain production to overcome the influence of disastrous weather which is getting ever more serious.

The plenum discussed as the third agenda item the issue of getting thoroughly prepared for the emergency infectious disease prevention situation assuming a protracted nature.

The General Secretary listened to the report on the analysis of the present situation of the national emergency infectious disease prevention work and clarified the urgent tasks that should be carried out by the state at any cost now that the world health crisis caused by the malignant virus is becoming worse and worse as the days go by.

Saying that the prolonged emergency infectious disease prevention situation requires maintaining the sharpest vigilance and strict discipline in the national emergency infectious disease prevention work, while striving to keep up the overall economy and providing the people with food, clothing and housing, he set forth the tasks for the state to maintain a perfect infectious disease prevention posture under the present conditions and for economic guidance organs to meticulously organize economic work to cope with the unfavourable circumstances requiring emergency infectious disease prevention efforts.

He specially emphasized the need for all Party organizations and

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government organs to direct primary efforts to fully and timely meeting the people's needs in living and took revolutionary measures for increasing production in the fields directly linked with their living including light industry and fishery.

Bearing deep in their minds the contents of the concluding speech made by the General Secretary, the participants seriously discussed the issues with a single determination to carry out the tasks facing their sectors and units at any cost.

There was the second-day sitting of the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on June 16 amid exceptionally high fighting will of all the participants in the plenum to bring about without fail remarkable

development-oriented changes in the overall state work by carrying out major policy tasks for 2021, the first year in executing the new five-year plan set forth by the Party congress.

In the second-day sitting, sector panels were organized for study and consultative meeting in order to make detailed studies and have discussions for successfully pushing ahead with the fighting tasks for the second half of the year without any deviation on the basis of the review and analysis of the work in the first half of the year that were mentioned in the concluding speeches made by General Secretary Kim Jong Un in the first-day sitting of the plenary meeting.

Members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and its Politburo members conducted the studies and consultative meetings of the panels.

The studies and consultative meetings took place, divided into panels of metal and railway transport; chemical industry; electric power, coal-mining and machine-building industries; construction and building materials; light industry; agriculture; emergency infectious disease prevention; campaign against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices; and Party work. The participants studied the draft resolution to be suggested to the plenary meeting and confirmed the draft measures and planned figures whose scientific accuracy and practicality are guaranteed.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea continued on June 17 to confirm the fighting policies which would play the guiding role in further accelerating the historic advance of the Party and people for

this year and practical tasks.

As the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un appeared at the meeting hall to mount the platform, all the participants raised thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!" for the General Secretary of the ever-victorious Party who has wisely led the plenary meeting to creditably hold its crucial discussion and to fulfil its historic guiding mission and role, directing all his thinking and efforts to the well-being and happiness of the state and the people.

At panel study and consultative meetings that continued in the wake of the second-day sitting, substantial and dynamic tasks to be carried out in the second half of the year and practical ways were fully discussed.

The plenary meeting examined

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constructive opinions that were put together and adopted with unanimous approval a resolution reflecting additional measures for thoroughly carrying out major state policy tasks for this year and a resolution on unconditionally fulfilling the grain production plan by concentrating efforts of the entire Party, the whole army and all the people on the farming for this year.

The plenary meeting discussed as the fourth agenda item the analysis of the present international situation and the Party's direction to cope with it.

The General Secretary outlined and assessed major changes taking place on the international political arena recently and the external environment of the Korean revolution.

Especially he made a detailed analysis of the policy tendency of the newly emerged US administration toward the DPRK and clarified the direction of appropriate strategic and tactical counteraction and activities to be maintained in the relations with the US in the future.

The General Secretary stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation, especially to get more fully prepared for confrontation, in order to protect the dignity of the state and its interests for independent development and to reliably guarantee the peaceful environment and the security of the state.

Clarifying the foreign policy stand and principles of the WPK and the DPRK government concerning the important international and regional matters and stressing the need to

further enhance the strategic position and active role of the state and create favourable external climate proactively, the General Secretary called for sharply and promptly reacting to and coping with the fast-changing situation and concentrating efforts on taking stable control of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The plenary meeting discussed as the fifth agenda item the issues to be settled before anything else in order to stabilize and improve the people's living under the present situation.

Saying that it is the most important principle maintained by the WPK and the state in their activities to provide a stable life to the people and timely solve their difficulties, the General Secretary detailed the actual situation of the people's living which he acquainted himself with through several consultative meetings and the practical measures for its improvement.

He said the idea of devoted service for the people's wellbeing which is set forth as the sacred one by the Party is the practical guideline and standard of behaviour for bearing the responsibility for their lives and livelihood with all dedication to their interests in practice and upholding the people with unconditional service. He noted that the Party should go deep among the people despite hardships, become their trusty mainstay, always find itself near them to share joy and sorrow with them and devote its all to the people's wellbeing.

He said it is the main point of the plenary meeting to take decisive enforcement measures for immediately solving the urgent matters which attract

the deepest interest of the people and to which they look forward, issuing a special order that he personally inked with sincerity to make even a small contribution to stabilizing the people's living.

All the participants in the plenary meeting supported and approved with enthusiastic applause the important determination and decision of the General Secretary embodying his responsibility for the destiny and life of all the people of the country and the spirit of devoted service for them.

Discussed at the plenary meeting as the sixth agenda item was the issue of improving and bolstering the Party's childcare policy.

The General Secretary stressed that there is no more important revolutionary work than the work of bringing up children, the future of the country, to be strong and sound and that it is the most important policy and supreme cherished desire of the Party and state to provide more improved conditions for bringing them up even by investing a huge sum of money.

Noting that it has to be the way of advance and development of the Korean revolution to show more sincerity for children even if the condition becomes worse and to take dynamic steps forward towards the future of communism with the might of that love, he warmly said that if the children who are born and grow up on this land eat well and are raised healthily in good environment from their childhood, that much vibrant vim and vigour will overflow in our society after 20 or 30 years and the national power of the DPRK will grow greater.

Saying that their days in nursery and kindergarten are the most important age in the children's growth and development, he called for establishing it as a Party's policy to supply all the children across the country with nourishing food including dairy products at state expense and set forth detailed tasks and ways for realizing it.

He ardently said that all the officials should pay particular attention to providing sufficient food to the children of nurseries and kindergartens with their real parents' affection and get their loyalty to the Party and revolution, country and people verified by making a tangible contribution to implementing the Party's childcare policy.

At the plenary meeting, the suggestion made by the General Secretary was discussed with strong impulse and excitement and a relevant resolution was adopted with full support and unanimous approval.

The Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea wrapped up its Third Plenary Meeting on June 18 after holding a successful discussion of items on the agenda.

The fourth-day sitting of the plenum, as its seventh agenda item, reviewed the organizational and ideological life of members of the Party central leadership body in the first half of the year 2021.

First, the participants were informed of the data on the Party life of the members of the Party central leadership body in the first half of the year.

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Listening to the data, the members of the leadership body seriously looked back on their Party life in an all-round way with the remorse for failing to live up to the expectations of all the Party members and other people who trust them as the hard core of the WPK and expect them to strive to carry out their important tasks in a responsible manner.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un pointed out one by one the serious problems which were already being revealed in the work and life of the members of the Party central leadership body although the body which was newly elected at the Eighth Party Congress made solemn pledges before the Party and the people.

He told them in detail how the leadership body members should work with what readiness and work attitude in order to fulfil their historic mission and how they should strive to cultivate themselves ideologically, spiritually, culturally and morally.

He stressed the need for them to draw a serious lesson from defects revealed in the first half of the year, bear deep in mind once again the ideals of "The people are God",

single-hearted unity and self-reliance set forth at the Party congress with the plenary meeting as an occasion and redouble their efforts with higher awareness to faithfully discharge their responsibilities.

To this end, he said, they should be genuine revolutionaries who thoroughly accept and implement without fail the decisions of the Party Central Committee in whatever difficult circumstances and devote themselves without hesitation to sustaining the original features of the Party just like the preceding generations of the revolution.

He earnestly asked them to make every occasion of going among the people the important political work of strengthening the ties of kinship between the Party and the masses of the people and of giving confidence and encouragement to the people with the resolution to devote their all to bringing even one more benefit of socialism to the people and not to do anything that goes against the interests of the people under any circumstances.

Saying that those who should take the lead in making the Party fulfil its duty as the militant General Staff of the revolution and a party serving

major policy tasks discussed and decided on at the plenum without an inch of deflection.

The plenary meeting discussed the organizational issue as the eighth agenda item.

It recalled and by-elected members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and members and alternate members of the Party Central Committee and dismissed and appointed senior officials of the state organ.

The General Secretary concluded the plenary meeting.

Saying that the meeting was able to successfully perform its work and fulfil its historic, important duty thanks to the ardent participation and boundless responsibility of the members of the Party central leadership body, he expressed thanks to all the members for taking an active and sincere part in the discussion of the overall work of the Party and the state throughout the plenary meeting.

The General Secretary solemnly swore on behalf of the Party Central Committee that the WPK would surely break through the present difficulties lying in the way of the revolution in the indomitable fighting spirit and remain loyal to the revolutionary

the people are the members of the Party central leadership body, he earnestly called on them to devote all their wisdom and passion to carrying out the

ideas and cause of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il to the end without the slightest change of mind even if it may be confronted with more trying ordeals in the future.

All the participants in the plenary meeting, extending boundless gratitude to the General Secretary who provided immortal guidelines and a powerful practical weapon for vigorously leading Korean-style socialism to progress and development with his extraordinary wisdom, insight, constant thinking and devotion and instilled firm confidence and unbounded inspiring power in all the Party members and other people, broke into stormy applause and enthusiastic cheers reflecting their pledge of loyalty to single-mindedly and devotedly uphold his ideas and leadership.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK held under the guidance of the General Secretary will be etched in the history of the Juche-oriented revolution as a historic meeting at which important decisions for the prosperity of the country and the people's wellbeing were made despite the severest adversity and as a significant one through which the ever-victorious leadership of the WPK resolutely opening up an era of fresh dynamic advance with strenuous efforts despite manifold difficulties in the way ahead was fully demonstrated.

KCNA

Official report of Third Plenary Meeting of Eighth WPK Central Committee

A member and alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea by-elected at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party are as follows:

Member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee
Thae Hyong Chol

Alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee
U Sang Chol



HONOUR

Kim Jong Un sends birthday spread to hero coal miner

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Ko Kyong Chan, leader of the Hero Workteam of the April 5 Pit at the Kumgol Mine under the Komdok Mining Complex.

Ko was born to a miner's family in Komdok in 1961.

A leader of the workteam made up of those who were born in 1961, the year when President Kim Il Sung gave the first field-guidance to the mining complex, he has devoted himself to the production of non-ferrous metal ore for decades with boundless loyalty to the Party, revolution, country and people and with clean conscience of the working class.

In the course of it, Ko Kyong Chan and other members of his workteam became heroes.

Kim Jong Un saw that the title of Merited Miner was conferred on Ko Kyong Chan and sent a congratulatory letter to the

members of his workteam when they fulfilled their yearly plan for mineral production before the Day of the Sun (birthday of President Kim Il Sung) in 2017. He also made sure that Ko Kyong Chan participated in the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and other important meetings as a delegate, putting his life in a blaze of glory.

This year Ko and members of his workteam fulfilled ahead of schedule their mineral production plan for the first year for implementing the new five-year plan and made a report of victory to the Party Central Committee.

The birthday spread was conveyed to Ko Kyong Chan on June 13.

Ko extended deep thanks to Kim Jong Un for his great trust and loving care.

KCNA

ANNIVERSARY

Providing guidelines for building revolutionary Party

On June 19 1964, Chairman Kim Jong Il started to work at the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As a result, the WPK could make great progress in its building and activities and other work to strengthen it.

Starting from the original viewpoint on the position and role of the leader in revolution and construction, he newly clarified the philosophical principle that the party of the working class is, in essence, that of the leader and a political organization realizing the ideology and leadership of the leader.

He elucidated in an all-round way fundamental issues arising in the Party building and activities and energetically led the efforts to firmly ensure the unity of ideology and will of the entire Party while regarding the establishment of the Party's monolithic ideological system as

the main task of the Party work.

In the 1990s, when the socialist cause in the world was suffering a serious setback, he conducted energetic ideological and theoretical activities, thereby clearly specifying the cause of the collapse of socialism in East European countries and lessons drawn from it, based on party building and activities.

In his work *On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building* published in October 1992, he explained in detail such issues and methods as making revolutionary parties provide and develop correct guiding ideology from independent and creative standpoints, developing the party into a mass-based party of working people and building the party with the main emphasis put on ideology by firmly guaranteeing the uniqueness of ideology and leadership and strengthening the unity and solidarity of the party.

Afterwards, he clearly indicated theoretical and practical issues arising in building and strengthening the revolutionary party in such works as *Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable, Socialism Is a Science* and *Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism*.

The WPK developed into a party united with one ideology and will and a mass-based party winning absolute support and trust of the masses of the people.

Thanks to his immortal Party-building exploits, the WPK is honourably discharging its duty as the General Staff of the revolution which powerfully leads the cause of building a powerful socialist country and as an organizer and guide of all victories of the Korean people.

So Chun Gi

Nationwide

Factory boosts cement production

The Suncheon Cement Complex is increasing the production of cement to be supplied to the construction site of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang.

It keeps production going on smoothly by giving precedence to the supply of raw materials, ensuring well-knit scheduling of such processes as raw materials mixing, calcination and clinker production and promoting cooperation between shifts. The Suncheon Limestone Mine pays attention to securing more mineral ore with successive blastings and increasing mineral production over 1.1 times to overfulfil its cement production plan.

Mining units carry out H1 plans

Several units have carried out their economic plans for the first half of the year ahead of schedule across the mining industry sector.

The Sangnong Mine concentrated efforts on faces with large deposits and favourable working conditions, adopted various blasting methods according to lithological conditions and raised the proportion of mechanical work in mining and the capacity of conveyance means to the maximum, and thus overfulfilled its mineral production plan every month. The Phungnyon Mine has increased the output of apatite concentrate needed for fertilizer production.

The Munphyong Smeltery

made fireproof materials from locally available materials and fulfilled its daily and monthly electrolytic zinc production plan without fail.

Limestone producer conducts huge blasting

The Suncheon Limestone Mine carried out a 300 000-cubic-metre blasting to provide a guarantee for mass mining and a steady supply of the main raw material to the Suncheon Cement Complex.

In its efforts to finish the preparations for blasting in the shortest possible period, the mine completed a design with which to boost blasting efficiency, took proper measures for the supply of necessary materials and supplies and organized a tunnelling competition by each shift to make them carry out their daily plans without fail.

After getting fully ready for the huge blasting, the mine successfully conducted it on June 15.

Wheat, barley harvest pressed ahead



Wheat and barley harvest began in South Hwanghae Province.

While waging a socialist emulation drive between workteams and between sub-workteams, farmers are speeding up the gathering of wheat and barley as they make collective innovations.

Construction of houses well under way

Service personnel in charge of the most difficult and enormous tasks in the construction project of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang are making substantial progress every day in the building of frameworks of high-rise apartment houses.

They have secured enough spare parts needed for ensuring the full operation of the construction equipment and specialized in each process of the construction to complete one floor in 20 hours.

The mixing ratio and curing time of concrete mixture are strictly observed to fully ensure the quality of construction.

Company improves transport capacity of concentrated ores

The Songphyong pipeline transport company of the Kim Chack Iron and Steel Complex brings about an innovation in the transport of concentrated iron ores.

The company took practical measures to readjust and reinforce the large-sized long-distance concentrated ore pipeline between Musan and Chongjin and to build up its capacity.

Workers and technicians of the company are speeding up the manufacture of pump body, and building up its concentrated ore transporting capacity by remodelling equipment.

The company is now carrying out its daily transport plans for concentrated ore transport over 1.2 times by ensuring the full-capacity operation of equipment while repairing pumps qualitatively.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

ELECTRICITY

Renewables harnessed to ease power shortage

As the development of renewable resources gathers momentum all over the country, the Sinhung IT Company of Nampho City has established an energy-saving power production system.

The company began to concentrate on renewable energy sources in 2014.

At first, it solved the power shortage by setting up a power production system driven by diesel oil or gasoline. But it cost much and polluted the environment.

While groping for a solution to the problem, it came to turn their attention to the units using natural energy resources.

"It is the worldwide trend to positively exploit renewable resources which are free from environmental pollution and eco-friendly. In our Nampho City alone, many units generate power by using renewables. For example, the Ryongnam Dockyard built a wind turbine long ago and has long benefitted from it," said director O Kwan Ho.

The company first built an independent solar power generation system.

The electric power produced with solar panels is stored in batteries to be used.

In the beginning power generation increased, but the system needed storage batteries and the company had to pay a lot of money for their purchase and maintenance.

To remedy the shortcomings of this system it developed a

power stabilization device which can provide constant voltage and frequency regardless of the changing sunshine.

Later, it bought several small wind turbines to adopt a double power supply system.

The Jongju city water supply, sewage and heating station in North Phyongan Province supplies drinking water for citizens with less electricity.

The station had several pumping stations.

It integrated water supply systems into one and carried out a construction project to link it to a reservoir. The creation of the gravity-fed water supply system connected to reservoir removed six pumping stations to save 900kWh of electricity.

But the system was able to supply water for only 75 percent of the total households in the city.

So the station introduced an efficient solar power generation system into high land areas to which it is difficult to ensure gravity-fed water supply. A small inverter converts direct current generated from more than 150 solar panels into alternating one to supply water to the areas of consumption.

As a result, the station has become able to operate the water supply system of the city on a regular basis with only 15 percent of the previous power consumption and the electricity thus saved amounts to thousands of kilowatt-hours per day.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

NDPD

Cherished dreams come true for persons with disabilities

University graduate bullish about future

Ham Jong Ho(pictured), a special-class honoured disabled soldier living in neighbourhood unit No. 7 of Jongno-dong No. 1 in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, graduated from Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry last March.

"I've completed the university course that I wanted to do so much and I found so difficult to do. I have been able to get this diploma thanks to those who cared for me with sincere devotion," said Ham excitedly after receiving his diploma.

He had lost his two arms due to the wounds he suffered during the execution of his military duty.

When he returned home after his demob, he was warmly welcomed by all villagers as well as his family members.

"It is natural for a soldier to dedicate himself to national defence, but lots of people held me dear and showed me warm affection. They gave me great encouragement and although I have no arms I was enrolled at the university with the determination to work for the country and society," recalled Ham.



He was accepted at the online education faculty of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry in 2016, but he realized desire and practice were different things.

The armless young man should always get help of anyone to control his computer and natural science like math and chemistry were tough subjects for him.

"Other students finished their one-term work in some months while doing their jobs, but I could make no progress though I studied the whole day long. So, the lecturers of the university, who had encouraged me to study hard giving me a

computer when I entered the university, made time for me unsparingly," Ham said.

According to the measure of the faculty, lecturers Kim Hae Yong and Ri Un Jong took charge of Ham's study and they visited him almost every day to teach him.

Busy as they were with education at the university, they worked out special teaching plans and collected appropriate reference materials for him and visited him on their way back home to explain what he found it hard to understand until late at night. They even devoted their holidays to the education of him.

The faculty separately arranged for him the experiments and on-the-spot training in the curriculum and updated his speech recognition program.

Consequently, he finished the first-term course in a year and later term courses respectively in ten, six and three months.

At last he passed all of some 20 subjects with good marks.

He is now doing research to introduce what he learnt at the university into practice.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Table tennis coach leads fulfilling life

“
Ma Yu Chol is a man of great passion. He abhorred the word ‘impossible’ both in training and life.”

Hong Su Gyong, an official of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled



"It is a wrong idea for disabled people to give up hope. The country enforces the policy of protection of persons with disabilities, taking responsible care of their life. I want to say to them that under its care everyone can realize their dream and hope if they try hard," said Ma Yu Chol(pictured), table tennis coach of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled.

Ma cherished a hope of becoming a sports star from his childhood, but became disabled by an accident when he was five years old.

"Yu Chol played with a ball even for fun in his childhood and enjoyed football with his seniors. Neighbours used to say a young sports prodigy was produced in the village," recalled his mother So Sun Hui.

She felt her heart breaking when his son had his left leg amputated and felt as if his dream and hope were dashed by the mistakes of the parents whenever she saw her one-legged son follow the children playing football.

Yu Chol became disabled in his childhood, but never abandoned his hope for sports even a moment.

He could not run into the playground and play football with one foot, but stay outside the playground and look with envy on his friends playing football. And when he finished the middle school course and his friends joined the army, entered universities and colleges and found jobs, he felt small thinking he was useless in society.

But a ray of hope shone on him.

Ma met Ri Chol Ung, the then table tennis coach of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled, on a visit to him.

He persuaded Ma to play table tennis, saying he could do it and if he trained hard and improved

his skill, he could compete even in international events.

He could not sleep that night as he was full of fresh hope and confidence that though disabled, he could play sports, Ma recalled later.

From then on, Yu Chol learned how to play table tennis with the help of his stick. He usually fixed a sand bag around his one leg to bear the physical burden falling on it and trained hard to acquire high technical skills one after another.

"Ma Yu Chol is a man of great passion. He abhorred the word ‘impossible’ both in training and life," said Hong Su Gyong, an association official.

Yu Chol fully displayed his techniques in the table tennis competitions of persons with disabilities and amateurs at home, attracting the focus of attention of experts. Later he attended several local competitions and the 2013 Asian games of young persons with disabilities.

Working as a table tennis coach for persons with disabilities from 2019, he is strict in training but friendly and careful in life like the real brother of his players, they say.

"He understands our mind better than any others and devotes himself to us players. All the successes we have achieved are the results of his painstaking efforts," said Kim Hak Yong, a man with locomotive disability who learns table tennis from Ma.

"It will be quite satisfactory for me if I can return even a bit the favour which led me to achieve my dream and help other persons with disabilities realize their dreams like me," said Ma.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Sightless girl catches public eye

Pae Ok Rim(pictured), member of an art group of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled, is demonstrating her artistic talent to the full.

She left a strong impression on the audiences with her rich, clear and silky voice at dozens of performances on various occasions including National Day of Persons with Disabilities (June 18) and International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3).

"Whenever I see my daughter receiving a huge ovation on the stage, I cannot help shedding tears of gratitude toward the motherland which made her dream and desire come true," said Pae's mother Kim Song Hui.

When Pae was a two-year-old toddler just starting to learn to speak, she went blind due to an unknown illness.

Though she lost her eyesight, the little girl would sing along with songs from TV or radio in a beautiful voice and perfect



pitch. She seemed to have a natural gift for music.

Having noticed that she had a good ear and an instinct for music, her parents taught her to play the guitar wishing she would live optimistically despite her disability.

One day in June 2013, just before Pae turned twenty, her parents read in a newspaper that a joint performance was given by the Korean Art Association of the

Disabled and the National Folk Art Troupe on the occasion of the Day of Persons with Disabilities.

A few days later, Ok Rim and her mother went to the KAAD, where the association officials welcomed them and assured them that her artistic talent would be developed to the full there.

"Pae really has an outstanding auditory perception and inborn vocal talent, which I get to notice every time I give her a lesson," said Ri Jong Hwa, a member of the association.

Her competence and skills as a soprano and guitarist grew stronger as days went by.

Later, she demonstrated her artistry as a solo and a guitarist in several performances.

When she visited the UK in 2017 as a member of the Pyongyang exchange group of the disabled, she sang songs about the motherland which made her dream come true as well as world-famous songs, winning great admiration from the audience.

The 28-year-old loves, of all things, songs about the motherland the most.

By Pang Un Ju PT

CUBA

Nation surmounts difficulties by building up party, enhancing its leadership role

In the wake of the Eighth Party Congress, the Communist Party of Cuba is channelling big efforts into strengthening the party and enhancing its leadership role.

According to the Cuban party organ *Granma*, Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the CPC Central Committee, stressed the need to do so on several occasions.

Saying that it is very important to strengthen primary party organizations at the Havana provincial party meeting, which was convened as part of an effort to discuss the fulfilment of decisions of the party congress by carrying on the spirit of the Eighth Party Congress on June 4, he stressed

that only when the party's moral authority is consolidated, can people's troubles be resolved satisfactorily and successes achieved in its work.

He said that primary party organizations, especially cells, are like the pathfinder that holds frank, open and free discussions, free from arbitrariness and prejudice, mobilizes the masses and improves the party work.

Though the country is now in a difficult situation, the Cubans will have to fully acquire a viewpoint that nothing will be able to check its advance and plunge its people in pessimism, he said, adding they should give full play to their creative power, keep advancing and win victory, not confining themselves to

resisting the enemies' offensive, by relying on their own efforts and wisdom.

He noted that the internal work of the party should be strengthened in order to make the party organization fulfil the role as vanguard. The most important thing is to prepare all cadres thoroughly and help cadres have a cordial talk with people, he said. He also stressed the need for party organizations to resolve knotty social problems by rousing public organizations, help the work of administrative units at all levels and properly do the work with youth.

He also underscored the need to root out bureaucracy in the party work.

He pointed out this at the

Cienfuegos provincial party meeting which was held on June 3 as part of efforts to continuously carry forward the spirit of the Eighth Party Congress.

He added that party members and revolutionaries should sensitively accept party decisions and apply them to the party work so that they could successfully break through the obstacles and challenges facing the country with the people.

The efforts of the Cuban party and government to carry out the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress by strengthening the party and enhancing its leadership role will bear good fruit.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Briefly

Cuba Compliance with anti-pandemic measures

Manuel Marrero Cruz, president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, in a consultative meeting with officials of Havana province on June 9 appealed to all residents to conscientiously observe anti-pandemic measures geared to preventing and controlling the infectious disease.

China Environmental protection in Yangtze River basin

China directs a great deal of energies to the protection of ecological environment in the Yangtze River basin.

Hundreds of chemical plants have been removed from the Yangtze River economic zone, a survey conducted on all sewage inlet openings and the control of them intensified in recent years.

Palestine Israeli military outrage persists

The Israeli troops are hell-bent on the crackdown on the Palestinian people in the West Bank. On June 11 they killed a teenage boy and wounded dozens of others in Nablus and Ramallah in the course of using tear gas to clamp down on the Palestinians who turned out in a demonstration against Israel's moves to expand settlements.

Cooperation Agreements inked

Uganda and the Czech Republic signed a document on mutual cooperation in the defence field on June 10.

Recently, Cuba and Kenya concluded an agreement on enhancing cooperation in the public health sector.

KCNA

D&D DAY

Restoration. Land. Recovery.

June 17 is Desertification & Drought Day. The theme for this year's D&D Day is "Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land".

The restoration of land plays an important role in dealing with climate change, protecting biodiversity, maintaining important ecosystem service (benefit provided by nature) and finally ensuring common prosperity and welfare.

The recovery of degraded ecosystem will help weaken climate change and build up the resistance of nature to natural disasters and extreme weather conditions.

Experts on environmental protection argue that the recovery of damaged

Desertification & Drought Day 17 JUNE 2021



Restoration. Land. Recovery.
We build back better with healthy land

ecological environment will help reduce contacts between the living areas of wild animals and people and provide a natural buffer against zoonotic diseases.

The executive secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification said that the restoration of degraded land into ideal one is urgently needed for all humankind. They are now entering the UN decade on ecosystem restoration and they must not miss the real

opportunity to recover from the damage caused by COVID-19 and build a better world, he noted, adding that if all countries join efforts to restore nearly 800 million hectares of degraded land, a goal to be attained by 2030, they can save humankind and the planet from the growing threat.

In the DPRK a series of measures have been taken to restore the degraded forests and farmland and improve the functions and productivity of ecosystem in step with global efforts to prevent the degradation of land.

The 2015-2024 long-term afforestation plan and 2014-2023 agro-forestry management strategy have been put into effect and policy and

legal framework strengthened to protect agro-ecosystem and sustainably enhance its productivity.

A nationwide forest restoration campaign was launched in 2015. Since then well over a million hectares of forests have been restored and hundreds of millions of tree saplings produced every year.

Animal reserves have been built in all provinces, cities and counties to protect and multiply wild animal and plant resources.

Projects are now going full steam ahead across the country to dredge the river bottom, raise the level of river banks and cover them with stones in the areas with a high risk of flood damage as the major task for this year in an effort to minimize flood damage according to yearly plans.

By Om Ryong PT

ROSE

Scent of roses pervades capital city

Beautiful roses are now in full bloom in every part of Pyongyang.

Various kinds of roses grow in flower beds or in the middle of lawns in perfect harmony with the layouts of streets. Gates are also seen ornately decorated with roses.

Red roses that flower in group on the fragrant bushes over the green lawn give viewers a feeling of strong passion in summer season, highlighting a sharp contrast between red and green colours, and dewy light pink roses enable them to enjoy

fresh and soft beauty.

Charmed by the full-blown roses, people pose for photographs against the background of the flowers or enjoy smelling their sweet fragrance.

According to a section chief of the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute, the institute has registered more than 10 varieties of roses which were acclimatized to the local conditions as state species and sent over 100 000 rose plants to hundreds of units in recent years.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



Beautiful roses grow in different parts of Pyongyang.

