

General Secretary Kim Jong Un issues order to test-launch a new generation of ICBM



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, gave a written order to conduct the test launch of Hwasongpho-17, a new-type intercontinental ballistic missile of the DPRK strategic forces, on March 23 2022.

Striking demonstration of great military muscle of Juche Korea Kim Jong Un oversees test launch of ICBM Hwasongpho-17

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FROM PAGE 1
of Korea and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK.
The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un

gave a written order to conduct the test launch of the new-type ICBM of the DPRK strategic forces on Wednesday. He visited the launch ground on Thursday and personally guided the whole process

of the test launch of the new-type ICBM Hwasongpho-17.
With his deep insight into the ever-changing international political situation, the root cause of the daily-escalating military tension in and

around the Korean peninsula and the long-term demand of the Korean revolution that stems from the inevitability of the long-standing
SEE PAGE 4



Striking demonstration of great military muscle of Juche Korea Kim Jong Un oversees test launch of ICBM Hwasongpho-17



FROM PAGE 2

confrontation with the US imperialists accompanied by the danger of a nuclear war, the General Secretary put forward the Juche-oriented defence development strategy and the policy of bolstering in a sustained way the nuclear war deterrence at the historic Eighth Congress of the WPK. Organizing and directing the crucial endeavours for building up the national defence capabilities to implement the strategy and policy, he, with top priority given to the development of the new-type ICBM in particular, provided detailed guidance and directions almost every day and made sure that the Hwasongpho-17 type weapon system was completed as a symbol of Juche power and the creation of self-reliance, a core strike means and a reliable nuclear war deterrent of the DPRK strategic forces.

Fully armed with his original idea on self-reliant defence strategy, officials, scientists and technicians in the field of national defence scientific research and the heroic workers in the munitions field, under his direct guidance, vigorously waged a research, development and production

campaign with creative wisdom and unyielding mentality, thereby producing the new-type ICBM in a short time.

Kim Jong Un learned in detail about the preparations for the test launch of the weapon system at first hand on the spot on Thursday afternoon and gave an order to advance to the launching position.

He went to the launching position and gave detailed guidance until the last processes of the preparations for its launch, giving strength and courage to the defence scientists and missile maintenance crew involved in the launch to bring about a momentous time when the epochal development of the defence capabilities of the country would be demonstrated all over the world.

They were ready for the test launch, and the moment of a historic event came.

The launching ground counting down to the test launch of the huge strategic weapon was seething with eager anticipation of all the defence scientists and munitions workers to inform the whole world of the production of another powerful nuclear attack means by Juche Korea and to demonstrate with pride the reliable DPRK's nuclear war deterrent force.

After the General Secretary entered the general launch control centre, together with leading officials in the defence science research field, a combat alarm for the launch was sounded at the launching position, test observation technical posts and relevant test research institutes.

Then the launch order given by the General Secretary reached the firepower sub-unit and the commander of the Red Flag Company entrusted with the test launch shouted the command "Fire!"

That moment, brightening flame heated the earth along with a loud boom and the huge entity representing the invincible power of the DPRK soared into space.

The test launch was carried out in a vertical launch mode in consideration of the security of neighbouring countries.

The missile, launched at Pyongyang International Airport, travelled up to a maximum altitude of 6 248.5 km and flew a distance of 1 090 km for 4 052s before accurately hitting the pre-set area in open waters of the East Sea of Korea.

The test launch clearly proved that all the parameters of the weapon system exactly met the design requirements and that its prompt

operation can be guaranteed scientifically, technically and practically under wartime environment and conditions.

The new-type weapon system to be operated by the strategic forces of the DPRK under a state nuclear force building plan will creditably perform its mission and duty as a powerful nuclear war deterrent of putting under strict control the nuclear war threats and challenges against the DPRK, taking initiative to cope with any military crisis and defending the security of the country.

Kim Jong Un said with pride that the emergence of the new strategic weapon of the DPRK would make the whole world clearly aware of the power of our strategic armed forces once again, that the event would be an occasion for convincing the world of the modern feature of our strategic forces and further consolidating the foundation of guarantee for and confidence in security of the state based on it, and that the successful development of the new-type ICBM, the complex of ultra-modern defence science and technology, is a striking manifestation of the might of our

SEE PAGE 6

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FROM PAGE 4

independent defence industry that started and developed by our own strength.

He said that this miraculous victory is a priceless victory won by the great Korean people who have unconditionally upheld our Party's lines for building up the self-reliant defence and the nuclear force while pooling their efforts for the security of the country and the eternal well-being of the future generations despite all kinds of difficulties.

Noting that steadfast is the strategic choice and determination of our Party and government to keep bolstering the powerful nuclear war deterrent qualitatively and quantitatively so as to ensure the security of the country and cope with all kinds of potential crises in the future, he said that to possess incomparably superior military attack capabilities means possessing the most reliable war deterrent, national defence capabilities. The DPRK would as ever focus all state efforts on increasing the defence capabilities on a top priority basis, he said, declaring that this is the resolution made by our Party for the defence of national dignity, sovereignty and peace and for the eternal well-being of the country and the future generations and a noble choice made

by our people themselves.

He said that any forces should be made well aware of the fact that they will have to pay a very dear price before daring to attempt to infringe upon the security of our country. He stressed that our national defence forces would possess formidable military

and technical capabilities unperturbed by any military threat and blackmail and keep themselves fully ready for long-standing confrontation with the US imperialists.

He affirmed that the strategic forces of the DPRK are fully ready to thoroughly curb and contain any dangerous military attempts

of the US imperialists.

He had a photo taken with the combatants of the Red Flag Company and major defence science officials who contributed to demonstrating the strategic position of the DPRK to the world.

All the defence scientists, who came to enjoy

the greatest love and trust under the care of the General Secretary at the significant moment of strikingly demonstrating the tremendous strength of the country to the world, pledged to develop more invincible nuclear attack means

SEE PAGE 8



Striking demonstration of great military muscle of Juche Korea

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FROM PAGE 7

The absolute power, the invincible nuclear war deterrent for self-defence for the country, the Party and the respected General Secretary in the future, too.

This powerful nuclear force of justice possessed by the great WPK and the great Korean people will reliably defend the victorious advance of our revolution and the eternal well-being of the future generations by humbling the US imperialists and their vassal forces showing off their military edge.



Premier Kim inspects different sectors of South Hamgyong Province



Premier Kim Tok Hun inspects the Ryongsong Machine Complex.

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected different sectors of South Hamgyong Province.

After acquainting himself with the production at the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, February 8 Vinalon Complex, Ryongsong Machine Complex and Hungnam Pharmaceutical Factory in detail, he pointed to the need to unconditionally hit major production targets they pledged to achieve before the Party by stepping up the modernization of production processes at each unit and vigorously conducting an increased production drive and creative activities.

Making the rounds of several factories including the Jongphyong County Foodstuff Factory, Jongphyong Unha Garment Factory and Kowon County Garment Factory, he urged officials to fully discharge their responsibility and duty in making children and students enjoy the true love of the Workers' Party of Korea for rising generations by bringing about an upsurge in the production of dairy products and school uniforms.

Economic sectors show steady improvement in production

By Ri Sang Il PT

True to the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, different economic sectors are vigorously waging struggle to fulfill their plans every day, every ten days and every month without fail.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex puts pig iron production on a regular basis by ensuring full operation of an oxygen blast furnace. Its producers further improve the quality of iron and steel by applying a rational working method and advanced technology as they step up the work to put tapping on a mechanized basis.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex made progress in solving technological problems related to the simultaneous operation of three centrifugal circulation compressors in order to increase ammonia synthesis capacity in collaboration with a relevant unit. It steadily supplies in a responsible manner anthracite needed for operating a gas generator by properly introducing technical innovation plans.

Hydropower stations throughout the country secured water and acquainted themselves with hydraulic structures to generate a great deal of electricity more than daily plans.

Meanwhile, the coal-mining industry sector encourages a tunnelling competition to secure reserve coal pits.



Innovations are made in the production of custom-built equipment at the Ryongsong Machine Complex.

HOME NEWS

KCNA

Centenarian receives birthday spread

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Han Yong Phac living in Jonsan-ri, Sangwon County of North Hwanghae Province, on her 100th birthday.

Still enjoying good health under the care of the Workers' Party, she asks her children and grandchildren to fulfill their duty.

17-18 under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

They drew scientists, technicians, lecturers, researchers and field officials from over 40 units including the Academy of Agricultural Science and Wonsan University of Agriculture by way of videoconferencing.

Over 70 valuable papers were examined and presented and good experiences gained in producing high yield of wheat and barley were introduced.

Young men of Pyongyang volunteer to Samjiyon, cooperative farm

Han Kyong Nam, worker at the Foreign Languages Publishing House, and Jong Chol, worker at the Kyonghung Trading Administration, volunteered to go to Samjiyon with a determination to add eternal lustre to the sacred place of the revolution.

Kang Phyong Chol, worker at the Hwaepul Sports Club, decided to work at the Ojuk Cooperative Farm in Anak County with an enthusiasm to contribute to practically carrying out the new programme of the Workers' Party of Korea on rural construction.

National presentation of wheat and barley cultivation techniques held

A national wheat and barley cultivation techniques presentation and experience-sharing took place at the Academy of Agricultural Science on March

Pipha Street to be landscaped in distinctive style in Pyongyang

A project is now under way to form a beautiful landscape with distinctive features on Pipha Street of Pyongyang as a model of landscaping and greening.

The project is aimed at planting good species of trees and flowering shrubs, various kinds of flowers and cover plants in a harmonious way to adorn roadsides and parks in a distinctive style and building various forms of mobile flowerpot stands and flowerpots to put the street on a beautiful attire.

Many units are doing their best to finish the project in time including the Pyongyang Municipality, the Ministry of Urban Management, the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and the Taesongsan Management Guidance Bureau.

Preparations for new school year in full swing

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

As all kindergartens, primary schools, junior and senior middle schools and universities across the country are to enter a new school year, the Education Commission, workers of the printing plants responsible for supplying textbooks to schools at all levels and students and those of the factories responsible for making new school uniforms are stepping up the preparations for the new school year.

The commission is pushing the work to train lecturers for special subjects according to school type and set up relevant labs as technical senior middle schools or technical classes are to be opened this year.

It also organizes in a substantial way some short training courses according to school types and subjects and for improving the qualifications of lecturers in order to fulfil a new teaching programme, thus making them enhance their practical qualifications.

Schools in the general education sector, too, direct great efforts to the preparations for the new school year.

They are full of enthusiasm to work out teaching plans and introduce new teaching methods with emphasis put on ensuring the scientific accuracy and efficiency of teaching contents.

The work to improve educational conditions and environment is also under way at the same time.

The Educational Books Printing Plant has successfully completed the production of textbooks for new primary school children.

Its technicians and skilled workers made by themselves auxiliary materials necessary for printing textbooks to ensure normal production. The bookbinding workshop introduced advanced working methods to raise production efficiency and increased production per shift to fulfil its assignment ahead of schedule and workers of the printing workshop improved the quality and productivity of the printed with the same attitude as the parents of students would do.

The workers in the textile industry sector finished the production of bag canvas for the new school year.

Those of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill made collective innovations in producing cloth for different kinds of bags.

The Sinuju Textile Mill generalized the achievements and experience of innovators and supplied necessary fittings for equipment in time to ensure normal production, while the Kusong, September and Haeju textile mills produced lining for bags sufficiently.



The Educational Books Printing Plant hastens production of textbooks for new pupils of primary school.

Agricultural workers out to increase per-hectare grain yield



The Jongchon Cooperative Farm of Yonan County and Yakjon Cooperative Farm of Sukchon County are busy preparing for this year's farming.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Working people in the agricultural sector across the country are waging a struggle to produce over one more ton of grains per hectare this year, true to the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. South Hwanghae Province puts forward the proper selection of variety of crops and right soil of cultivation as the key point in producing over one more ton of grains per hectare and directs primary attention to it. Having increased the introduction areas of the varieties they came to know well in the course of farming in recent years, its agricultural workers push ahead with the application of new high-yield varieties in real earnest. North Phyongan Province works to give guidance to scientific farming in a responsible manner while substantially disseminating advanced farming methods

and technologies. It puts main effort on introducing a rational cultivation method to overcome the effect of disastrous abnormal weather conditions by intensifying mass discussion to establish a scientific farming system and method. It makes sure that rural communities press on with the introduction of advanced farming techniques and methods including mulching cultivation and water-saving farming in a proactive way. In particular, great efforts have been directed to the production of organic compound fertilizer, which makes it possible to lower the consumption of chemical fertilizers while increasing their effectiveness. South Hwanghae Province is channelling efforts into restoring farmland damaged by flood and other factors and reclaiming the decreased area of land. Redoubled efforts have been put into the preparations for manuring restored land without leaving an inch of land idle to use it for agricultural

production. South Phyongan Province is organizing work scrupulously to establish a scientific soil management method and improve soil fertility. Accordingly, it found out one of the important ways for increasing per-hectare grain output in improving soil fertility and has pushed in a big way the carrying of compost to fields, the carpeting of fields with humus soil and improving of cold-damp soil. It has also spread quality organic fertilizer on the basis of detailed survey of overall low-yielding areas and scientific analysis of soil of each plot and field. North Hwanghae Province is concentrating efforts on improving fields that had a bad crop in the past. Soil has been dug from the bottom of swamps and rivers near the cropland and transported to fields with shallow soil depth and less humus content. Thorough measures have also been taken to increase the yield of grain in acid

and cold-damp soil. Calcium hydroxide has been spread on paddies and non-paddies and cold water of cold-damp soil drained. Nampho City is working to carry out all the tasks relating to the improvement of soil including the production and transport of compost and the carpeting of fields with humus soil. North Hamgyong Province, which takes it as an important aspect in this year's goal for increasing grain output to readjust and reinforce the irrigation system and perfecting it, is making thorough preparations for operating pumping facilities and pressing ahead with the dredging of medium and small rivers. Kangwon Province is working to increase the proportion of farm work done by machines. Relevant units produce and supply necessary parts for the repair and maintenance of farm machines and manufacture efficient farm machines.

Farmers pay much heed to scientific farming

By Kim Chol Nam PT

The Mangyongdae Vegetable Farm in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is pushing the work to disseminate science and technology among its farmers. As it has found the key to high yield in science and technology, the farm runs its sci-tech learning space on a regular basis so that farmers can learn advanced agricultural science and technology. The learning space has secured much data necessary for farming through the

network, and the farm sees to it that workteams and sub-workteams use it according to detailed schedule. This enables all the farmers to regularly study at the learning space without any hitch to their farming processes. Not long ago, crop-raising workteam No. 1 did collective technical study necessary for manure production before the beginning of the relevant work. During the study, its members, through detailed data, came to know differences in per-hectare yield when good and poor

quality manures are spread on fields. As a result, the farmers found error and deviation in their work by themselves and observed the technical regulations, thus leading other workteams in manure production. The farm also intensifies the dissemination of agricultural science and technology just on workplaces. This is welcomed by all the farmers as it enables them to understand various technical problems arising in their work without taking time exclusively for the purpose and learn what is necessary

in their work, practising as technicians instructed, in their workplaces. The improvement in the farmers' technical skills has just led to their success in

agricultural production. Last year the farm reaped a good harvest, overfulfilling its annual plan and taking the first place in the review of the socialist emulation drive that

took place in Pyongyang. Without resting on its laurels, the farm is stepping up the work to develop its farmers into masters of scientific farming.



The Mangyongdae Vegetable Farm properly runs the agricultural sci-tech learning space.

Scientific farming gains ground

By Kim Il Jin PT

The agricultural sector is raising a wave of scientific farming across the country.

With the sowing period approaching, the agricultural workers in Jungsan County are rearranging good strains of seeds and preparing meticulously for the establishment of scientific cultivating methods that can safely ensure the length of the growing period.

Farms in Yomju County see to it that farmers acquire advanced agricultural knowledge and technologies and farming methods through the sci-tech learning space and share successes and experience attained by other units.

Especially, they organize workshops meaningfully and properly commends the farmers who take the lead in the introduction of scientific farming methods so as to raise awareness of scientific farming.

Those in Pongsan County are applying farming technologies that suit their own conditions, including the system of rice intensification and organic farming method using mud snails, as well as different scientific farming methods.

After obtaining accurate soil analysis data for each field, Songchon County puts big efforts to making low-yielding lands fertile by relying on various methods like spreading a large amount of organic fertilizer, carpeting the fields with humus soil, picking out gravels in the fields and improving cold and damp soil. Anak County focuses on rational adjustment of crops and strains in accordance with the seasonal characteristics of disastrous extreme weather conditions and the characteristics of different crops and strains.

More building parts supplied to construction site

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Factories under the Pyongyang municipal building-materials management bureau make innovations in the production of various kinds of building parts needed for the construction of 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area. The Pyongyang Steel Factory concentrated on the repair of furnace and the management of induction furnace to turn out quality molten iron per charge so as to increase the production of rolled steel, while qualitatively producing and supplying different sizes of reinforcement bars.

The Pyongyang Cast Iron Pipe Factory is boosting the production of manhole and other casting.

It modernized the desanding process, which was designed to produce in a conventional way, by introducing a new kind of

knockout equipment.

This desanding machine, which is designed to automatically operate, is closed-type one and thus it produces almost no dust during desanding. So it provides clean work environment while it is fast in desanding speed.

The Pyongyang Electric Building-material Factory produces electric building parts including socket for wall lamp and lighting switch by holding fast to cost reduction and quality improvement.

According to a technician of the factory, though they are small, they consist of many parts and they are by no means small in amount.

The factory made it possible to produce light and lower consumption per unit and melt plastic so as to lay barrier in place of metal bolt and nut for socket.

It is also pushing the production of new-type

connectors as it improves quality and increases their serviceable life by installing a spring in the main body of the connector.

The Pyongyang Plastic Building-material Factory is increasing the proportion of homemade products such as vinyl pipe and wallpaper. By confirming the rational rate of composition that can substitute nature while reducing raw materials by half, it turns out various vinyl pipes of all sizes and presses on with the production of vinyl wallpaper by making a pattern roller based on a laser engraving machine.

The Pyongyang Metal Building-material Factory is carrying on the work of producing smart door-knobs in a serial way, while the Pyongyang Building Stone

Factory is stepping up the effort to ceaselessly send to construction sites the ground granite whose levelness and smoothness are ensured.



The Pyongyang Building-materials Factory produces sanitary ware.

JANG KYONG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Building parts catch public eye

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Building materials developed by the building-materials institute under the Paektusan Institute of Architecture attract interest of customers, including colour plastering materials and rough-stone-pattern decorative tiles.

According to director Kim Kon, colour plastering is much welcomed in the construction sector.

It is an advanced method of covering them with colour plastering materials rather than decorating the exterior of a building with outdoor paint after covering the walls with plaster, to add natural beauty and ensure lasting decoration. In particular, the developers

The institute developed colour plastering materials based on colour sand and cement respectively. Those based on colour sand are divided into two kinds; the one of colour sand and another of natural colour stone powder.

The institute invented unfading colour sand and natural colour stone powder of different colours and established a method of plastering walls with a mixture of the materials and transparent resin binder.

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solved a technical problem in overcoming blushing, the knottiest problem in developing the cement-based colour plastering material. The plastering materials were highly appreciated at the 2019 national exhibition of sci-tech achievements in the field of finishing building materials, and are now popular with different units that use them.

The institute also compiled an e-book containing samples of colour plastering materials made from colour sand and distributed it to designing and urban management units across the country. Different types of rough-stone-pattern decorative tiles developed by the institute are used in decorating newly-

built structures. The tile belongs to a kind of unburned ornamental building material to create the patterns of natural stones by using gypsum or cement as a binding material, as well as such lightweight aggregate as pumice. As they are different in type and texture, the tiles are conducive to enhancing the formative artistic effects of buildings. The institute also developed far-infrared radiation tiles highly effective in sauna therapy by using locally-abundant Kumgang medicinal stone and other minerals good for health. The technology is widely generalized across the country.

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Progress, change to be made in architectural design

A revolution in construction is being brought about in the DPRK.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un said in the letter sent to the participants in the second grand short course of officials in the construction sector last February that if construction is to make dramatic progress as desired by the Party, progress and change should be achieved first in designing.

A wonderful building comes from a designing table.

What the Party demands is that every single line and dot placed on a blueprint reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of the era of the Workers' Party and embody the standards of a civilization that can proudly take the global lead, the General Secretary said in the letter.

What is essentially needed for architectural designers who should meet these requirements is the persistent stamina with which they rack their brains to get an ingenious idea or inspiration that are consistent with the Party's ideas and ideals and the people's aspirations, and with which they admit or yield to nothing but new things.

In the course of designing such magnificent structures as the Jungphuyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, Sci-Tech Complex, Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and those in Samjiyon and Ryomyong Street of Pyongyang, the Paektusan Institute of Architecture gained considerable experience and laid foundations for

designing buildings in creative and unique styles free from rigid and stereotyped conventionality. On that basis, the designers of the institute are now devoting their all to the design of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm and apartment houses to be built in the Hwasong area in Pyongyang and the Komdok area. We pay primary attention to preserving the Juche character and national character in architectural design, sustaining originality and convenience and promoting practicality and functionality. The Juche character and national character are the lifeblood of our architecture, while the originality, convenience, practicality and functionality are the guidelines of architectural design. We are trying to design all structures in such a way that they accord with the feelings and aesthetic tastes of our people and with our actual conditions, that they are diversified and distinctive

Ri Hyon Chol, deputy president of the Paektusan Institute of Architecture



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and that they serve their purposes, while maintaining the principle of giving priority to convenience, aesthetic beauty and infrastructure construction. We are also striving to ensure scientific character, accuracy, rationality and delicateness in technical design. Therefore, we hold fast to creating optimal technical design options as the main principle. To this end, we encourage designers to challenge one another in terms of their talent and practical ability in the efforts for developing an advanced design application program and system and putting architectural designing methods on a scientific footing. We will definitely take a leading position in the new revolution in construction by achieving progress and drastic change in design.

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Rough-stone-pattern decorative tiles.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



A day at Munsu Water Park



Indoor wading area has nine pools and four different slides, ten metres high and 65 metres long each

What they say

I go to Munsu Water Park with my friends every Sunday.

After I disport myself in the water on Sunday, I spend the whole week merrily as I look forward to the following Sunday.

We can play in the water at the park even in cold weather.

There are an exciting water slide, wave pool and the like I can get sheer pleasure from.

Choe Ji Hyang, fourth-year pupil of Ryomyong Primary School, Taesong District, Pyongyang

I have brought my daughter with me here at Munsu Water Park to spend a rest day, and she is very happy.

I enjoyed myself for a long time with her and I felt as if I have become a child again.

As I spent a good time here, I felt deep gratitude to the country for providing us with such an excellent water park and a desire to tell my daughter about its favour to our people.

So whenever we come here, my daughter and I make a bow to the colour statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il in the entrance hall.

Ku Hye Ryon, resident of Rangnang District, Pyongyang

Our school arranges a swimming competition every year, classified into school year and class.

My goal is to become a player and win the event.

So I frequent Munsu Water Park to learn how to swim.

Swimming is not easy for me. But I will do my best to learn it.

Kim Su Ye, fourth-year pupil of Ryomyong Primary School

Unusual sights of Munsu Water Park

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The indoor wading pool of the Munsu Water Park seems to be a world of underwater.

If you look up at the ceiling designed to use natural lighting, you will feel like looking up to the water surface from the bottom as such toys as dolphin and many fishes dangle up there.

Such a feeling grows deeper in the resting site.

Unlike the atmosphere of great joy and pleasure in the wading pools where children splash about, young people jump into the waves competitively and people of all ages glide down the water slide into the pool water at a high speed, giving cheers of joy, the resting ground in the dim, sunless and noiseless place reminds visitors of a cave in the sea.

The visitors, who rest there for a while with their bodies wrapped in towel and eyes closed gently, look like mermen and mermaids in fairy stories and legends.

These are unusual sights which can be seen in the indoor wading pool.

It is a well-known fact that swimming and playing in water need lots of energy.

That's why visitors feel hungry in no time and naturally make their way to soft drink stands and restaurants.

So cooks, waitresses and

saleswomen are as busy as attendants in the wading pool.

Visitors joyfully drinking soft drinks with their family members in the resting grounds and others sitting at the tables in the balcony on the second floor and pleasantly looking at what is going on down on the first floor are

also one of the unusual sights at the Munsu Water Park.

The other unusual sight that can be seen in the park is the perfect mix of visitors in thick padded clothes and warm overcoats and service workers in fresh blue-striped shirts in dressing rooms and at the entrance and exit.



People have a good time at Munsu Water Park. JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Landmark visit helps develop DPRK-China ties onto new high stage

By Song Jong Ho PT

The year 2018 was of great importance in developing the DPRK-China friendship.

From March 25 to 28 in 2018, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the People's Republic of China, which is a neighbour of the DPRK and has a long history of friendship with the latter, and had the first meaningful meeting with President Xi Jinping.

It was his first foreign visit and his first visit to China and, therefore, it was the focus of unusual attention of the world media.

Chinese party and state leaders sincerely welcomed the General Secretary in the best faith, regarding his visit as the most important matter.

Receiving the news of his visit, Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and his entourage came to Dandong, a border city far from the capital city, to greet him and senior officials of the CPC greeted him at the Beijing Railway Station. And his motorcade was escorted by 21 motorcycle outriders.

At the Great Hall of the People, the top leaders of the two countries had the first significant meeting to exchange detailed opinions about important issues like those on the development of the DPRK-China friendship and the management of the situation on the Korean peninsula in an amicable atmosphere.

Kim Jong Un's first visit to the PRC was a historic occasion to provide the solid foundations for carrying forward the tradition of the DPRK-China friendship from generation to generation.

Later, the top leaders of the two countries deepened their personal relations through several meetings.

The friendship between the two countries continues to be consolidated and developed even in the complicated international situation.

The tradition of the DPRK-China friendship is the precious one which was established and developed by leaders of the older generations of the two countries.

It is the firm determination and will of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government to continue to strengthen and develop the DPRK-China friendship dynamically.

Today, the Chinese people have

achieved remarkable successes in the building of a modern socialist country under the leadership of President Xi Jinping.

Some time ago, the Fifth Session of the 13th National People's Congress of China took place in Beijing.

The meeting referred to the fact that the Communist Party of China with Xi Jinping as its core celebrated with splendour its 100th founding anniversary last year by rallying and leading the whole party, the whole country and different nationalities there. It noted that after attaining the first century goal of building a comprehensively well-off society, they embarked on a new advance toward the second century goal of building a modern socialist country and achieved many successes as they pushed ahead with the anti-pandemic efforts and socioeconomic development in an integrated way.

The Korean people are pleased at the successes of the Chinese people like their own.

The DPRK-China friendship with a long history and tradition will be further developed as desired by the two parties and two peoples under the great care of General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

'Groundwater makes the invisible visible'



Kim Un Gyong, researcher of the Grand People's Study House

Water is the precious natural resource indispensable to human existence and development.

Ninety-seven percent of water in the world is seawater or unusable water and two percent exists in the form of ice, while only one percent of water is usable.

Today, the demand for water continues to increase with growing global population as the days go

by with the rapid development of social economy, whereas water resources sharply decrease due to abnormal climatic conditions and water pollution, and many people suffer from different diseases owing to polluted water.

Globally, two hundred million people use water which was polluted by excrement and over 800 000 people die of diarrhea each year.

Given that the world makes frantic efforts against serious water famine, a threat to its existence, the UN has set March 22 as World Water Day every year in order to draw international attention to the importance of water and the sustainable management of water resources.

The theme of the day for this year is "Groundwater makes the invisible visible".

It is aimed at contributing to

promoting the well-being of mankind by well managing and correctly using underground water which has a great influence on human existence though most of freshwater resources are invisible.

The DPRK has steadily improved the law and regulations of the state related to the protection of underground water with deep concern with the protection of ecological environment.

And it is channelling efforts into turning the whole country into forests and gardens by conducting well afforestation and forest protection and management.

Therefore, all the people turn out to add more beauty to the scenery of mountains and rivers of the country by preventing the abuse and pollution of underground water.

BYWORD

Scientific self-reliance

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea stressed the need to develop self-reliance during the period of the new long-term plan into nationwide, planned and scientific self-reliance in line with the requirements of the developing revolution and the urgent requirements of socialist

construction.

The Korean people keenly realized through their previous struggle that they can implement any challenging and huge tasks only when they give full play to the fighting spirit of self-reliance based on advanced science and technology.

Now all sectors and units of the DPRK put production on a normal track and increase it as they give precedence to sci-tech development and focus on the domestic production of raw and other materials relying on advanced science and technology and recycling as well.

OPINION

To guarantee rights and interests of women

By Om Ryoung PT

Now it is the main index of civilized nation to guarantee legal rights and interests of women.

On the occasion of March 8 International Women's Day some countries took practical measures to resolve women's issues.

It is common recognition dominant in Uzbekistan that if mother is satisfied, family is satisfied and society is satisfied only when families are satisfied.

The president of the country stressed at an event to mark the international women's day that the most important way to carry out the new national development strategy for providing the people of the country with a peaceful and affluent life is to guarantee legal rights and interests of women and intensify economic, social and political activities of women.

In recent years, the country adopted many laws and decisions to improve women's life and guarantee their rights and interests.

Last year alone loans and subsidy of US\$200 million were allocated for the implementation of 200 000 plans for women and socioeconomic and legal and psychological assistance and medical care were offered to about 900 000 women and girls. The fact that 60 percent of incoming students of universities are women offers a glimpse of the real state of women's human rights in the country.

On the occasion of the same day, Russian President Putin congratulated all Russian women and said that the state will do everything to strengthen assistance for households and it is their primary task.

Russia is examining the matter of giving monthly subsidies to women and that of assisting families in which only one parent is bringing up children in their minority. A measure for a subsidy system will reportedly be enforced from April 1 for families of small income.

Meanwhile, Uganda pushes forward a model village development plan to ensure the rights and life of women and youths.

According to the plan, the government will distribute US\$5 000 to every village from this year to help groups of women and young people actively conduct various beneficial economic activities including coffee farming, fish farming and stockbreeding and about US\$30 000 will be distributed to every village from next year.

Mongolia replaced beds of all maternity hospitals in the capital and localities including the central materiality hospital and the national parturient women and children's hospital with new ones and equipped them with modern diagnosing and testing facilities with the government's investment.

Visiting several maternity hospitals in Ulan Bator to mark International Women's Day, the premier and the minister of health expressed their will to further expand the government's investment and assistance for maternity and children's hospitals.

Efforts are made to strengthen the position and role of women's union in Vietnam and there was a health parade of working women on the occasion of International Women's Day.

In the DPRK women are fully provided with political rights and social positions.

They not only exercise the same right to work as men but also are fully provided with the right to their development in society. They are provided with all conditions by the state to lead a social life with no worry and they enjoy a proud life as role models of the times, deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, professors and PhDs.

Whenever they greet International Women's Day, grand national events take place and the whole country congratulates them.

On International Women's Day this year there took place a distinctive horse race in Pyongyang, and sports and amusement games of women and congratulatory performances of art troupes across the country to add to the atmosphere of their holiday.

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Mujigae (Rainbow) Rock in Sea Chilbo



By Han Kwi Hun PT

Mujigae (Rainbow) Rock is a curious-looking rock in Sea Chilbo at the beach of Junphyong village in Pochon-ri, Myongchon County, North Hamgyong Province. One end of the rock rests on a hillside and the other end is laid in the sea, which makes it look like a rainbow, hence the name. The rock was formed as conglomerate and sandstone which were covered with basalt abraded and rose up. This mysteriously-shaped rock has long been known as one of the scenic spots of Sea Chilbo along with Kangson Gate, Sol Islet and Tal (Moon) Gate. As waves surge into the rock hole shaped like a half-moon and throw up spray, the rock looks as if it hangs over clouds. There is a bluff to the north of the rock and round basaltic rocks under it. Pine, oak, maple and other trees are on the low hill in the west, which goes well with the surrounding scenery to enhance the scenic beauty. The hole of the 8-meter-high rock is 4.5 meters high and about 10 meters long and 3-4 meters wide at the top. Forming an abrasion hole, the Sea Chilbo Mujigae Rock is a natural monument which has both scenic and academic values since it shows the formation of the coastal landscape.



Kwon Kwang Il, one of top ten players of DPRK

By Sim Chol Yong PT

There is a shooter who established the Asian and national records in the 10-metre running target mixed speed shooting of the Pochonbo Torch Prize Games in June last year. He is Kwon Kwang Il (pictured), a shooter of the Amnokgang Defence Sports Club. "There is a saying that drops of water pierce rock. Like the drops of water, Kwang Il strived for victory," said Choe Chol Song, a friend of Kwon. He failed to reach the top three for missing targets in the running target shooting event at the Mangyongdae Prize Games in Celebration of the Day of the Sun in 2011 and made painstaking efforts by taking this as an occasion. In fact, he had cut a conspicuous

figure in the youth level to attract the expectations of all. Since then on, all places including his suite, dining hall and outdoor resting place have become training grounds. He set himself an ambitious goal to raise the stability of weapon balancing and complete basic factors for adjusted fire and put spurs to training so as to improve his physical fitness and tactical ability. He finally entered the rankings in the senior men's 50-metre running target standard speed shooting at the Pochonbo Torch Prize Games held several months later and won the championships on the domestic front in the event. He reset the Asian records in the 50-metre running target standard speed shooting of the Pochonbo Torch Prize Games in 2018.

And he won a silver medal in the individual contest of the 10-metre running target shooting of the 52nd World Shooting Championships, was placed third in the team event of the 10-metre running target mixed speed shooting and won a bronze medal in the team event of 50-metre running target mixed speed shooting. And he won gold medals in the team events of the 10-metre running target shooting and mixed speed shooting at the 14th Asian Shooting Championships respectively and took the second place in the individual contest of the 10-metre running target mixed speed shooting. He won more than 60 medals in major international and domestic games. Kwon Kwang Il was selected as one of the top ten players of the DPRK in 2021.

Blackish copper incense burner in Singye Temple typical of Koryo metalwork

By Pang Un Ju PT

An object of metalwork dating back to the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392) which was preserved at Singye Temple in Onjong-ri, Kosong County of Kangwon Province, blackish copper incense burner (pictured) was used for Buddhist rites at the temple. The metalwork with silver inlay of 58 letters on its support was made in 1352, according to the inlaid letters. It is 45cm high with its mouth being 44cm in diameter and its foot 29cm in diameter and 0.7cm thick. Its main structure and the theme of its patterns are common in contemporary incense burners, but its shape making and decorative patterning techniques show high artistic skills. The shape of the container is very harmonious and balanced as its straight cylindrical body blends in so well with the part of high support consisting of various soft curves. And the composition of its design, which properly distributes various forms of continuous and

bine patterns like lotus and other flowers all over its whole surface, is very refined and the decoration by inlaying them with spun silver on black copper to make it gentle and sparkling is also delicate and subtle. With black ground employed to exhibit the beautiful decorative effect of silver colour, it is the best of all existing blackish copper incense burners and one of the typical metalwork pieces showing high craftsmanship of Koryo. It is now preserved at the Korean Central History Museum.

