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Report on Eighth Enlarged Plenary Meeting of Eighth WPK Central Committee



**조선로동당 중앙위원회
제8기 제8차전원회의 결정서**

첫째 의정: 2023년도 주요당 및 국가정책들을 철저히 관철할데 대하여

둘째 의정: 나라의 교육구조를 선진교육을 줄수 있게 고치고 교육사업을 결정적으로 개선강화하기 위한 획기적조치를 취할데 대하여

셋째 의정: 각급 인민회의의 대의원선거방법을 개선하여 인민주권을 더욱 강화할데 대하여

다섯째 의정: 당위원회 규률조사부기구를 확대 개편하고 사업체계, 지도체계를 개선할데 대하여

조선로동당 중앙위원회
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At a time when the invincibility and fortitude of our cause have been further demonstrated all over the world and the all-people struggle for ushering in a new upsurge in socialist construction is gaining momentum thanks to the scientific and strong guidance and practice by the ever-victorious Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee convened a plenary meeting to promote the perfect and substantial attainment of the grand goals of national rejuvenation.

The Eighth Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK was held at the office building of the WPK Central Committee, the supreme general staff of the Korean revolution, from June 16 to 18, Juche 112(2023) to arouse stronger enthusiasm of all the Party members and other people for the struggle to consolidate the precious victory and the dignity and position of our powerful state, which they achieved by boldly breaking through all difficulties under the leadership of the great Party Central Committee, with steady advance and continuous leaps.

The plenary meeting made an interim summing-up of this year's work for implementing the major policies to firmly preserve the interests and security environment of the country and bring about a fresh upswing in the overall development of Korean-style socialism in line with the goal for progress and

strategic and tactical principles set forth at the sixth and seventh plenary meetings of the Eighth Party Central Committee. It discussed and decided on the important policy issues to be addressed without fail and further spurred in the advance in the second half of the year.

Attending the meeting were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and members and alternate members of the WPK Central Committee.

Present there as observers were officials of the relevant departments of the WPK Central Committee and the Cabinet, chairpersons of the provincial, city and county people's committees, chairpersons of the provincial rural economy committees and leading officials of ministries, national agencies and major industrial establishments.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, was present at the plenary meeting.

The presidium of the meeting was formed with members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

The plenary meeting put the following items on its agenda:

1. On launching a bolder struggle for implementing the major policies for this year
2. On the epoch-making measures for developing education
3. On decisively enhancing the role of the officials of people's committees at all

levels

4. On the issues arising in strengthening the people's power

5. On the important measures for intensifying the building of Party discipline

6. Organizational matter

The plenary meeting unanimously approved the agenda items.

The first agenda item "On launching a bolder struggle for implementing the major policies for this year" was discussed.

The participants heard a report.

The report reviewed the signal successes achieved by the Party and people through their arduous and fierce struggle in the first half of the year.

The adventurous military manoeuvres and reactionary offensive of the US imperialists and the south Korean puppet cliques going unprecedentedly reckless have seriously threatened the security environment, development and interests of our state, laying a grave stumbling block to our advance.

Though the subjective and objective circumstances were unfavourable, the WPK and the people of the DPRK have overcome difficulties through proactive and positive struggle under the outstanding and tested leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and achieved encouraging and progressive successes to be proud of in all fields including the Party building, protection of national interests, economic construction and building of civilization.

The report summarized the work of the Party Central Committee for wisely organizing and guiding the all-people struggle for achieving substantial successes in the national economic development and providing a decisive guarantee for the fulfilment of the five-year plan.

It recalled that the Party Central Committee set it as a key issue to ensure self-sufficiency in food supply by increasing the country's agricultural production, opened up an epoch-making prospect for providing farming materials and strengthening the material and technical foundations of the countryside, and took every possible measure to successfully attain this year's grain production goal.

The Party Central Committee also took important measures to enable the major sectors of the national economy, including coal-mining, machine-building, forestry and railways, to make progress, and took revolutionary steps to tighten discipline in implementing the national economic plan. Such efforts brought about considerable results in tackling the unstable fluctuations that manifested in some sectors at the outset of this year, remarkably increasing the growth rate of production in all fields of economic construction.

The report briefed the participants on the successes achieved in the struggle to attain the 12 major goals for national economic development.



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This year's goal of irrigation construction, set at the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, has been fulfilled in the main and the socialist patriotic movement for increased coal production pioneered by the coal miners of South Phyongan Province is spreading on a larger scale to all sectors and units across the country. The metallurgical and chemical industries, the twin pillars of economic development, are taking the lead in the drive, staunchly tiding over the ordeals and difficulties and overfulfilling their higher plans.

In the construction sector, the construction of the first-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area was successfully completed to be followed by inauguration. The construction of additional 2 000 flats in the area and that of 1 400 flats in the Tacphyong area were completed and new rural villages were built one after another, instilling joy and confidence into the people across the country.

Now, the construction of second-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area, the construction of a new street in the Sopho area, the construction of the Kangdong Greenhouse Farm and the housing construction in the Komdok area are progressing apace.

The firm faith of all the people that the leadership of the Party is a science and victory gets stronger amid the struggle for implementing the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Party Central

Committee, and the will to pave a broad avenue toward self-reliant prosperity with the great might of loyalty and patriotism has developed into the all-people ideological sentiments. This is a great success incomparable with any economic growth.

The report referred to the analysis made by the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee of some shortcomings and wrong attitudes revealed in the struggle for implementing the state economic policies in the first half of the year, and the ways for overcoming them.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee importantly put forward the realistic tasks to be fulfilled immediately for the sustainable and long-term development of agriculture.

The report rigorously analyzed a series of wrong attitudes—failure in establishing strict discipline of unconditionally carrying out the national economic plans in the economic work for the first half of the year and in building self-supporting foundations of the economy in a substantial way.

The high goals of struggle for this year and the reality oriented to the comprehensive development require the major industrial sectors, the pillars of the national economy, to overcome the one-sidedness in production, consolidate the already-reached growth line and bring about a fresh upsurge in the overall economy through a more vigorous struggle.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee intends to put spurs to completing the projects for the

readjustment and reinforcement, updating and modernization being promoted at the key industrial and other sectors in order to make significant successes of completion for consolidating the backbone of the self-supporting economy one after another in the second half of the year.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee in the report stressed the need for all construction project headquarters to take thoroughgoing measures for supplying building materials in consideration of the builders' ever-growing enthusiasm for struggle in this year witnessing the largest-ever projects in the country's history of construction and to invariably push ahead with the projects as scheduled through a strenuous offensive while perfectly ensuring the quality of design and construction.

In particular, the report underlined the need for all sectors and units to responsibly conduct the work for proactively encouraging and supporting the young people ideologically, morally, materially and technically to ensure that their high patriotic enthusiasm results in shining feats and miracles, true to the noble intention of the Party Central Committee which entrusted the young people with the whole project for building a new street in the Sopho area of Pyongyang Municipality.

In the report, the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee paid attention to the accounts of the work for carrying out the policy-oriented tasks prioritized by the Party at present.

In particular, it analyzed and reviewed in detail the execution of the new

childcare policy set forth at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

In the past two years, provinces, cities and counties made much effort to increase milk production and provide facilities for producing dairy products along with the establishment of the well-organized system and order for supplying dairy products. This made it possible to regularly supply dairy products to all the children at nurseries and kindergartens every day, which is one of the most remarkable changes made in the life of our people by the Eighth Party Central Committee.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee correctly found out and reviewed the successes and shortcomings manifested in the execution of the Party's childcare policy by classifying them according to different units and contents, and stressed the need to take practical measures for increasing the production of dairy products and promote them consistently.

The report referred to the issue of pushing forward with the work for land administration and ecological environment protection in a long-term and development-oriented way, the issue of scientifically intensifying the work for financially and monetarily guaranteeing economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, and the issue for the Cabinet to establish a well-regulated unified commanding system and controlling and

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reporting system of the economic work as befitting the economic headquarters of the country.

The report said that in order to confidently pave the path for achieving rejuvenation of the country by dint of self-reliance, it is necessary to hold fast to the development of science and technology as a core strategy in all fields and sectors and focus efforts on it.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee put forward the ways for training the scientists and technicians, who are the vanguard and main forces of the country's sci-tech development, into revolutionary and patriotic scientists, and mobilizing and using the sci-tech talents in a unified and effective way, and specified the major goals and tasks of sci-tech development at present.

To dynamically push ahead with the expansion and development of the space industry as a national affair is arising as an urgent task, the report pointed out.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee proposed an essential structural measure to be referred to the Supreme People's Assembly based on the view that the nationwide space science and technology potentiality should be fully mobilized to pave the path to the development of space industry in a far-sighted way and turn the country into a world-class space power by steadily expanding and increasing the sci-tech successes made at the early stage for exploring the space field.

The Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee stressed the important mission of security organs to thoroughly guarantee the implementation of the policies of the Party and the government with the security work and in a legal way, and underlined the need for relevant sectors to more offensively, tactically and powerfully conduct the work for reliably defending the single-hearted unity, the irresistible might of the DPRK.

The report referred to the analysis and evaluation of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on the justification for directing greater

efforts to bolstering up the capabilities for self-defence in conformity with the present changed security situation of the DPRK and steadily updating the military hardware of the DPRK armed forces.

The complicated and serious situation on the Korean peninsula which is getting out of control requires the DPRK to constantly renew its military potentials and make a faster advance toward bolstering up its self-defence capabilities.

The practical actions which turned the core tasks for bolstering up the defence capability set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK into successful entities, pursuant to the solemn declaration of the WPK that the DPRK will counter the enemies' nukes and policy of frontal confrontation in kind, have demonstrated the rapid building speed of the ever-developing strategic force of the DPRK and its powerful military technical capabilities and exposed the US imperialists and the south Korean puppet forces to the insurmountable security crisis.

The Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee appreciated the real successes that the strategic force of the DPRK has made progress recognized by the world in the light of the high-level military technical capabilities and the development speed of weapon systems and has developed into an existing powerful entity. On the other hand, it strictly reviewed the shortcomings that were revealed in some fields and that cannot be overlooked.

The most serious one was the failure in the military reconnaissance satellite launch, the important strategic work in the field of space development, on May 31.

The five-point major goals for developing the defence capabilities set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Party are all important, but the development of military reconnaissance satellite is of very great significance in the prospect of the development of the armed forces of the DPRK and in making full preparations for combat.

The report bitterly criticized the officials who irresponsibly conducted

the preparations for satellite launch, and set forth the militant task for officials and scientists in the relevant field to make a thorough analysis of the cause and lesson of the recent failure, successfully launch the military reconnaissance satellite in a short span of time and thus make a shortcut to improving the capabilities of the Korean People's Army's reconnaissance intelligence and achieving a greater leap forward in the field of space development, bearing deep in mind their important mission.

All the successes made in the field of developing various weapon systems including nukes and missiles are a big stride forward in the important and critical situation of bolstering up the nuclear war deterrent of the country, the Political Bureau affirmed, calling on the national defence field to consistently adhere to the orientation of developing nuclear weapons and the line of bolstering up the nuclear force set forth by the Party Central Committee and reliably defend the sacred revolutionary cause of Juche by increasing the production of powerful nuclear weapons.

The report seriously analyzed and evaluated the security situation on the Korean peninsula extremely deteriorating due to the reckless war moves the hostile forces are making in disregard of the patience and warning of the DPRK and referred to the urgency to swiftly respond to them in a military technical, political and diplomatic way.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee recognized that the principle of action for action should be strictly adhered to and the overwhelming and offensive countermeasures should always be taken forcefully without delay against the enemy's intentional and undisguised escalation of military tension. And the plenary meeting unanimously approved concrete plans and modes of counteraction for their implementation.

The Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee set forth important tasks for conducting external activities independently and more actively on the principle of defending the sovereignty

and national interests to cope with the swirling international military and political situation such as further strengthening solidarity with the countries which are opposed to the US brigandish strategy for world supremacy.

The report referred to the issues essential in remarkably increasing the leadership ability and fighting efficiency of the Party as required by the enormous revolutionary tasks facing the DPRK at present and in line with the urgent requirements of the subjective and objective environment.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee analyzed and reviewed the successes made in the work for actively promoting the qualitative consolidation of the Party and enhancing the fighting efficiency and activity of the Party organizations in the first half of the year, and the shortcomings that should be immediately overcome in the Party work.

The report referred to the new Party measures to firmly guarantee the sound political climate and development of the Party by energetically organizing and conducting the work to implement the five-point line of Party building in the new era and indicated the orientation of work to be given priority to by the Party organizations at all levels in attaining the goals of this year's struggle and carrying out the strategic tasks.

Expressing belief that the Korean revolution will surely enter a new phase of development as all the Party members and other people are making redoubled efforts by dint of their unity in the face of the worst difficulties, the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee called upon all sectors and units to put spurs to successfully attaining the goals of this year's struggle and courageously shoulder the mission and important duty they have assumed.

All the participants expressed with loud applause their full support for and approval of the report of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee which set forth the policies for dynamically putting the Korean-style

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socialist construction on a certain track of upswing according to our timetable.

Kim Tok Hun, premier of the Cabinet, and Ri Il Hwan and Jon Hyon Chol, secretaries of the Party Central Committee, made speeches on the first agenda item.

Speakers expressed their determination to dynamically propel the implementation of the decisions of the Party, always aware of their heavy responsibility for the important affair directly related to the dignity and might of the Party and the state in the most important and responsible period in the history of the development of the DPRK. They presented to the plenary meeting for deliberation the measures that should be taken in the course of the struggle to enhance the role of the Party organizations and attain the 12 major goals for national economic development.

The plenary meeting discussed the second agenda item "On the epoch-making measures for developing education".

Pak Thae Song, secretary of the Party Central Committee, made a report on the research made by the relevant field true to the Party's policy on adjusting the educational structure of the country to ensure advanced education and improving the contents and methods of education in keeping with the worldwide trend of educational development and submitted it to the plenary meeting for deliberation.

The plenary meeting discussed the third agenda item "On decisively enhancing the role of the officials of people's committees at all levels".

Jo Yong Won, secretary of the Party Central Committee, said that the Party has very great trust in and expectations for the officials of the provincial, city and county people's committees, who are powerful locomotives leading the development of their regions and are in charge of the people's living.

The meeting stressed the issues of principle to be maintained by the chairpersons of the people's committees in fully displaying the initiative, creativity and activity in their work with the firm viewpoint and stand that they are totally responsible for their regions before the Party and the state. The participants

heard a briefing on the chairpersons of some people's committees who failed to do their duties in a responsible manner being given to defeatism.

The plenary meeting discussed the fourth agenda item "On the issues arising in strengthening the people's power".

Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, made a speech.

He referred to the importance of improving the method of electing deputies, who are the people's representatives responsible for state affairs, in making them display high political consciousness, initiative and ingenuity, aware of their sacred and responsible position given by the state and the people.

There was a briefing on a new method of electing deputies which was studied in the direction of helping the working masses fulfil their responsibility and fully exercise their rights as genuine masters of the state and society in conformity with the people-oriented character of the state power and of further consolidating and developing the democratic election system based on the principle of centralism.

Choe Ryong Hae presented to the plenary meeting for deliberation a plan for studying the method of electing deputies.

The plenary meeting discussed the fifth agenda item "On the important measures for intensifying the building of the Party discipline".

Jo Yong Won, secretary for Organizational Affairs of the Party Central Committee, made a speech.

Noting that Kim Jong Un advanced the unique idea of Party building that the building of Party discipline should be put forward as a crucial priority task and important line of Party building and activities in order for the WPK to give full play to its might as a revolutionary party waging a struggle, Jo Yong Won stressed the significance and importance of establishing more thoroughly the Party discipline at present when the Party is advancing towards the attainment of the great goal of overall development and overall rejuvenation of socialist construction.

He made a report on the accounts of research on the ways of improving the

machinery and work system in the field of discipline supervision on the basis of the theory of Party building in the new era.

Presented to the plenary meeting for deliberation was a measure of realistic significance in strengthening the institutional mechanism for thoroughly guaranteeing the realization of the unified leadership of the Party Central Committee and the broad political activities of the Party and invariably maintaining the WPK's pure political climate through iron discipline by further intensifying the building of Party discipline on a new level.

The plenum held panel study and consultative meetings to draw up positive and detailed measures for thoroughly implementing the tasks for the second half of the year and to put together and examine the issues that were raised in the discussion of the agenda items.

Senior officials of the Party and the government guided the panel study and consultative meetings. At the meetings, constructive measures were brought up on the basis of sincere and dynamic study of the tasks reflected in the draft resolutions and the plans whose scientific accuracy and feasibility were strictly examined and deliberated.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee submitted the finally confirmed draft resolutions to the plenary meeting for approval. The plenary meeting adopted the relevant resolutions with unanimous approval.

It discussed the organizational matter as the sixth agenda item.

It recalled and by-elected members and alternate members of the WPK Central Committee.

Choe Hui Thae and Kim Son Uk were by-elected as members of the Party Central Committee from alternate members. Kim Yong Chol and Kim Yong Gyu were by-elected directly as members of the Party Central Committee. Hong Pyong Chol, O Yong Jae and Kim Pong Chol were by-elected as alternate members of the Party Central Committee.

The plenary meeting recalled and by-elected members and an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Kang Sun Nam was by-elected as member of the Political Bureau of the

Party Central Committee from alternate member and O Su Yong was by-elected directly as member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

Kim Yong Chol was by-elected as alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

The meeting dismissed and elected a secretary of the WPK Central Committee. O Su Yong was elected as secretary of the Party Central Committee.

The plenum dismissed and appointed a department director of the WPK Central Committee.

O Su Yong was appointed as department director of the Party Central Committee.

The meeting recalled and by-elected a member of the Central Inspection Commission of the WPK.

Choe Kun Yong was by-elected as member of the WPK Central Inspection Commission.

The enlarged plenary meeting, at which policy issues of great significance in radically advancing the Korean revolution were discussed and decided earnestly in a detailed, special and innovative way amid the high political consciousness and enthusiasm of the participants, rounded off its work, being convinced that the huge goals of the struggle for this year will be successfully attained by the ardent loyalty of all the people to the Party Central Committee headed by Kim Jong Un.

All the participants pledged to fulfil their important mission in further propelling the overall rejuvenation and development in a more prudent way through the persistent struggle based on the single-hearted unity, further hardening their self-confidence to make the noble idea and sacred cause reach the high eminence of success and victory as early as possible.

The Eighth Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK served as an important political occasion which powerfully demonstrated once again the high enthusiasm and spirit of advance of the whole Party to consolidate the militant might of the Party in every way and to steadily accelerate the dauntless general advance for attaining the grand goals of struggle by remaining loyal to the ideology and leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Press release of Eighth Plenum of Eighth Central Committee of WPK

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

Members of the Party Central Committee:

Choe Hui Thae, Kim Son Uk, Kim Yong Chol and Kim Yong Gyu

Alternate members of the Party

Central Committee: Hong Pyong Chol, O Yong Jae and Kim Pong Chol

Member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee: Kang Sun Nam and O Su Yong

Alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee: Kim Yong Chol



Kang Sun Nam



O Su Yong



Kim Yong Chol

Secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK elected at the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK: O Su Yong

Department director of the Central Committee of the WPK appointed at the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK:

O Su Yong

Member of the Central Inspection Commission of the WPK by-elected at the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK: Choe Kun Yong



Choe Kun Yong



Fifteenth Politburo meeting of Eighth Central Committee of WPK held

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The 15th meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place at the office building of the WPK Central Committee on June 18.

Present there were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Jo Yong Won, Presidium member of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the WPK Central Committee, presided over the meeting.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee examined and deliberated the documents submitted by panel study and consultative meetings of the Eighth Plenum of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK on each agenda item and decided to put together the issues raised and finally complete the draft resolutions and then report them to the plenary meeting.



Kim Jong Un sends birthday greetings to Xi Jinping

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a congratulatory message to Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, on Thursday.

He in the message extended the warmest congratulations to General Secretary Xi Jinping on his 70th birthday.

He recalled that Xi Jinping, with a high sense of responsibility for the Party, the state and the people, has devoted himself to the

socialist cause with Chinese characteristics for a long time and now enjoys the respect and trust of all the members of the Communist Party of China and its people.

Thanks to his energetic leadership, the prestige of the Communist Party of China has further been enhanced, the goal of building a comprehensively well-off society successfully attained and China's overall national power and international position remarkably strengthened, he said.

Kim Jong Un in the message said that he is sincerely pleased to see Xi Jinping achieving great successes in the new journey for comprehensively

building a modern socialist state by leading the Chinese party and people.

He expressed belief that the struggle for the rejuvenation of China will surely emerge victorious as there are the leadership of Xi Jinping and the Chinese party and people rallied around the Party Central Committee with him as its core.

He wished Xi Jinping greater success in his important and responsible work for leading the Communist Party of China, the People's Republic of China and the Chinese nation.

He also sincerely wished him good health and his family happiness.

DPRK leader sends flower basket to Chinese counterpart

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a flower basket to Xi

Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

The DPRK ambassador to China courteously conveyed the flower basket to the deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the CPC on June 13.

Immortal exploits Kim Jong II performed for developing WPK

June 19 is a special day of great significance in the annals of the Workers' Party of Korea.

That day in 1964, Kim Jong II started to work at the WPK Central Committee.

He led the Party for nearly half a century.

In the period, he developed the WPK into an invincible revolutionary party, built up the national strength to the highest level and lifted the country and people to world fame with his matchlessly brilliant wisdom and outstanding leadership.

Entering the 1960s, the situation became complicated as modern

revisionism emerged in the international socialist movement.

Kim Jong II who started to work at the Party Central Committee at that juncture made strenuous efforts to staunchly defend, carry forward and develop the Juche-oriented idea of party building and exploits of President Kim II Sung.

He clarified the philosophical principle that a revolutionary party is a political organization working to realize the ideology and leadership of the leader, its founder, and, on that basis, put forward an original party building idea of permanently developing the WPK into

the party of Kim II Sung, set it as his lifelong mission to implement the idea and wisely led the efforts to this end.

Under his energetic leadership, a monolithic ideological system of the leader came to be established firmly in the Party and the WPK developed into a party successfully embodying the leader's cause of party building.

In the whole course of leading the Party, he set it as the fundamental principle to develop the WPK into a motherly party taking responsible care of the people's destiny and faithfully serving them and invariably adhered to it.

He made sure that the Party and the state formulated their lines and policies with the people's demands and interests as the absolute standard and that all the Party organizations and officials established a revolutionary habit of going deep among the people and working as their faithful servants with the spirit of devotion to them.

As he, holding the noble view on the people regarding them as God, saw to it that politics of love and trust were embodied in the Party work and activities, the WPK could develop into an ever-victorious party which achieved the single-hearted unity between the

leader, the Party and the masses and stepped up the revolution and construction on the strength of the unity.

Under the uplifted banner of Songun, Chairman Kim Jong II strengthened the WPK into a powerful guiding force of the Songun revolution in the mid-1990s.

He formulated Songun politics as the basic political mode of socialism as required by the changed circumstances and developing revolution and oriented the Party work and activities to the implementation of the Songun-based revolutionary line.

Thanks to the Songun-based revolutionary

leadership he provided as he continuously followed rough roads to the front, the WPK could win victory after victory in the struggle for defending socialism and honourably defend the dignity and sovereignty of the country and people by overcoming such severe difficulties and terrible ordeals.

The immortal party-building exploits performed by the Chairman who developed the WPK into a powerful guiding force while leading it in the van for scores of years are shining as the eternal asset for accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Korean leader sends greetings to Russian president

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greeting to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, on Monday.

He in the message offered warm congratulations on behalf of the government of the DPRK and its people to the president and the government of the Russian Federation and the friendly Russian people on their national day.

He appreciated that the strong and wise Russian people have made proud history and culture for a long time since they took their roots deep in their vast land, and covered a proud path of development, demonstrating the dignity and might of a powerful country.

He said that thanks to the correct decision and guidance of the Russian president, the struggle of the Russian people to foil the hostile forces' escalating threats and challenges to deprive Russia of its sovereignty, security and peaceful life has entered a new decisive phase. Justice is sure to win and the Russian people will continue to add glory to the history of victory, the tradition peculiar to them, he stressed.

He noted that the people of the DPRK are extending full support and solidarity to the

Russian people in their all-out struggle for achieving the sacred cause to defend the sovereign rights, development and interests of their country against the imperialists' high-handed and arbitrary practices and to realize international justice.

He said that the DPRK-Russia friendship, which has weathered all trials of history from one generation to the next and from one century to the next, is a precious strategic asset common to the two countries and it is the steadfast stand of the DPRK government to uninterruptedly develop the good neighbourly and cooperative relations as required by the new era.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in his message affirmed his willingness to strive for closer strategic cooperation between the DPRK and Russia, holding hands firmly with the Russian president, in conformity with the common desire of the peoples of the two countries to achieve the grand goal of building a powerful country and reliably defend global peace and security.

He sincerely wished the Russian president good health and greater success in his responsible work, and the friendly Russian people constant prosperity, development and victory.

Remarkable achievements made in efforts to attain 12 major goals for economic growth set forth by WPK

Mass innovation movement promoted, new standards, records created

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With the mass innovation movement gaining momentum in major economic sectors to attain the 12 main goals that should be reached this year without fail, many units have established new standards and new records in production.

Wise leadership

It is the firm decision of the Workers' Party of Korea to provide a decisive guarantee for completing the five-year plan by expanding and developing the all-people struggle to open up a new phase of upsurge in socialist construction this year which is of key importance in carrying out the decisions of the Eighth WPK Congress.

The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK set the 12 important goals, economic indices which have direct and crucial influence on the overall economic growth and the people's living standards, to be achieved by concentrating national forces as the major targets

and specified the ways to hit them in detail.

The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK indicated the orientation and ways to dynamically open up a new era of rural development in line with the requirements of the stage of comprehensive development of socialist construction.

In particular, the Fifth Enlarged Meeting of the Eighth Central Military Commission of the WPK discussed and decided on the crucial measures to organize and wage a powerful nationwide campaign by dispatching service personnel of the Korean People's Army to the major theatres of operation including those for rural development and local construction.

The untiring leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who laid down the most scientific path and correct ways to follow it and energetically guided the struggle to implement the tasks, was an inspiring banner and motive force which strongly encourage all the people to carry out the Party policies.

New standards, new records created by mass innovation drive

Officials, Party members and other working people across the DPRK are now redoubling efforts to successfully implement the decisions made at the plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and open up a new heyday in socialist construction with the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and creativity. They are stoking the fierce flames of mass innovation movement on all fronts of economic construction.

Mass innovations have occurred in all sectors and units of the national economy to bring the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee into brilliant reality.

Officials and other Party members and working people in all sectors and units waged a vigorous campaign for increased production and creation to hit the 12 major goals without fail and in the course of it many units in major sectors played a vanguard role.

The agricultural sector has been bustling with intense activities.

Civilians and service personnel improved over 60 000 hectares of dry-field irrigation network in a short span of two months, with the main stress on the areas affected by frequent drought. They mainly attained this year's goal for irrigation construction.

All farms across the country strictly adhere to scientific farming and complete every farming process carefully to produce high and stable crops even under the influence of extreme weather conditions.

A surge in production was also witnessed in the major industrial sectors including metal, chemical, electric power, coal, mining, forestry and building materials industries.

Substantial progress was made in the drive to increase the production of electricity.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex worked out a plan for overhauling five boilers this year and finished the extensive repair of the fourth and 12th boilers in a short time. And the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, the Suphung Power Station and many other thermal and hydropower stations have carried out their production plans since the beginning of the year.

The workers in the coal industry, too, turned out in the drive for increased production.

The coal mine for the supply of coal to Jagang Province of the Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex mined thousands of tons of more coal on the occasion of the Day of the Sun (April 15) while overfulfilling its monthly production plans and the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex cut over 15 000 tons of more coal on average every month.

With coal mines throughout the country waging a high-speed tunnelling movement vigorously, the Ministry of Coal Industry has secured

over 300 reserve coal pits.

The spirit of devotedly and perfectly implementing the tasks set forth at the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee was displayed in the metallurgical and mining industries, too.

The chemical industrial sector made fresh innovations as befits the defender of the arsenal of the agricultural front.

The rail transport sector made collective innovations by pooling efforts.

The workers in the forestry sector displayed a high spirit to achieve new development and changes and attain the goal of timber production at any cost.

A great leap forward and innovations were made at the building-materials production bases and construction sites, too.

On the light industrial front, the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill is making innovative achievements to contribute to improving the people's living standard.

Officials and workers in the fisheries sector are waging a dynamic fishing campaign.



An upsurge in production is brought about in agriculture and overall major industrial sectors.

Centre takes prudent measures to prevent forest fire

By Yun Kyong Il PT

According to a report of the United Nations Environment Programme, forest fires have often occurred in different regions across the world due to temperature rise in recent years, thus increasing human and material damage, said Kim Yong Il, staffer of the central forest fire prevention centre. "At present, dry weather persists in most areas in our country. Under the circumstances, it arises as an important matter to take thorough measures for the prevention of forest fires." According to him, branch forest fire prevention centres have been organized in provinces, cities and counties to take preliminary measures so as to prevent forest fires in close collaboration with the central forest fire prevention centre. Forest fire monitoring and

mobilization systems have thoroughly been set up. Monitoring posts and checkpoints have been established in dangerous places where forest fires can occur and other places favourable for monitoring forest fires and monitoring and control of forest fires carried on a regular basis. The mobilization system is carefully established so as to enlist all possibilities to the maximum in quickly putting out fires if wildfires break out. The forest fire prevention centres take measures to block forest fires. They remove trees and dead leaves in certain width around areas prone to forest fires and reserved forests and dig the ground to make firelines lest fire should spread. They check and repair power lines on a regular basis and cut the stems of vines twining around high-tension towers and power poles and

Officials have an intense discussion to prevent forest fires at the central forest fire prevention centre. RODONG SINMUN



tree branches near electric wires in time to prevent fires by electric accidents. While creating forests, they form certain width of belts with Korean poplar, black walnut and others that do not catch fire easily to create fire prevention forests. Forest rangers, patrol men and fire rangers keep up with the conditions of dangerous places that forest fires can break out in forest districts in their charge, inform the masses of common knowledge and methods in detail to put out forest fires, discover abnormal practices in time and take necessary measures. In addition, the centre takes timely measures on a scientific analysis of units' data displayed from time to time through the information service system for forest fire observation, thus correctly and swiftly conveying the data related to the prevention of forest fires to all parts of the country.

All-people campaign goes on to prevent forest fire

Relevant panels in each province, city and county work to take best possible preventive measures

By Pak Song Min PT

An all-people campaign is conducted across the DPRK to prevent forest fires. Forest fire prevention panels at all levels concentrate effort on preparation for rapidly coping with possible forest fires while grasping risk factors without omission and reviewing the repair and creation of firebreaks every week to take necessary measures. Pyongyang Municipality gives lectures and explanatory statements and conducts information activities through radio and education in law observance in different forms and methods to encourage broad masses of people to take part in the campaign purposefully. Districts and counties near mountains, including Mangyongdae and Ryongsong districts, finished the repair, improvement and creation of firebreaks and creation of catchment areas and stone barriers according to designs, making it possible

to prevent possible damage. Rason City pushes the work to prevent forest fires in a planned way. The city set up well-organized command and information systems for prevention of forest fires and has seen to it that institutions and industrial establishments reinforce forest fire brigades, get ready full sets of fire-prevention equipment and build the capacity to promptly cope with any emergencies through regular actual training simulating

the extinguishment of forest fire. And it fixed the mountain areas that can be entered and the relevant period to keep people from climbing mountains in a disorderly manner and constantly raises informatization level to set up a scientific forest fire monitoring system. Ryanggang Province identified areas and spots prone to forest fires, set up observation posts in consideration of regional features and observation conditions, got ready various pieces of signal

equipment and took thorough measures for emergency liaison. In particular, the City of Samjiyon and Taehongdan and Pochon counties set up remote monitoring systems to carry on intensive monitoring of forests and mountains around and eliminate any slight risk factors. South Phyongan, North Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces and Nampho City established the forest fire monitoring information service system in all their areas.



Strenuous efforts are made to prevent forest fires at the South Hamgyong Provincial Forest Management Bureau. RODONG SINMUN

Research findings effective in arresting forest fire

By Han Jong Ho PT

The forest resources conservation institute of the Academy of Forestry brought out a vegetative forest fire extinguishing agent which is effective in putting out forest fires. The agent mainly consists of a dozen amino acids including glutamic acid extracted from plant corpora. The agent helps put out forest fires by the effect of evaporative cooling of water and the foam-based oxygen blocking and heat absorption effect. The forest fire extinguishing effect of it is over two times that of water and gives no negative impact on environment. It was introduced into the City of Samjiyon, Hwangju County and other forestry management stations. The institute also worked out a technical manual conducive to scientifically planting tree species which are hardly ignitable, and dispatched researchers to Kangdong County and several other areas to give guidance over local afforestation for the prevention of forest fires to meet the scientific and technological requirements considering the forest conditions and protection of relevant areas. The textile institute under the Academy of Light Industry researched and introduced a water bag for extinguishing forest fires. According to researchers, different kinds of facilities with great forest fire extinguishing

capacities are now actively being developed and applied around the world. In the past, fire prevention facilities using no water were widely researched. But at present, research into aerial forest fire extinguishing facilities using water is getting into stride and they are applied. Because such water-based apparatuses are very effective in extinguishing forest fires in time as planes and helicopters fly near to the scenes of forest fires to spray water. The institute focused its attention on developing a water bag, which has good waterproof property and great bearing capacity and is highly resistant to friction, to meet the specific features of extinguishing fire by spraying water from helicopters in the air. As a result, it developed the water bag which is cost effective and environment-friendly and can be used irrespective of seasons by solving scientific and technological problems arising in selecting materials and making, designing and coating it. The climate institute under the Academy of Hydro-Meteorology completed a forest fire risk assessment system. The system consists of the assessment of forest fire risk and forest fire breaking, and forecast of forest fire occurrence and effects. It is helpful to stochastically assessing the incidence of forest fire caused by different factors on a nationwide scale and taking relevant measures.



Protection of persons with disabilities in DPRK

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

All persons with disabilities in the DPRK are enjoying the same rights as able-bodied people. They are provided with more favourable environment and conditions for rehabilitation and treatment, education, leisure activities and work and granted the same social and political rights and freedom and benefits as the able-bodied and their personalities are respected. It is all guaranteed by the DPRK Law on the Protection of the Disabled.

Article 1 The mission of the law on the protection of the disabled of Chapter 1 of the law stipulates that the DPRK Law on the Protection of the Disabled shall contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities rights and interests in all fields of social life and fully providing them with stable and convenient living environment and conditions and Article 3 The principle of ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in the same chapter specifies that the state shall make sure that the personalities of persons with disabilities are respected and they are granted the same social and political rights and interests as healthy people. The law was enacted on June 18 2003 and amended

and supplemented on November 21 2013 and June 14 2022. The state adheres to the principle of systematically increasing investment in the protection of the disabled, modernizing the relevant material and technical means, detecting and treating diseases causing disabilities in time and preventing disabilities caused by such factors as traffic and labour accidents. The DPRK, which values man most, has been protecting persons with disabilities since national liberation. On June 24 1946 Kim Il Sung made sure that the Labour Law for

the Factory and Office Workers in North Korea was promulgated to put forward measures to ensure living conditions for the persons disabled by labour or those unable to work owing to occupational diseases, which marked the beginning of the work to protect persons with disabilities in the country. In 1951, during the Fatherland Liberation War, a prosthetic appliances factory was built and it has since been producing such appliances for physically handicapped persons at state expense uninterrupted. Schools for the deaf and dumb and blind were established in all provinces in September 1959 and

those who enjoy much more benefit from the universal free medical care system enforced in 1953 than anybody else are also the disabled. The Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (the then Korean Association for the Support for the Handicapped) was set up in 1998 and it has actively been assisting the state to make and implement policies on the protection of the disabled and controlling and directing the work to protect the disabled in a unified way. A social habit of giving preferential treatment to the disabled prevails in the country.

The disabled are provided with every convenience in using means of transport and communications and amenities. In particular, those whose self-supporting abilities are seriously limited or who lost such abilities, including the blind, are granted the right to use bus, trolley bus, commuter train or ship and other passenger transport means for free. A social habit of treating the disabled with kindness further prevails in the country. Diverse activities are conducted to help persons with disabilities better on the occasion of the Day of Persons with Disabilities (June 18) every year.

Disability does not matter in fulfilling dreams

By Yun Ki Song PT

We have hopes and we all realize our dreams, said Ri Un Chol, a visually-impaired member of the art group of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled. He freely plays the guitar and accordion while singing. He flaunted his amazing talents in the performance of artistes with disabilities given on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December last year, winning an accolade from the audience. The magic performed by Won Song Min and Kim Ri Ryong, both with hearing impairments, also captivated the audience. It was mysterious as a spectator bound with a string was stripped of his jacket, which was worn by a magician in a moment.

Jon Yu Gyong with locomotive disabilities danced in her wheelchair, receiving tumultuous applause from the audience. And an instrumental ensemble performed by persons with visual and locomotive impairments reminded the viewers of a play by a renowned artistic group. According to Cha Hyok, secretary general of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled, all members of its artistic group take part in two or three numbers. Pac Ok Rim, a visually-impaired woman, sings while playing the guitar and a percussion instrument. It is said that the abovementioned magicians also dance a folk dance well. "Our talents are attributable to our instructors who helped us develop the talents, the care of the association and the

state's benevolent policy on protecting persons with disabilities," Jon Yu Gyong said. Among members of the artistic group are those who receive university education. Ri Kuk Chol, a man with locomotive disabilities who was fond of writing in his childhood, studies at the online faculty of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. Many admirers of his poems call him "master poet". The performance given by the artistic group is quite popular at home and abroad, and almost all its numbers receive encores of the audience. They take pleasure and pride of their life in encouraging working people who are out to carry out the five-year plan with their vigorous artistic activities in different parts of the country.



Kim Mi Song and her son stroll along the street with handicapped men. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

With tender sisterly care

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Love and affection in DPRK society where people show tender care for those who have mental woes serve as nourishment for persons with disabilities to fulfil their wishes. Recently, a moving news about Kim Mi Song in Neighbourhood Unit No. 30 in Sochang-dong of Central District, Pyongyang, was published to touch everyone's heart. The 29-year-old woman has devoted her sincerity to disabled young men. "Kim Mi Song has taken tender sisterly care of handicapped players of our association," said Choe Myong Son, swimming coach of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled. A mother of a child and working woman, Kim has looked after three men with disabilities, regarding it as an elementary ethic to help ill people. Some years ago, she happened to see the three disabled men going in a wheelchair and walking with the aid of sticks on her way back home after work. She volunteered to push

the wheelchair out of sympathy and came to know that they were players of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled who were training at the Changgwang Health Complex. "I was struck with admiration at the spirit of them who were exerting themselves, though they lost two or one legs," recalled Mi Song. This was how she forged ties with them with the resolve to look after them as their true sister would do and since then she had visited them to help them. In that course, an idea came into her mind that she could lessen their inconvenience even a bit if she let them stay in her flat which is near to the Changgwang Health Complex and on a low floor, and her husband readily supported her suggestion. Therefore, the disabled swimming players, Kim Sung Hyok, Jong Kuk Song and Yun Kang Gon, moved into Mi Song's home to stay there. "I cannot wish for anything better when you become famous sportsmen and fly the national flag by training hard." This is what Mi Song often says to the three men.

has cared for us with all devotion," said Jong Guk Devotion. Back home after a day's work, she found no time to pamper her son hanging around her neck in order to make haste with preparing a meal for them, and whenever they got ill, she would sit up all night nursing them. The most difficult thing for her was to carry Kim Sung Hyok, who is much bulkier and heavier than her and has a locomotive impairment, up to her flat on the first floor piggyback. Her husband often undertook the "task", but whenever he came home late unexpectedly, she would carry Sung Hyok on her small back. "Each time the small woman carried me piggyback, her neighbours helped her with me thinking I was her real brother. And after learning that I was unrelated to her, all the residents of the apartment building gave us a helping hand," said Sung Hyok. "I cannot wish for anything better when you become famous sportsmen and fly the national flag by training hard." This is what Mi Song often says to the three men.



Art group members prepare for a performance at the Korean Art Association of the Disabled. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Women play pivotal role in protecting land

By Ri Ju Gyong

Land is one of the major resources essential for human existence and activities. People express serious concern over the fact that valuable land, main source of food, clothing and housing, is undergoing desertification on a global scale at a fast rate. Desertification gets more serious with each passing day due to civil wars, natural disasters, devastation of nature by reckless deforestation, overuse of land and ecological destruction. To address the problem, an international conference held in Paris on June 17 1994 adopted the Convention on Combat Desertification and the 49th session of the UN General Assembly decided to commemorate June 17 as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. On the day every year, a commemorative ceremony takes

place to call for international efforts to prevent desertification and drought, thus promoting technical cooperation and exchange of information between nations and between regions for sustainable exploitation of land and prevention of desertification and drought. The theme of the day for this year is "Her land, Her rights". The degradation of land and depletion of water sources cause excruciating pains to people, especially women. Women are in constant contact with water. It is an essential element for them who bring up future and love and create beauty. Today, nearly half of the global agricultural workforce is female. Most of women around the world are unable to give full play to their abilities in harnessing nature due to social inequalities and blatant discrimination. The United Nations appeals to all the women across the world to fulfil their responsibilities and

role as those who directly shape a bright future in sustainable land management and wider land use and development, while requesting them to attach importance to planting forests, the "lung of the earth", and take the lead in tree planting, landscaping and river and soil improvement in order to prevent desertification and drought. The DPRK conducts the creation and management of forests scientifically and technologically as a national undertaking, and land protection with the main stress put on improving soil to prevent its acidification and increase its fertility and crop yields. An all-people campaign for preventing forest fire is being conducted and efforts are being made to prevent flood damage by mapping out a mid- and long-term plan for river improvement. Cities and all other areas are massively planting good species of fruit and other trees and ground-covering plants

in order to prevent the loss of soil and improve natural scenery in keeping with their local meteorological and climatic conditions. As sexual equality is legally guaranteed in the country, women fulfil the duties and responsibilities they assume for the country and the times in land management and environment protection as befit the masters of the country and society. Among them are road keepers and weavers working also as deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly. There are so many meritorious women of patriotism who devote pure conscience and efforts unassumingly. Only when we cherish love for the future and value and tend this land with our own hands, can this land, the earth where we live, will become more affluent and flourishing.

The author is journalist at the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea

Social system ensures rights of persons with disabilities



Yun Chang Il
Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled

The Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled represents and defends the rights and interests of all persons with disabilities in the country and fulfils its mission to contribute to fully providing them with stable and favourable living environment and conditions in all fields. The federation positively helps persons with disabilities enjoy their rights in their socio-political life, vocation, education, sports and cultural life, medical service and healthcare. Thanks to the sincere efforts of the DPRK government and full cooperation of related institutions, a well-knit system has already been established to ensure the rights of the disabled in all fields. It is inconceivable

apart from the policy of the government which regards people as the most valuable of all and the social system under which all people form a harmonious family helping and leading one another forward. Under the system, all persons with disabilities take an active part in socio-political life without discrimination and enjoy their rights equally in the DPRK. The federation puts special efforts into education of the disabled. It works to improve the educational environment and conditions at schools for the deaf and dumb and blind and promote vocational technical education and higher education to fully nurture their creative talents. It also widely encourages

combined education to integrate the classes for ordinary and disabled children and push their education on the same level. Close attention is directed to ensuring the rights of the disabled to work. The federation helps persons with disabilities at the working age choose right jobs according to their hopes and demands and provides them with full conditions for rest and working environment. And they receive disability benefits. For ensuring the rights of the disabled in sports and cultural life, the federation also organizes and runs a variety of sports and cultural events, works to raise public awareness of the issue and enhance their self-reliant capacity. Persons with disabilities under the Korean Sports Association

of the Disabled fully displayed their excellent skills in such events as table tennis, archery and shooting at the annual sports games for persons with disabilities and amateurs held under the sponsorship of the federation every year and the performances given by the members of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled also won great admiration of the audience. The federation performs active and detailed activities in contact with the Ministry of Public Health and other related units to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities to rehabilitation, medical service and healthcare. For the protection of disabled children and provision of their rights the Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities conducted extensive scientific research and external exchanges on rehabilitation, upbringing and recovery of the disabled children, setting an example of children with disabilities enjoying a happy life just like ordinary ones.

OPINION

Manifestation of impudence peculiar to Japan

By Choe Yong Nam PT

By Song Jong Ho PT

Despite the opposition at home and abroad, Japan is going to enforce the dumping of radioactive-contaminated water. Some time ago a forum to explain "safety" with regard to the disposal of radioactive-contaminated water of the Fukushima nuclear power plant, which had an accident, took place in Iwaki of Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. Through the forum, Japan attempted to prove "safety" of the dumping of nuclear waste water at home and abroad. However, the cunning trick of the Japanese government failed to convince the people at home. The fishing league of Fukushima Prefecture still remains unchanged in its opposition to the dumping of the treated water into the sea. Japan invited cooks, restaurant managers and retailers to a special show of foodstuffs from Fukushima to gain domestic support for the dumping of the radioactive-contaminated water in March this year. Now, the Fukushima nuclear power plant stores such contaminated water much enough to fill over five hundred swimming pools and its quantity increases by about 140 tons every day. There is the strong assertion that if Japan dumps a large quantity of the contaminated water into the sea, it will pollute even the waters near Jeju Island within some months and the whole of the East Sea of Korea in a year and finally reduce the entire Pacific Ocean to a "sea of death".

However, Japan insisted that it is "safe treated water" and "water good safe enough to drink" and is trying to deceive the public at home and abroad, saying that the expression of "contaminated water" is not suitable and it should be called "treated water". Why is Japan going to dump the polluted water to the Pacific Ocean instead of lakes at home if it is really safe treated water as it insists? Because the Japanese authorities have opted for the dumping of it into the sea as it costs the least whereas other ways of disposing the polluted water, including the one based on steam discharge or the construction of new storage facilities, cost much. With regard to the matter, the Chinese representative in a speech at the 76th session of the WHO Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 27, disclosed that Japan selected the dumping of the contaminated water to the sea because it intended to reduce the expenditure and make the world suffer a disaster. Despite strong opposition at home and abroad, Japan intends to inflict a nuclear holocaust on humankind by enforcing the dumping of the radio-contaminated water. This is the manifestation of impudence peculiar to Japan which is only intent on earning its own profits even by sacrificing the life and safety of humankind.

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Russia aspires to a powerful state

June 12 is national day of the Russian Federation. It is the steadfast strategic goal of Russia to build a powerful state. To attain the goal, it has directed a great deal of energies to increasing the country's overall national power and enhancing its international prestige, achieving significant successes in the course of this. Russia focuses on building up its defence capability while paying heed to maintaining and consolidating its political stability to achieve the goal of building a powerful nation. For Russia which stands face to face with the West that lays a strategic siege to and intensifies military pressure on it, it is a vital issue directly linked to the country's existence to build up defence capability. An emergency inspection exercise was staged between April 14 and 20 in Russia to judge the combat mobilization posture of the Pacific Fleet. Involved in the drill conducted under the command of the navy commander-in-chief were some 25 000 military personnel, 89 planes and helicopters and 167 warships and submarines. Through the emergency inspection was verified the high level of combat readiness of the military commanding organs and the military force of the fleet to repulse the "enemy" attack. With regard to the successful performance of the surprise

inspection exercise, President Putin highly praised the Pacific Fleet for the good results and ordered relevant officers to conduct such inspection drills of other fleets. Meanwhile, the Northern Fleet and the aerospace force of Russia staged missile firing and bombing exercises. During the exercises bombers reportedly mounted missile and bomb attacks on the group of "enemy" warships in the designated waters of the Barents Sea, under cover of supersonic fighter jets of the Northern Fleet refuelled by tanker planes. Russia has also put efforts into developing the country's economy. Though the West attempts to destabilize the financial and economic situations in Russia, create disorder in markets, destroy the banking system and cause a shortage of goods at shops by applying economic sanctions, it has exerted constant efforts to develop the economy in a stable way to suit its specific conditions, resulting in positive achievements in the economic sector. Rather, the West's anti-Russian sanctions boomeranged on itself.

Russia pays due attention to ensuring that the fine traditions established in the past are carried on by promoting the education in patriotism among the people. At the military parade held on May 9 this year at the Red Square in Moscow to celebrate the 78th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War, President Putin said that during the war the heroic ancestors showed that nothing is stronger and more powerful and reliable than unity. Love for the country is the most powerful in the world, he noted. Russia also consolidates and develops strategic partnership and expands cooperation and exchange while strengthening external relations. It contributes to defending international fairness and justice and realizing multilateralism including the promotion of solidarity with regional and other countries like member nations of the BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Commonwealth of Independent States. Russia will continue to work hard to firmly defend national security, constantly develop the country and build a powerful state.

World Day against Child Labour

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

June 12 is World Day against Child Labour. The future and destiny of a country depends not on the vast wealth or advanced economic power but on how they bring up children, the symbol of hope and future. The world is now finding hundreds of millions of children in their prime learning age, who deserve social protection, being forced into illegal slave labour. The number continues to increase every year, posing child labour as a serious socio-political issue. Recently, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund issued a report that nearly 1.8 billion children across the world are living in an environment of inadequate social protection.

The number of UAC labourers in the US, in particular, has increased annually reaching over 500 000, and children, who have yet to reach working age, toil away like slaves. The New York Times exposed that children engage in farming from the age of 8 in the vast fields and large farms of the US and suffer all kinds of grinding toil in hazardous factories for over 10 hours a day. It went on to note that the children often give up the idea of going to school in the daytime as they work all nights, criticizing the US government for its connivance at it. Children should be under social protection. But, if they have no money, they have no other choice but to be exploited and reduced to slaves of money. This is the reality of the capitalist society. The DPRK government regards it as the most important national priority to hold children as kings

and queens of the country and bring them up to be the masters of the future. In September 1990, our country ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It legally guarantees the rights of children with the adoption of a number of laws including the DPRK Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children, the DPRK Law on the Protection of the Disabled, and the DPRK Law on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights. Great care and love of the Party and state for the growing new generation are also reflected in the advanced universal 12-year compulsory education system enforced a few years ago, the modern schoolchildren's palaces and Children's Union camps built in every part of the country, the ever-improving conditions for education and cultivation, and

the grand meetings of Children's Union members being successfully held under the attention of the whole country. Our children have gained fame in many international competitions and sporting events like a gifted 5-year-old artist who surprised the world people with amazing painting skills and an 8-year-old music prodigy who was awarded special prize at the international competition for young pianists. Their happy faces vividly show the superiority of the socialist system of our own style which values and cultivates even the smallest of children's talents. Today, in the warm embrace of the great love that spares nothing for the country's future, our children are giving full play to their hopes and aptitudes and growing up to be able talents that can contribute to the country's prosperity.

China strongly opposes US arms support to Taiwan

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Recently, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China expressed strong discontent with and firm opposition to the US administration for putting into action its plan to provide \$500 million worth of weapons to Taiwan and having delivered anti-aircraft missile "Stinger" to it. She stated as follows:

The United States' arms supply to Taiwan is a grave violation of the rules of China-US Three Joint Communiques, the "August 17 Communiqué" in particular. It is also interference in China's internal affairs, infringement upon its sovereignty and security interests, and destruction of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. It is a very wrong and dangerous act. China expresses strong discontent with and vehement

opposition to such an act and has already lodged a solemn protest to the US. We strongly urge the US to comply with the One China principle and the rules of the Three Joint Communiques, break military ties with Taiwan, and stop arming it. We also strongly demand the US stop creating elements that heighten tension in the Taiwan Strait and refrain from giving tacit approval and support to forces seeking the

"independence of Taiwan by force of arms". We warn the authorities of the Democratic Progressive Party that their attempts to "achieve independence relying on the West" and "curb the reunification with arms" will only end in failure. The spokesperson also noted that China would continue to closely follow the situational developments and resolutely safeguard the state's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

Briefly

- Russia**
PM stresses need to develop space service
Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin referred to the importance of developing space service at a meeting on the strategy for the sector of rocket and space on June 6. Saying that such service is badly needed for the planning of large-scale and modern new technology infrastructure as well, he stated that it is especially urgent in Russia with vast stretches of territory.
- Cuba**
US criticism rejected
The Commission for External Affairs of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba issued a statement on June 8 to denounce the US criticism against the country. In connection with the fact that the US State Department recently found fault with it claiming that Cuba does not cooperate in the anti-terror effort, the statement said that it is quite at variance with facts. It criticized that while clinging to such slander and calumny, the US has included Cuba in the list of "state sponsors of terrorism" and is intensifying economic, financial and trade blockades.
- China**
The US urged to stop interference
A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry demanded the US stop interfering in internal affairs of other countries at a press conference on June 9. As to an American media report claiming that China and Cuba agreed to set up a "Chinese spy facility" to observe the communications in the southeastern part of the United States, the spokesman said it is a well-known old trick of the US to cook up false rumours so as to insult others and willfully interfere in their internal affairs.
- Japan**
Civic organization denounces authorities' preparation for war
A Japanese civic organization contributed an article to four domestic newspapers including Tokyo Shimbun. In the article the organization took issue with the authorities' possession of "counterattack capability" (the ability to attack enemy bases) and increase in the military expenditure and said that they have turned the whole country into a battlefield.
- Weather**
Unprecedentedly high temperature anticipated worldwide this year
Recently, meteorologists asserted that it is anticipated that the whole world would suffer from unheard-of high temperature as El Niño would coincide with temperature rise caused by climate change this year.

BYWORD

Love and affection

The noble virtues and traits of caring for others are commonplace in the DPRK. People of such virtues and traits think of others before themselves and share joys and sorrows with them. Among them are many young men and women who marry

honoured disabled soldiers, people who become sons and daughters of the aged people who have no supporters or become parents of orphans, those who devote their own blood to patients without hesitation or work even on holidays and

rest days for decades to provide others with favourable living conditions and ensure their well-being and young people who leave their hometowns to go to work as teachers at schools in island and mountain villages. All of them are filled with

love and affection for other people and for society in which all live a harmonious life helping and leading one another forward. It is the Korean society that is filled with love and affection and is tended by such feelings.



The Taedong and Pothong riversides and streets in Pyongyang are covered with fresh foliage and beautiful flowers in summer. Pak Kwang Hun / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Fierce matches, unexpected change in rankings

By Han Kwi Hun PT

The first-class volleyball games-2023 (first round) that started at the Volleyball Gymnasium on Pyongyang's Chongchun Street on June 1 ended on June 14.

First-class teams at home, including the April 25, Amnokgang and Pyongyang, took part in the games.

The rankings of male teams were decided on through two rounds of league matches and level-specific league matches and those of female teams done by putting together the scores made in two rounds of league matches.

This time points were added to the scores gained by services. It was aimed at encouraging players to enhance their technique of service, according to Kim Hong Suk, a staffer of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.

Fierce matches

As predicted by experts and fans, male and female players of the April 25, which is recognized as a strong team at home, achieved the

highest scores in the first round of league matches.

They took the initiative in the first round of league matches to win victory after victory.

After unexpectedly beating the Kigwancha males, the third in the standings, the Pyongyang males also defeated the Amnokgang, the second in the standings, thus taking the second place in the round. Then, the Pyongyang lost the match with the Sobaeksu, failing to take the first place.

After being defeated by the Pyongyang, the Amnokgang found its form to display its ability.

As a result, the April 25, Amnokgang and Pyongyang took the first, second and third places respectively in the first round, thus taking part in the second round of league matches.

Another match between the Amnokgang and the Pyongyang in the second round was really fierce.

Players of the Amnokgang, who had been beaten by those of the Pyongyang in the first round of league matches, played with a sense of oppression in the

first round of the match, the opponents looking superior.

Then the Amnokgang tied the score 22-22 and the players of both teams displayed their abilities to the maximum.

The Amnokgang won the match to make up for its previous defeat.

Women's matches were also fierce. In particular, the match between the Pyongyang and the April 25 in the second round of league matches was really thrilling.

After drawing 2-2, the two teams had the exciting fifth round of the match where the Pyongyang retained its strong points by means of double quick spike and the April 25 depressed its opponent by dint of quick movements based on false pass and strong smashing from the position of No. 4.

The match ended in victory for the April 25.

Experts said that the match was the fiercest of women players' during the games.

Unexpected change in rankings

The nearly 15-day games ended as the level-specific league matches finished

after the match between the Sobaeksu and the Amnokgang on June 14.

In the male competition the April 25 and Amnokgang took the first and second places respectively in the games.

The Sobaeksu took the third place to the surprise of spectators.

Before the beginning of the matches, experts and fans predicted that there would be an unexpected change in the rankings but they never thought the Sobaeksu was a dark horse.

With a shift in generation among its players, the team consisted of those aged between 19 and 22 who had little experience and were imperfect in physical preparedness. Thus the team ranked fifth during the competitions held in 2020 and 2021 and the team regarded it as success that it took the fourth place last year.

The team took the third place for the first time in the spring national sports festival-2023 this year.

After the games were over, experts congratulated the team for its success,

recognizing that now it is not a newly emerging team but a promising one.

The female players who achieved success this time were those of the Pyongyang.

The players, who had

ranked between the third and fourth places, beat the Amnokgang, taking the second place at the current games.

And the April 25 won the first place.



A scene from a men's volleyball match between Sobaeksu and Amnokgang teams. It took place on June 14. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

