

General Secretary Kim Jong Un inspects Kumsong Tractor Factory



KCNA

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, inspected the Kumsong Tractor Factory on August 23.

Accompanying him were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, O Su Yong, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director of the

WPK Central Committee.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by the director of the Vehicle Industry Guidance Bureau under the Ministry of Machine-building Industry and leading officials of the relevant sector and the factory.

Looking round the remodelled room for education in the revolutionary history and room dedicated to the factory's history, he highly praised the factory for conducting in an effective way the education in the undying leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who devoted themselves

to the development of the Juche-based tractor industry. And he asked the officials and employees of the factory to fulfil their noble mission and duty in the struggle for implementing the programme for a rural revolution in the new era with pride in living and working at the glorious working place.

Then, he went round different parts of the factory to learn in detail about its renovation and modernization and production.

When he visited the Kumsong Tractor Factory in November 2017, he said that the factory is a historic one associated

with great leadership exploits of the President and the Chairman. And he set forth a vital task for turning it into a core and advanced factory which plays a leading role in realizing the comprehensive mechanization of agriculture and can serve as a model of the vehicle industry and into a factory where cultured way of production and life is perfectly established, and personally settled the important problems for carrying it out.

He also indicated the detailed

SEE PAGE 2





FROM PAGE 1

orientation and ways for turning the factory into a world-class one, ranging from the issues of designing, modernization of production processes, professional construction unit and labour force to the issue of forming an executive commission for updating and a group of designers and dispatched able construction forces. And over the past five years, he has paid deep attention to the factory, taking important Party and state measures to push ahead with its modernization project.

True to his on-the-spot instructions and the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee, the officials and employees of the factory, together with soldier-builders, finished the first-stage updating project in close cooperation with scientists, technicians and workers at the relevant units last year. They are now stepping up the second-stage project while striving to develop and make modern tractors and farm machines in larger quantities.

Kim Jong Un acquainted himself with the updating of equipment, the creation of production capacity and the construction conducted by the factory during the first-stage modernization project.

He highly praised the factory for having realized in the main the automation of major production lines through its strenuous efforts to attain the modernization goal without fail and laid a foundation for producing tractors with less production cost, but with

practical efficiency and fine appearance by conducting a dynamic mass technical innovation movement to improve the performance of tractors and solving lots of technical problems arising in the production of parts.

And he appreciated the fact that the factory has manufactured and installed new efficient equipment and steadily updated equipment to raise productivity and precision and ensured the full operation of equipment in the work by arousing the enthusiasm of employees, thus expanding its annual tractor production capacity and producing various kinds of modern farm machines.

He also expressed satisfaction over the fact that major production buildings were newly built or renovated on a modern basis through a dynamic construction project to renew the factory better as required by the developing reality and provide good working environment and the work to arm the employees fully with modern science and technology has been conducted in an effective way through the normal operation of sci-tech learning space.

He seriously examined the second-stage modernization now under way at the factory and set again the goal to be attained by it.

Stressing that to map out a realistic strategy for the development of farm machines and make a radical leap forward in the farm machine industry is the most urgent issue in solving the food problem, the foremost fundamental in our grand revolutionary struggle for achieving the great cause of building a

rich country with strong army and, at the same time, an important undertaking for the eternal prosperity of the Korean revolution, he said that very important is the duty of the Kumsong Tractor Factory which holds a key position no one can substitute for in realizing the comprehensive mechanization of agricultural production.

A close scrutiny of the practicality and efficiency of modernization now under way at the factory shows that there is progress to some extent, but irrational problems exist in view of the prospective development of the farm machine industry envisaged by the Party Central Committee, he said, and indicated in detail the scale and target of modernization to be held fast to and carried out thoroughly by the factory in the new struggle.

He said that the factory should not confine its modernization target only to the visible goal for current agricultural production, but set a practical target for freely and satisfactorily producing and supplying efficient and quality tractors and farm machines suited to the specific conditions and requirement of our countryside by establishing a farm machine production process with comprehensive and modern features in keeping with the world standard and providing a large-scale production foundation and stubbornly attain it.

The entire farm machine production sector should be updated to activate the production and thus radically increase the country's agricultural productivity and this is an important matter which brooks

no delay, he said. And he gave a task for the relevant field to survey in detail the estimation of the country's overall agricultural infrastructure and agricultural technical capability and present the data on it so that the long-term farm machine development strategy can be discussed and deliberated at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee to be convened at the end of the year.

He expressed expectation and belief that the officials and employees of the factory, by carrying forward the proud tradition of the Chollima workers of the preceding generation who made the first tractor with their bare hands, fully displaying the spirit of self-reliance, would vigorously turn out in the struggle to attain the goal set forth by the Party Central Committee and thus become reliable models in the van of the drive for developing the country's machine-building industry and carrying out the rural technological revolution.

Responding with a pledge of devoted implementation to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who visited their factory again and showed deep trust in them and dramatically heightened their high sense of honour and important mission in defending the outpost of the rural technological revolution, all the officials and employees of the factory made a firm pledge to fulfil the heavy responsibility and duty assumed by them who are at the forefront of the farm machine production campaign in the ongoing worthwhile historic advance for opening up a new era of rural development.

Kim Jong Un inspects Ansok tideland under restoration



KCNA

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, inspected the Ansok tideland under restoration of the South Phyongan Provincial General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise on August 21.

On the spot, he received a detailed report on the damage and recovery from Jo Yong Won, Kim Jae Ryong, Kang Sun Nam, Jong Kyong Thack, Kim Jong Gwan and Pak Jong Chon.

The South Phyongan Provincial General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise failed to build the drainage structure in a qualitative way at the embankment of Ansok tideland in Sokchi-ri, Onchon County, Nampho

City. So, the seawater recently burst the embankment, flooding more than 560 hectares of tideland including over 270 hectares of rice paddies.

After analyzing in detail the motive and cause of the damage, he seriously blamed the officials for their very irresponsible neglect of duties.

He said: After being told a few days ago that Ansok tideland was flooded,

I dispatched secretaries of the Party Central Committee to the spot to guide the recovery work, and took a step to mobilize even service personnel. But leading officials of the Cabinet, ministries and national agencies have never been to the recovery site. The premier looked round the site once or twice with the

SEE PAGE 4





FROM PAGE 3

attitude of an onlooker and sent a vice-premier to it, who played the role of a fuel supplier only. And the director of the Tideland Reclamation Bureau, who had to directly guide the recovery work, was criticized for telling the bureau Party committee that he would return to his office as he had nothing to do on the spot, but he almost stayed in an office of the enterprise without doing anything. He also concealed much of the fuel oil that the state provided for building the emptying-gate.

Sternly blaming those deeds, Kim Jong Un termed them deliberate idleness bereft of any remorse and any will for carrying out the duty as those responsible for the serious damage.

He said that he stressed the importance of the proper nationwide measures to prevent the damage some days ago when the rice paddies in Anbyon County were flooded and a heavy blow was given to the irresponsible working style of leading officials of the government and the regional administrative and economic workers through the fighting spirit of soldiers involved in the recovery campaign, but they still remain insensitive. It is the posture calling for help of the army this time, too, and they are taking such brazen-faced, haughty attitude that the army's help is natural, he pointed out.

He further said: It was told that from June this year the enterprise had conducted the construction of a drainage structure, as a step for preventing the flooding of farmland, in an irresponsible manner without getting the state's permission and without the construction control institution's supervision and did not take any step though it discovered in advance the leakage of water at the floodgate bank. The wrong work-style of junior units is a problem and, moreover, the Cabinet

was totally unaware of the fact that the Tideland Reclamation Bureau approved such construction at its own will. This serves as a typical example showing how slack the administrative and economic discipline is. Judging by this, we can know that all the administrative and economic work of the Cabinet is not done in a unified way.

He said that a proper work system has not been established within the Cabinet and incompetent officials have been appointed, so they failed to guide the affiliated units well, adding that in recent years the administrative and economic discipline of the Kim Tok Hun Cabinet has got out of order more seriously and, consequently, the idlers are spoiling all the state economic work with the irresponsible work manner. Noting that the Cabinet has become an instruction and information organ only able to give instructions to lower organs, he said the blame for it is largely on the Party Central Committee in charge of the Party policy and Party guidance over the state economic work and economic organs.

Clearly stating that the current damage is not a calamity caused by natural disasters but a human disaster by irresponsibility and indiscipline of the loafers from A to Z, he said that pardon can never be allowed for those politically immature persons who do not keep step with the appeal of the Party Central Committee, mental underwits who do not accept the warning as a warning, bureaucrats who ignore the safety of people's lives and property and those who are unfaithful to their duty for the Party and the revolution. He gave orders to the Organizational Leadership Department and the Discipline Inspection Department of the Party Central Committee, the State Inspection Commission and the Central Public Prosecutors Office to ferret out the responsible organs and the persons

concerned and strictly censure and sternly punish them by the Party and law.

Noting that the irresponsibility and indiscipline of officials are rampant even at the moment when a special mention was given on taking thorough measures for protecting crops from damage throughout the country, he bitterly said this is mainly attributable to the feeble work attitude and wrong viewpoint of the premier of the Cabinet.

He said to the following effect: The premier stressed in his relevant report that the area of paddy fields in Ansok tideland belongs to a military unit stationed in that region and the area is not included in the state grain production plan for this year, without presenting any proper measure. Then the premier left the recovery work almost to the army, organizing it in a poor way. Such facts make one clearly know about his slackness and inactivity in dealing with the damage. I cannot repress my regret at his thoughts and conducts not befitting the premier leading the economic headquarters of the country and responsible for the people's livelihood. It is necessary to properly examine the irresponsible work attitude and ideological viewpoint of the premier in the Party. And then the General Secretary gave an instruction to discuss at the Party Discipline Examination Commission the issue of expelling the director of the Tideland Reclamation Bureau from the Party.

Saying that warning is given once again against the practices of disobeying or paying no attention to the direction and instructions of the Party and the government and the relaxed and lazy work attitude of some officials who are not prepared while disregarding other things out of their own business, not caring about the disaster of the country, Kim Jong Un stressed the need to reform the ideological and moral state of officials steeped in defeatism and self-protection and establish a habit

that everyone turns out as befitting masters in the state affairs, obeying one discipline.

Stressing the need to finish the tideland recovery work in the shortest time possible, he said that all efforts should be made to finish the rehabilitation of ruined embankment as soon as possible, secure the maximum area of rice fields capable of restoring and take decisive steps for improving the growth of paddy rice including measures for salt damage prevention and nutrition management so as to minimize the decrease in rice yield and attain the grain yield at the early expected level.

He also called upon all agricultural sectors across the country to take preventive measures against natural disasters in every way and thus thoroughly overcome the damage.

Noting that all sectors and units now work like locking the door after the horse is gone from the stable, in the way that they take necessary measures and draw lessons always after suffering national loss as they have not maintained absolutely high alert, he stressed that thorough and effective measures should be taken with this incident as an occasion to prevent the repeat of such absurd loss by defenselessness and incompetence and, in particular, man-made calamity by irresponsibility.

He ardently called upon all the officials and working people of each unit to discharge their duties strictly, conscious of the attitude of masters, and display their high patriotism and devotion to the work of the country.

On his orders, an intensive inspection will be made of the Tideland Reclamation Bureau, the Ministry of State Construction Control, the South Phyongan Provincial General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise, the Nampho City Land and Environment Protection Management Bureau and the Nampho City Construction Control Bureau.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un inspects KPA Navy unit



KCNA

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, inspected the Guards 2nd Surface Ship Flotilla of the East Sea Fleet of the Navy of the Korean People's Army honoured with the title of O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted by Admiral Kim Myong Sik, commander of the KPA Navy, and commanding officers of the fleet and the flotilla.

He looked back with deep emotion on the combat course of history followed

by the unit associated with the great exploits of our Party in leading the army.

He requested the unit to further intensify education through our Party's exploits of leading the army, always set an example in preparations for combat and take the lead in strengthening the Navy.

Then he learned in detail about the state of the preparedness of warships of the surface ship flotilla for combat and war, the military service of the soldiers and the plan for updating the naval port.

After getting on Patrol Ship No. 661 which would be on sea alert, he acquainted himself in detail with its weapons and preparations for

combat, and highly praised the ship for maintaining high mobility and mighty striking power and constant preparedness for combat to cope with any sudden situation.

That day he watched the seamen of a patrol ship staging a drill of launching strategic cruise missiles.

In the drill aimed at reconfirming the combat functions of the ship and the features of its missile system and making the seamen skilled at carrying out the attack mission in actual war, the ship rapidly hit the target without an error. As a result, the ship's regular posture for mobilization and offensive ability were appreciated as being perfect.

Pointing to the important mission and

duty of the KPA Navy for frustrating the enemy's will for war in emergency, carrying out the strategic and tactical plan of the Supreme Headquarters and defending the sovereignty and security of the country, Kim Jong Un advanced the WPK's revolutionary policy of strengthening the Navy for making it an all-round and powerful Juche-based service group with rapidly improved combat efficiency and full modern surface and underwater offensive and defensive means.

He said that we would put spurs to the modernization of naval weapons and equipment including the building of

SEE PAGE 6





FROM PAGE 5

powerful warships and the development of shipboard and underwater weapon systems, holding fast to the line of developing the naval forces set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, and thus achieve remarkable successes in radically improving the modernity and combat capability of the Navy in a short span of time.

He said that all the surface and underwater warship units of the Navy should thoroughly keep constant mobility and steadily increase the capability for actual war so that they can actively carry out their combat missions

even in unfavourable circumstances by raising a hot wind of intensifying combat training with the viewpoint that training precisely means war preparations.

As is always emphasized, the victory or defeat in battle is attributable to the political, ideological, mental and moral superiority of the soldiers, he said, noting that what is really necessary in battle is not the numerical and technical superiority of weapons and equipment but the overwhelming ideological and spiritual strength of the soldiers who handle them. There can be neither unbeatable enemy nor failed battle for a soldier armed with the indomitable spirit, and it is important for the present generation to steadily carry forward the

tradition and spirit peculiar to the KPA without an inch of deviation, he said.

He expressed the belief that only victory and glory are in store for the Navy as the indomitable fighting spirit of the naval fighters of the preceding generations including heroes Kim Kun Ok and Chae Jong Bo, who recorded forever the invulnerable heroic spirit in the brilliant combat course of the Navy, inspires the sailors of the new generation to victory and the great Juche idea illuminates the course of victory.

He expressed expectation and belief that all the sailors would more firmly prepare themselves to be frontline soldiers of national defence and death-defying corps of the sea, fully displaying

the spirit of devotedly defending the country, thus maintaining and reliably demonstrating the great reputation and honour of the heroic sailors of the preceding generation who worked miracles unprecedented in the world history of naval warfare.

Receiving his deep trust, all the service personnel of the unit pledged to firmly prepare themselves to be brave warriors who safeguard the sovereignty of the DPRK and the security and happiness of its people and record the route of loyalty on the country's sea by consolidating the tremendous might of the heroic KPA Navy, bearing in mind the mission of defending the country instilled by him.

Memorable day etched in history of Juche-oriented army building

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army on August 25 63 years ago.

While inspecting KPA units since the day when he started guidance over the revolutionary armed forces, he opened up a new era of bolstering up the armed forces and advanced the socialist cause of Juche along the road of victory on the strength of arms.

He said that the KPA should hasten the final victory of the Korean revolution by holding higher the slogan "Let us defend with our very lives the Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung!"

He set forth the line of modelling the whole army on Kimilsungism

and as he energetically led the struggle to implement it, he implanted the revolutionary outlook on the leader in the hearts of all the KPA service personnel and thoroughly established the revolutionary discipline and order in the KPA whereby important issues of principle arising in army building and activities are reported to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and dealt with according to the conclusion of its Central Committee.

He always paid attention to giving full play to the political and ideological advantages, the source of the mightiness and invincibility of the KPA, and kindled the fierce flames of the Movement for Winning the Title of O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment throughout the army. Under his energetic guidance, the Korean revolutionary armed forces

could firmly preserve their character and nature of staunchly defending the leader and reliably guaranteeing the cause of the Party militarily.

He developed the KPA into an invincible army fully prepared not only politically and ideologically but also in military technique.

In order to make the KPA an elite combat force reliably defending the security of the country and the safety of the people, he ensured that every training ground of it was filled with the spirit of a-match-for-a-hundred combatants and the will to annihilate the enemy and as he visited the outposts for defending the country including Chol Pass, Mt Osong and Cho Island he turned the whole country into an impregnable fortress.

He paid great attention to making material and technical preparations for coping with war at any moment

in conformity with the conditions of the country which was building socialism in constant confrontation with the US imperialists and energetically led the struggle to make the defence industry Juche-oriented and modern.

Thanks to the patriotic will of Kim Jong Il who prioritized the development of the defence industry, the Korean defence industry developed into a modern and self-supporting one producing any kind of military hardware at will and the DPRK emerged as a world military power and a full-fledged nuclear weapons state.

He also led the KPA to become the standard-bearer making a breakthrough for advance in major sites of socialist construction, not only as the driving force of national defence.

He initiated large-scale construction

projects for bringing about a radical change in the appearance of the country with trust in the KPA and put it forward in the vanguard of the march for a great upswing in economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards. As a result, in such trying periods of the Arduous March and the forced march, the KPA struggled not only as the architect of the people's joy but also as the pacesetter and model instilling in the people the revolutionary ideas and spirit and fighting spirit.

Today when the KPA's absolute might and invincible spirit, the political and ideological traits peculiar to it and the power of great army-people unity are being demonstrated to the full, the Korean people celebrate August 25 while recollecting once again the immortal leadership exploits performed by Kim Jong Il for that.

Nation focuses on reducing damage by heavy rain

By Choe Song Jun PT

Preventive measures taken to protect crops

All farms across the country concentrate efforts on taking preventive measures to minimize damage by downpour.

Yomju County takes measures to ensure the durability of the embankments by grasping the situation of reservoirs, irrigation canals and rivers. At the same time, it ensures that farms raise the paddy ridges in plots washed by rain and take other steps to prevent flood damage in paddy fields in the lowland areas.

In Taedong County farmers clear ditches between the

edges of fields and other places and take appropriate steps to prevent the farmland and crops from being washed away or damaged by the water flowing down the valleys and stagnant water.

Banks of rivers and waterways are reinforced in Sinchon and Jongphyong counties to manage water properly, while the water level of reservoirs and rainfall are monitored in real time to protect the farmland and crops.

In various sectors

The mining industry is taking timely measures to prevent flood damage.

Officials of the Ministry of Mining Industry were sent to

major mines and enterprises. It analyzes in detail the hydro-meteorological data transmitted in real time and takes prompt measures to cope with the possible situations in contact with relevant units. In particular, the ministry has established well-regulated control and command and information systems for every unit and made every effort to rapidly respond to any situation.

Several mines and enterprises have taken steps to minimize material losses by extreme climatic conditions and normalize production, including the reinforcement of embankments, repair of tailing settling basins and the

work to prevent electric-light poles and roofs of buildings from falling or being damaged by strong wind.

In close contact with the relevant departments of the provincial, city and county people's committees, the Ministry of Urban Management has taken appropriate measures after identifying the dangerous places prone to flood damage. It also makes preparations for quickly responding to emergency situations.

After surveying the situation of underground roadways, underground crossings and rain screens, the road sector deployed mobile water pumps in different parts of the country to increase the rainwater disposal capacity.

Water supply and drainage stations ensure the normal operation of equipment by properly maintaining it, while operating rainwater pumps at full capacity.

The building repair and maintenance sector directs efforts to preventing houses from being damaged by valley streams and landslides, while the greening management sector takes measures to drain stagnant water so as to protect the green areas from downpour.

HOME NEWS

Centenarian receives birthday spread from leader

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Kim Pong Suk, living in neighbourhood unit No. 19 of Unwol-ri, Thaecheon County, on her 100th birthday.

Officials of the provincial and county committees of the Workers' Party of Korea, relatives and villagers visited her house to congratulate her and shared joy with her family members.

Upon receiving the birthday spread, she expressed her gratitude to the respected leader for having shown great care for the ordinary old woman though he was busy with the state affairs.

National sci-tech presentation in the field of metallic materials held

A national scientific and technological presentation in the field of metallic materials took place on August 22-23 under the sponsorship of the Korean Metallic Materials Society of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

The presentation, held on the theme of "Quality improvement of metallic materials", was aimed at sharing, absorbing and informing the achievements made in improving the quality of metallic materials for steel production.

Present there were lecturers, researchers and postgraduates of different units including the Ferrous Metal Research Institute and the Mechanical Engineering

Institute under the State Academy of Sciences and Kim Chaek University of Technology.

The presentation served as an important occasion in solving the problem of metallic materials of practical significance and increasing the production of iron and steel.

National microbiological symposium held

A national symposium of the microbiology sector took place through videoconferencing at the State Academy of Sciences on August 23 under the sponsorship of the Microbiology Society of Korea of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

The event, which was held on the theme of "Microbes and feeds for domestic animals", aimed to find realistic and rational ways to increase the utilization rate of the feeds by microbiological methods.

It discussed the proposals presented by scientists, technicians and officials of Kim Il Sung University, the Microbiology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences and other units in their efforts to implement the decisions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Zoo given facelift

The Hamhung Zoo was renovated as a splendid centre for cultural and leisure activities and education in South Hamgyong Province.

Constant streams of working people and students and children are coming to the zoo every day.



Working people take measures to minimize damage from calamitous abnormal weather in agricultural and other sectors across the DPRK. RODONG SINMUN





Korean youth carry on tradition of patriotism

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Korean youths have a good tradition of patriotism. Those who performed immortal feats during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle for Korea's liberation and the Fatherland Liberation War and those who went to mountains, seas and development areas in response to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea to perform brilliant feats fully displayed their wisdom and valour of youth and dedicated even their lives for their beloved country.

In retrospect, periods of great

upsurge of the Korean revolution always began with the youth's strong enthusiasm for volunteering, and the enthusiasm in turn ignited patriotic zeal across the country, giving birth to stirring eras.

The Korean youth's tradition of loyalty and patriotism displayed in the 1950s and 1960s and in every other decade of the revolution is now carried on by those of the new generation.

After the Eighth Congress of the WPK, the enthusiasm for volunteering of the youths who respond to the call of the country by practice, not words, markedly grew

and the ranks of those volunteering for difficult and labour-consuming sectors have rapidly increased.

Those who left their dear cities like the capital city of Pyongyang to work at construction sites of power stations in deep mountains, on farms, at fishery stations and in new development areas have performed miracles by dedicating their sweat and enthusiasm so as to bring about new changes for the prosperity of the country.

Meanwhile, there have appeared young men and women who adopt and raise parentless children with parental affection and exemplary young people of virtue who

volunteered to work as teachers of schools in remote mountains and islands, unhesitatingly devoted their blood and flesh to others or married honoured disabled soldiers.

A long or comfortable life does not just mean a worthwhile or happy life and only the youths who share with the state its burdens as it is experiencing hardships and who fully display their wisdom and valour for its prosperity can be said to be true youths of the times who will be remembered by the country and people. This is the spiritual world of the Korean youth.

A scientist in his thirties, girl

farmer dedicating her sweat and conscience to farm work, young coal miner devotedly working to mine even one more lump of coal in deep pits and other socialist patriotic young pacesetters of this year were all ordinary youths and they all said in unison, "I have only lived and worked true to the intentions of the Party."

It is the desire and faith of the Korean young people to advance straight forward following the leadership of the WPK, unsparingly dedicating their invaluable prime of life to the country, like those of the former generation.

Young people perform remarkable feats at construction site

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The construction site of a new street in the Sopho area in Pyongyang is now the theatre of miracles and feats of Korean young people.

Sin Kuk Chol, section chief of the command team of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade, said that the construction of the new street is a difficult and responsible project for building dozens of skyscrapers, high-rise apartment houses and public buildings in a unique and harmonious way in some months.

He added that the appearance of the construction site is changing every morning and every evening

thanks to the towering spirit of the young people who are determined to give full play to their youthful strength and courage for the capital city of Pyongyang.

Shortly ago, torrential rain poured down unexpectedly when the members of the Kangwon Provincial Regiment of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade was busy with the concrete tamping of floor slabs.

The regiment commander, who was about to stop the work and withdraw them, was surprised at the sight of the construction site.

Every young builder, as if they had promised, took off their raincoats and put them on the floor slabs they had just laid concrete on,

before keeping working in the rain.

As soon as they placed concrete, they put off their raincoats to cover the slabs with them.

Many viewers of the raincoat covering which appeared in an instant admiringly said that the mental world of young people was excellent, indeed.

In particular, people were deeply touched by the mentality of Jong Ju Yong, a 19-year-old member of the Sinuiju City Battalion of the North Phyongan Provincial Regiment of the brigade.

According to Regiment Commander Hong Su Jin, Jong had been diagnosed with an illness that might deprive him of his

eyesight, but volunteered to work at the construction site, hiding the fact. Later, it was known and he was compelled to leave there for hospital.

Hong said that other young builders were moved by the sincerity of Jong, who asked him to let him devote even one more drop of sweat to the construction site before he would become totally blind, and are now doing the work of two or three in place of him.

Jang Ho Song, chief of staff of the Rason City Regiment of the brigade, left for hospital on an April day this year only after finishing the assignment for the day by concealing his excruciating pain.

The shock brigade members said that as the chief of staff always wore smile on his face, they didn't know he was seriously ill.

That day they hardened their resolve to finish the project before the set time by inheriting the noble spirit of their commanding officer.

The Pyongyang Municipal Regiment of the brigade has a battalion which was formed with young university graduates of this year.

Commanding officers say that although the battalion was organized later than its counterparts and its members have less experience and skills than their members which launched into the capital city construction earlier, its members harbour an extraordinarily fervent desire to perform feats by devoting all their youthful strength and passion for the capital city.

The 1st Company of the battalion formed with the graduates from Kim Il Sung University is said to be carrying out the work which was being done by three battalions of the regiment before.

The company members keep the unanimous mind that the more work they do, the faster the advance of other battalions will be and the earlier the day of completion of the project will come.

Graduates from Pyongyang University of Agriculture and Pyongyang Tourism College also work hard day and night as they assemble and process reinforcement bars and place concrete.

In response to a member's appeal for speeding up work, they carried out the task which had taken three days previously in two days at first and then in a day. Such amazing feats are being done all across the construction site.

"It is really hard to achieve miraculous success racing against time. But our young builders pull off feats with burning patriotism and consequently the construction site is taking on the appearance of a wonderful street day after day," says Ryu Chol Jin, deputy chief of the command team of the brigade.



Members of the youth shock brigade perform feats in the construction site of a new street in the Sopho area of Pyongyang.

Realms of standardization expands



Our country is directing great efforts to standardization in the fields of security, hygiene, environment, IT, nanotechnology and biology, to which importance is attached worldwide.

It is the consistent principle of standardization in our country to develop the economy in a sustainable way, provide people with better living environment and convenience in their material and cultural life and contribute to promoting their health.

Recently, tens of national standards have been set for afforestation and environmental protection in the country, making a positive contribution to protecting the lives and property of the people and precious resources of the country from disastrous abnormal climate.

And standards have been set systematically for the methods of testing air, water and soil to make standardization contribute to managing land and protecting environment in a scientific way.

Meanwhile, many national standards have been established for making medical services IT-based and assessing the quality of the medical service system so as to bring better medical benefits to the people.

The work for disseminating the information of standards is well under way.

Books, scientific films, collections of data on standards according to economic sectors and multimedia have been created and disseminated.

A standard-related database has been established to help all sectors use relevant information data promptly.

Our country has rich experience in sponsoring several international workshops on the basic knowledge of standardization and successes and experience gained in the undertaking for standardization.

To make continued progress and innovations in all fields of society, the economy and the environment in order to make the people enjoy a rich and cultured life in good health—this is the invariable purpose of standardization in our country.

Jo Kwang Rae, director of the National Standardization Institute

Standardization plays an important role in developing the economy, science and technology and in making people's socio-cultural life convenient and cultured.

First, standardization is an important undertaking to comprehensively define and ensure the quality of products. Standardization can be said to be precisely the work to raise quality.

Standardization plays an important role not only in lowering costs and increasing labour productivity but also in introducing cutting-edge science and technology, modernizing production processes and developing foreign trade, and contributes to ensuring convenience in people's life and ecological balance.

In our country many achievements have been made in expanding the spheres of standardization and setting standards in new fields as required by the new century.

Crop seeds, tree saplings and the growing of them and hundreds of kinds of national dishes have been standardized. And foundations have been laid for putting the raising of grass-eating and all other domestic animals on a scientific basis.

The standards for the production of medicines and for the management of their quality have been set as national standards to reach the world levels, thus making it possible to ensure their hygienic safety, ranging from raw material production bases to production processes at each stage.

International and foreign standards have been studied and introduced to suit the actual conditions of the country to steadily improve quality indexes.

The ISO 9000 serial standard (quality management and quality assurance) and ISO 14000 serial standard (environmental control system standard) have already been introduced and set as national standards.

Research institute breeds high-yielding oil-bearing crops

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The industrial crops institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science has achieved good results in breeding high-yielding oil-bearing crop varieties with a high oil content and marked nutritional and pharmacological effects.

The researchers of the sunflower research team established a new seed selecting system to open up a prospect for increasing the per-hectare yield far more than previously. They are now working to improve some features including the composing elements of yield and ecological safety by conducting an in-depth data analysis and basic research into sunflower varieties that can produce high yields despite unfavourable climate conditions.

In the course of this, they succeeded in breeding a sunflower variety high in productivity in keeping with the development trend of breeding technology. Registered as a state strain, its per-hectare yield is higher than the previous varieties. It is fit for mixed cropping with such crops as beans and can be planted as

the main crop in northern highlands below 1 000 metres above sea level and as a second crop in double cropping. When it is cultivated with beans, it produces a larger amount of sunflower seeds per hectare than previous ones without hindering the growth of beans.

The oilseed rape research team is working on the breeding of good-quality varieties.

Through their study for breeding an erucic acid-free variety of autumn rape

containing good quality oil, they got an erucic acid-free high-yielding variety for the first time for an autumn cole. For its high resistance to cold, the new variety can increase the rate of wintering to over 85% and be sown directly and safely as a preceding crop in dry field double cropping in the middle parts of Korea. The erucic acid content of its oil is less than 1% and its productivity is far higher than previous varieties. Its introduction into several

farms in Pyongyang shows that a large quantity of edible oil was produced while ensuring maize productivity nearly at the level of main crop by planting it as a preceding crop of maize and gathering its seeds in mid-June.

Researchers of other teams are engrossed in breeding new varieties of oil flax and peanut ensuring high and safe yields by applying cutting-edge bioengineering technologies.



Researchers examine sunflowers at the industrial crop institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Perennial shrub of great value

By Kim Il Jin PT

Planting and cultivating a large number of *Paeonia suffruticosa* is effective in solving the problem of cooking oil, one of the indispensable foodstuffs in everyday life, said An Chol Ho, secretary general of the oil-bearing tree association of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea.

Paeonia suffruticosa, a deciduous perennial shrub belonging to the peony family, is one of good oil-bearing crops.

With its seed's oil content being more than 22%, the plant is quite high in per-

hectare yield of fruit and oil as compared with soya bean and other oil-bearing crops.

The plant can be cultivated in highlands and is highly resistant to drought and shade and highly capable of growing in barren and sterile land and under shade. It can be said to be a typical green plant source as it hardly needs agrochemicals while rejecting chemical fertilizers.

It begins to bear fruit three to four years after being planted. Five-year-old ones bear 2-3 tons of fruit and 0.4-0.6 tons of oil per hectare. Once it is planted, the shrub bears fruit for decades.

Oil from the plant is of very high nutritive value as

high-grade edible oil.

According to An Chol Ho, the oil has more than 92 percent of unsaturated fatty acids, 40-49 percent of which is α -linolenic acid called worldwide haemotrophe and vitamin F.

The flower of the plant is of great ornamental value for the large, beautiful and varied shapes and colours and pleasant aroma. And it is of high medicinal value from root to seed. For example, the velamen alleviates fever and promotes the circulation of blood, is good for the treatment of various diseases such as hemoptysis, anaemia and hypertension, and is particularly effective

in the treatment of women's diseases. Research findings show that when pregnant women use oil extracted from the seeds of the plant, it has a good influence on the development of the brain of the unborn fetus.

Pollen of the flowers is widely used as a raw material for high-grade cosmetics and the flowers are a source of honey.

The plant prevents soil loss as it has dense leaves and branches and developed fibrous roots and is suitable for creating green areas as it is strong in adaptability and highly resistant to drought and cold and grows well under shade.

According to researchers, the cultivation of the plant is encouraged worldwide and the demand for and popularity of its oil are great.

The technical group of the General Forest Bureau under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection already planted the plant in different parts of the country in a big way by acclimatizing it to the country and employing the technique of cultivating its saplings. They now work to use oil extracted from its seeds to develop health food.



Paeonia suffruticosa, an oil-bearing plant.

Undying exploits shine along with history of DPRK-China friendship

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

The two parties and peoples of the DPRK and China have recorded a proud history of friendship in the course of the protracted struggle to defend and glorify the socialist cause.

The history of the development of DPRK-China relations, which have been consolidated into those of comrades who completely trust each other and invincible strategic ones, is associated with the undying exploits performed by Chairman Kim Jong Il.

On his return home after visiting the Siberian and Far East regions of the Russian Federation from August 25 to 27 2011, he visited the People's Republic of China while passing through its northeastern region.

He passed the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region of China on August 25 and Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces on August 26-27.

As he travelled via different cities and regions of China, he had a better understanding of the construction of the Chinese people, their thoughts and

feelings, politics, the economy, history and culture, and conducted energetic external activities, making a great contribution to boosting the DPRK-China friendship.

The passage and visit of Chairman Kim Jong Il to Northeast China were successfully made under the special concern of Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the time, and the party, government and people of China.

The Chairman expressed his satisfaction over this, offering his heartfelt thanks to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the state council, and the leading officials and people of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces for their kind and cordial hospitality.

His passage through and visit to Northeast China marked another important occasion in fully demonstrating the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and the two countries and further consolidating the bonds of friendship between the

peoples of the two countries.

The Chairman made tireless efforts and worked heart and soul to steadily consolidate and develop the DPRK-China friendship till the last moments of his life.

Today the DPRK-China friendship is promoted onto a new level.

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, met Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, on several occasions. Their meetings marked important milestones which put the traditional DPRK-China friendship on a new high stage and steadily developed it as required by the new era.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un met the Chinese party and government delegation on a visit to Pyongyang on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War last July and repeatedly expressed his thanks to Xi Jinping for sending a party and

government delegation to the significant event in celebration of the victory common to the DPRK and China and sending a letter of best wishes to him. And he extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Communist Party of China, the government of the PRC and all the Chinese people for having aided our revolutionary war at the cost of their blood and invariably supporting the just cause of our Party and people.

The intimate friendly ties and genuine comradely friendship between the leaders of the two parties and the two countries serve as the driving force for the DPRK-China friendship to develop steadily, unaffected by any change in the situation and challenge.

Socialist construction in the two countries is dynamically pushed forward in the new historical journey.

The peoples of the DPRK and China will as ever boost the bilateral ties of friendship onto a higher level in a comprehensive way, continue to strongly promote the socialist cause in the two countries and firmly defend peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the rest of the world.

For development of Non-Aligned Movement

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The DPRK was admitted to the Non-Aligned Movement on August 25 1975 with a sense of noble duty for the cause of global independence.

It was the clear expression of absolute support and solidarity of the non-aligned countries and world peace-loving forces to and with the DPRK that had indomitably advanced under the banner of independence against imperialism and a brilliant fruition of the country's independent and peace-loving foreign policy.

The DPRK has since been faithful to the main ideal and principle of the movement.

Despite manifold and harsh trials and difficulties, it has advanced along the road consistent with independence and justice and made positive efforts to realize fair international relations and friendship, cooperation and unity between the non-aligned countries.

By scientifically seeing through the law governing the development of the times and history, urgent requirements of the Non-Aligned Movement and common aspiration of the progressives, President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il put forward the immortal ideological theories and policies in each period, thus making great contributions to the expansion and development and victorious advance of the movement.

It is of great significance in building an independent world to strengthen and develop the movement in conformity with the intentions and demands of all countries and nations of the world aspiring to independence.

Today, many countries reject practices of seeking domination and hegemony and aspire to global independence.

On the other hand, the domination-seeking forces are blocking the trend of the independent era while maintaining and expanding their aggressive military blocs. NATO is accelerating its expansion toward the east and the appearance of AUKUS and Quad is driving the military and political situation in the Asia-Pacific region to the red line.

And the high-handedness and arbitrariness of the imperialist and hegemony-seeking forces are causing endless incidents undermining peace and stability and violating sovereignty of different countries and regions across the world.

The reality requires that the Non-Aligned Movement play its role more satisfactorily.

The non-aligned countries should unite under the banner of independence against imperialism for their common cause and struggle to realize international justice.

It is the firm stand of the DPRK to invariably hold fast to the principle of the movement and make a positive contribution to strengthening and developing the movement under the ideals of its foreign policy, that is, independence, peace and friendship.

As in the past, the DPRK will keep holding high the banner of independence and fully play its role in the struggle for global independence.

Priceless call of 'patriotic youth'



Ryang Kun Chol
Section chief of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League

In the DPRK, young people are often referred to as patriotic youth.

They regard national defence as their most sacred duty and devote their youth on the sacred road of safeguarding the country and perform feats as pioneers of the socialist patriotic movement with ardent patriotic enthusiasm.

In retrospect, Hero Ri Su Bok, who blocked the enemy's gun muzzle with his chest in the 1950s when the country was undergoing grim trials of the war, was a hot-blooded young man and it was also young people who were the first to volunteer for the front.

In the period of the great Chollima upsurge, young people initiated various movements including the ones for exceeding 300 percent, against empty-handed trips and for carrying 100 loads in an hour, and thus worked a miracle of finishing the construction of the Haeju-Hasong railway in only 75 days, though it had been estimated to take three to four years.

Today, the members of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League are glorifying their youth as patriotic youth by inheriting the patriotic tradition of the young people of the preceding generations.

After the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, youth league members eagerly volunteered to work at difficult and labour-consuming sectors and major construction sites to make a breakthrough for advance, thus making the whole country seethe with enthusiasm.

Many young people are now dedicating themselves at the construction site of a new street in the Sopho area in Pyongyang, the metallurgical and chemical industry bases seething with creation and innovations, the coal mines where the socialist patriotic campaign for increased production is in full swing, and the socialist farm fields reaping bumper harvests. Their selfless efforts serve as a precious source of nourishment for the prosperity of the country.

Though they came from different places and harbour different desires, the young

people settled in difficult and labour-consuming workplaces and unfamiliar places with a single desire to bring into full bloom their ideals and ambitions on the road of supporting the Party's intention, cherishing the valuable call of "patriotic youth" in their hearts.

The youth league central committee will bring home to its members that the title of "patriotic youth" can be glorified only with the passionate devotion to the Party and the revolution, the country and the people, not with any rhetoric, so that they would always stand in the van of socialist construction.

By doing so, we will make this significant year marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK enlivened with youthful vigour, and leave praiseworthy marks of the "patriotic youth" in the course of the country's advance.

BYWORD

Young builder

Young people in the DPRK are fully displaying their mettle of youth at socialist construction sites.

In particular, the young builders in charge of the construction of a new street in the Sopho area of Pyongyang are performing miracles and

innovations, impressing the whole country.

They are all filled with enthusiasm to dedicate their patriotic sweat to the implementation of the Workers' Party of Korea's capital city construction plan by working like the

young smelters of Kangson who kindled the torch of great Chollima advance by working devotedly for the country at the furnace in the postwar days and the builders who built the over 40-kilometre-long Youth Hero Motorway in less than

two years during the Arduous March.

That's why the appellation of young builder is the greatest pride and honour for the young people who are determined to leave an indelible mark in the advance of the country.

Contact us

Address: Sochon-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang
Tel: 850-2-18111(8456)
Email: flph@star-co.net.kp
Fax: 850-2-3814598

URL: www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp



Japanese crime seen through 'Korea-Japan annexation treaty'

By Pak Song Min PT

It is 113 years since the "Korea-Japan annexation treaty" was fabricated on August 22 1910.

The Japanese authorities are engrossed in the moves to distort history as they embellish the past crimes, far from making a sincere apology and reparation for the crime of having occupied a country, though over a century has passed since then.

At that time, the Japanese imperialists reduced Korea to their complete colony by cooking up the treaty.

Japan had long attempted to turn Korea into its colony.

In July 1909, it drew up a document on confirming the policy towards Korea, which specified the method of fully occupying Korea and the mode of colonial rule after occupation.

In the document, it decided to dispatch more troops and military and other police forces to Korea

in order to "annex Korea at an opportune time" and "build up Japan's real ability" there.

The document also said that Japan would enforce colonial rule over Korea by relying on its actual ability, i.e. by force, thoroughly "Japanize" Korea to deter other countries from attacking and occupying the country and seize its key economic lifelines including railways while intensifying political oppression.

Japan appointed Terauchi, a wicked man with a military background, as resident-general of Korea on May 30 1910 to assign him the task of occupying the country.

As the resident-general of Korea, he took a large number of additional military police into Korea and fully usurped its police authority.

As the last process for occupying Korea, Japan brought into Hansong its aggressor forces it had hurled into the "punitive operations" against the anti-Japanese Righteous Volunteers' units.

The Japanese aggressor forces placed Hansong under martial law in collaboration with military and other police forces.

The "Korea-Japan annexation treaty" was made thus under such harsh military repression.

In 2009 it was disclosed that the Korean and Japanese texts of the treaty had been written by the same handwriting and in 2010 it was also revealed that all the four documents were written by one person, including the "royal instruction" on appointing pro-Japanese traitor Ri Wan Yong as "chief delegate vested with full authority in concluding the agreement" and the "memorandum on the promulgation of the annexation treaty and the royal edict of emperors of the two countries" stating that both countries would simultaneously announce the conclusion of the treaty.

The documents had actually been written by a person at the Korean Residency-General, a colonial ruling machine of the Japanese

imperialists.

These facts prove that the feudal government of Korea had been unable to participate in drawing up the treaty and that the Korean Residency-General, under the instructions of the Japanese imperialists, cooked up relevant documents and announced them by force, irrespective of the will of the feudal Korean government.

The absence of the signature of Emperor Sunjong on his "instruction announcing the annexation" which was made public on August 29 1910 is also another important piece of evidence proving that the treaty is illegal and invalid.

The Korean people will never forget the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists who inflicted all sorts of misfortunes on them by imposing colonial rule over Korea for decades on the strength of the illegal and invalid papers invented with trickery and high-handedness, and will surely make Japan pay for that.

Blasting of *Ukishimamaru* product of revenge for defeat

By Song Jong Ho PT

The Japanese naval transport ship *Ukishimamaru* was blasted on the sea off Maizuru of Japan on August 24 1945.

The ship was carrying a large number of Koreans who were on the way back to their liberated homeland as they narrowly survived the grinding toil they had been forced into after being forcibly drafted or conscripted by the Japanese imperialists.

The Japanese reactionaries were the murderers who buried at sea thousands of Koreans who were on their way home filled with joy at national liberation (August 15 1945).

At that time the Japanese militarists were so enraged by their defeat in the war that they killed Koreans in different parts of the country. In such a situation, a plot was hatched in Ominato, Japan, to massacre the Koreans who had forcibly been drafted and their families.

Soon after the end of World War II, the navigation of vessels of more than 100 tons was prohibited in the territorial waters of Japan by an order of the Allied Forces.

But with the permission and under the instruction of the Japanese government, the Ominato naval guard department took the Koreans on

board *Ukishimamaru* of thousands of tons by appeasing and deceiving them that the ship for Pusan was the only Korea-bound vessel.

Later, the ship left the naval port of Ominato in Aomori Prefecture on the night of August 22, 1945, and did not head for its original destination Pusan, but changed its course to the waters off Maizuru Port, a naval port north of Kyoto Prefecture, Japan, and it was sunk by an explosion as soon as it arrived there.

The Japanese imperialists accommodated those who narrowly survived the explosion in the Japanese naval quarters in Maizuru and blew up a steam tank there to kill them in an attempt to cover up their crimes forever.

Immediately after the occurrence of the incident, the Japanese authorities hurriedly announced the investigation data which said that the incident was an "inevitable accident" caused by a mine laid by the US forces.

The explosion was not an accident but a deliberate murder committed by the Japanese imperialists with a cunning plan.

The truth of the incident was revealed in detail with the passage of time.

The captain and all other Japanese escaped from the ship by boat just before the explosion; there was no

column of water during the explosion; and when the wreckage of the ship was pulled up from the sea in 1954, the iron plates at its bottom were bent outward. These facts and testimonies by Korean victims, Japanese and other witnesses clearly prove that the incident was a deliberate and premeditated massacre of Koreans orchestrated by the Japanese military authorities.

The incident caused by the Japanese reactionaries was aimed at killing even one more Korean out of vengeance for their defeat.

It is an obligation and legal and moral duty of a human being to apologize and compensate for his crime.

The Japanese authorities, however, are describing the incident as "accident" and claiming that they can never accept any move to seek reparation. A few years after the explosion, they lifted up and dismantled the wreckage of the ship, saying that they were going to use it as scrap iron, and thus removed even the evidence for their crimes.

The behaviour of the Japanese reactionaries who have abandoned elementary morality and ethics is further arousing hatred from the Korean people.

Though time passes, the Korean people will never forget the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists but make them pay for the crimes.

Suicidal tendency evil of US, Japan

By Choe Song Jun PT

The number of suicides shows a record figure in the US.

On August 10, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the number of suicides in the US last year increased by 2.6% over the previous year, more than half of which were suicides by guns.

The suicide rate in the US in 2022 was 14.9 per 100 000 persons, a 5% increase over 14.2 per 100 000 in 2018.

Suicide is becoming increasingly prevalent especially among the elderly. In 2022, suicides among the aged over 65 grew in number by 8.1% within a year. Experts express concern about the mental health of the elderly in view of such a sudden increase.

The suicide rate of young people between 10 and 24 years of age jumped by 62% between 2007 and 2021.

According to a survey conducted by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in three high school girl students attempted suicide, 57% of whom are in a state of constant sadness or despair.

The chief medical officer of the centers said that immediate measures are necessary throughout their society to solve the problem of serious loss of lives caused by the sharp increase in suicides.

The situation in Japan is

little different from that of the US.

In the country, the number of students who killed themselves exceeded 500 in 2022.

That year, 21 584 persons committed suicide in Japan, of whom more than 14 540 were men.

A family suicide recently occurred in a house in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture. They included parents in their 80s and children in their 40s. They reportedly killed themselves, unable to endure the growing sufferings in their life.

"Suicide sites" have reportedly been created on the Internet in Japan and articles are posted on them to look for people who could commit suicide together, with the number of subscribers rising rapidly.

It is the reality of Japan styling itself an "advanced state" in which the 134m-high bridge has become a "noted place for suicide", not a tourist attraction, and a virgin forest has become a "suicidal forest" to top the ranking of horrible places in the social networking system.

Suicide has become commonplace in capitalist society.

The poor human rights situation in capitalist society, where people have to opt for suicide, bereft of even the elementary right to existence and hope for the future, clearly reveals the spiritual and moral corruption and true colours of the society.

Briefly

China

FM spokesman decries US' interference as cause of insecurity, calamities

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry on August 15 said that the whole world witnessed the US troops' flurried withdrawal from Afghanistan two years ago, adding the changed situation in the country taught a serious lesson which is worth remembering even today.

The US' "anti-terror war" in Afghanistan ended up in a total failure and this proved once again its political and military interference and infiltration into other countries and the "democratic transformation" do not work but rather cause insecurity and calamities, the spokesman noted.

Russia

Ukrainian neo-Nazis condemned for absurdity

The vice defence minister of Russia decried the moves of Ukrainian neo-Nazis as he addressed the second international anti-fascist conference held in Minsk, Belarus, on August 18.

Ukrainian neo-Nazis stand in the van of the "war for civilization" the West wages against Russia, he said, disclosing that the neo-Nazi ideology has been elevated to a state policy in Ukraine.

Bangladesh

PM discloses American bid to seize control over Bay of Bengal

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condemned the US' unreasonable pressure on August 16.

The US is pressurizing Bangladesh, urging it to hold a "free and fair election" and protect "human rights", she said, adding this is aimed at using her country as a lever to gain control of the Bay of Bengal.

Asserting that the US' goal is not an election or democracy in Bangladesh, she denounced the American rulers for trying to aggravate the situation in her country in order to control the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

Iran-India

Regional collaboration promoted

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to boost bilateral and regional cooperation in a telephone conversation on August 18.

They stressed the need to expand cooperation between the two countries in such projects as the international north-south transport route and international organizations and accelerate the work to develop an Iranian port as a symbol of bilateral cooperation.

WHO

Warning issued against spread of omicron subvariant

The World Health Organization designated BA.2.86, an omicron subvariant, as an object of monitoring and warned about the danger of its spread on August 18.

It said that BA.2.86 has so far been found in the US, Israel and Denmark, but actually there might be unknown infected cases in other parts of the world.

Sports contest of disabled persons make strong impression on spectators

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The table-tennis and tennis competitions of the 2023 Games of Disabled Persons and Amateurs were followed by swimming, shooting and archery events, which took place between August 14 and 18.

Swimming race

The swimming contest took place at the Swimming Gymnasium on Chongchun Street of Pyongyang on August 14.

The competition was divided into five categories, bringing together more than 80 players.

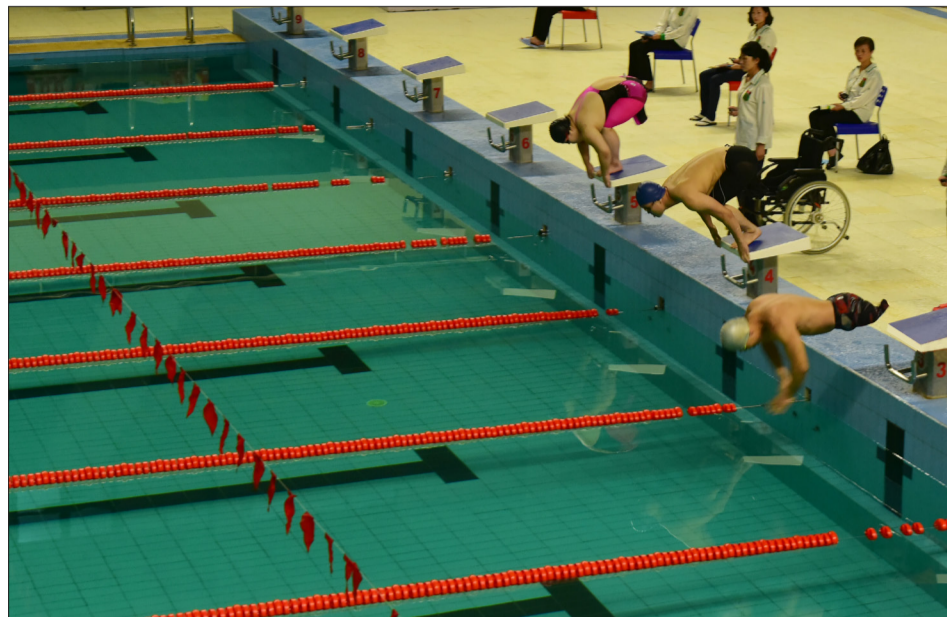
Starting with the third category (male amateurs' 50m freestyle), the event was followed by the matches of the fourth category (female amateurs' 50m freestyle) and the fifth category (amateurs' 200m mixed relay).

An Kwang Jin, Choe Un Jong and Ki Rin Song, Sin Myong Sop, Kim Ju Hyang and Kim Myong Gyong won the matches in the third, fourth and fifth categories respectively.

The swimming event climaxed with the matches of the first (200m individual medley of persons with disabilities) and second (50m for the disabled and amateurs) categories, which were held after the end of those of the above-said three categories.

The players in the first category were those who had competed in international events.

Powerful strokes of the



Swimming, shooting and archery competitions are held as part of the 2023 Games of Disabled Persons and Amateurs between August 14 and 18.

PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

players who cleaved their way through the waves in four swimming styles of freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly stroke, though they were physically handicapped, showed everyone the unflinching tenacity of man in the face of difficulties.

In the first category, Jong Kuk Song (disabled: right thigh amputee) took the first place.

Pak Kum Jin (disabled: congenital talipes varus) came first in the second category.

All the spectators enthusiastically cheered and applauded the disabled players.

"The swimming contest of persons with disabilities clearly showed how strong and infinite the will and ability of human beings are," said Choe Ju Hwa, who took part in the

swimming race.

Shooting, archery contests

There took place shooting and archery games at the Meari Shooting Gallery on Chongchun Street from August 16 to 18.

The shooting event brought together more than 100 players and the archery over 50 players.

Kim Sung Hyok came first in the first division of the archery finals (15m archery for disabled men and women), Kim Yong Ryong in the second division (male amateurs' 20m) and Choe Yong Hui in the third division (female amateurs' 15m).

In the shooting event Kim Pok Nam lifted the trophy in the first group (50m rifle shooting for disabled men and women), Ri Yu Chol in the second group (male amateurs' 25m pistol shooting) and O Chun Hyang

in the third group (female amateurs' 50m rifle).

Cutting conspicuous figure in competitions

Several players made deep impression on the spectators in the 2023 Games of Disabled Persons and Amateurs, injecting fresh vigour and charm into it.

Three couples took part in the contest.

Sim Kwang Su and his wife Choe Un Sun competed in group 5 (amateurs' 200m mixed relay) of the swimming event. Though they failed to ride on the winner's rostrum, they helped and encouraged each other as a loving couple throughout the competition, leaving a good impression on the spectators.

The couple of Kim Mi Song and Ma Yu Chol proudly reached the top three in the archery event. Kim Mi Song finished runner-up

in the third category (female amateurs' 15m archery) and her husband Ma Yu Chol (disabled: right lower leg amputee) came third in the first category (disabled men's and women's 15m archery).

Some players took part in several events and rode on the rostrum.

Pak Kum Jin (disabled: congenital talipes varus) finished runner-up in the first category of table tennis (singles of the disabled), won the second category of swimming (50m for the disabled and amateurs), came third in the first category of shooting (50m rifle shooting for disabled men and women) and was placed second in the first category of archery event (15m archery for disabled men and women).

Yun Kwang Song (disabled: right lower leg amputee) also took the first place in the first table tennis category and finished runner-up in the

second swimming category and first shooting category.

They all attracted special attention in the contest and won unsparing praise from the spectators for their convincing demonstration of the fighting spirit and ability of humans who have got up against all odds.

Kim Tok Su, aged 86, and Ho Wi, 76, advanced to the finals in the table tennis event.

Special prizes were awarded at the awards ceremony, namely the prize for sportsmanship to Kim Tok Su and the prize for fortitude to Ho Wi.

"The games once again showed the joy of life and optimism all people cultivate and enjoy as they promote equality and a strong feeling of affection in our society where they help and lead one another forward," said Son Sol Hwa, member of the organizing committee of the games.

Monument to the Great Victory in the Northern Area



By Ri Sung Ik PT

There is the Monument to the Great Victory in the Northern Area in Rimmyong-ri of Kim Chaek City, North Hamgyong Province.

The historic relic was built in 1708 to commemorate the great victory which the volunteer army led by Jong Mun Bu (1565-1624) achieved by destroying the Japanese invaders in the Hamgyong provincial area during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598).

The monumental inscription is composed of the introduction and text.

The introduction says that the fight of the Jong Mun Bu-led volunteer army has significance as great as the

naval battle on the waters off Hansan Island and the battles of Haengjusan and Yonan forts in the period of the Imjin Patriotic War and refers to the organization of the volunteer army and its major battles. The text says that as the volunteers rose up and bravely fought against the Japanese invasion, the enemies were expelled from the northern area of the country and the people became able to do farming in peace and that the monument conveys forever the feats performed by the Jong Mun Bu-led volunteer army.

The monument is a precious historic relic of great significance in studying the history of struggle of the Korean ancestors who fought bravely against the Japanese invasion.

