



ESTABLISHED 1965

Ninth Session of 14th SPA of DPRK held

The Ninth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on September 26 and 27.

The session was convened at a time when all the people across the country are further accelerating the struggle to glorify this significant year as a year of great turn and change to be remarkably recorded in the development course of the DPRK by further promoting the great national pride and patriotic enthusiasm of having splendidly celebrated the 75th founding anniversary of our powerful and dignified state as a great revolutionary event to be specially etched in national history.

Present there were the deputies to the SPA, and as observers officials concerned in Pyongyang and local areas including those of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the SPA Standing Committee, the Cabinet, armed forces and law enforcement organs and financial sector.

Taking the platform were Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and

chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, Ri Pyong Chol, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CC of the WPK, and other senior officials of the Party, the government and the military, the chairman and vice-chairpersons of the SPA, members of the State Affairs Commission and vice-chairmen, the secretary general and members of the SPA Standing Committee.

The session decided its agenda items:

First, on amending and supplementing some contents of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK

Second, on deliberating and adopting the law of the DPRK on ensuring the rights of the disabled

Third, on deliberating and adopting the law of the DPRK on irrigation

Fourth, on deliberating and adopting the

law of the DPRK on public servants

Fifth, on reviewing the enforcement of the law of the DPRK on financial sector

Sixth, on renaming the National Aerospace Development Administration of the DPRK the National Aerospace Technology Administration of the DPRK

Seventh, on the organizational matter 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, attended the discussion of the first agenda item as an observer.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un appeared at the venue of the session, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers, looking up to him, the symbol of all victories and glory of our Party, state and people and representative

the amendment to the Constitution in order to stipulate the position of the nuclear force in the national defence and the principle of state activities on the building of the nuclear force in the Socialist Constitution, the basic law of the Republic and the great political charter for building a powerful socialist country.

The revolutionary development of the nuclear force of the Republic, the signal successes in its economic and cultural fields and remarkable changes in the international arena, which have been witnessed over the past one year since the promulgation of the law on the state's policy on the nuclear force at the historic Seventh Session of

of the great dignity who opened up a new turning point of building an independent and self-defensive state and bolstering up the national defence capabilities and is leading confidently the long-term struggle for the overall development of Korean-style socialism to dynamic success.

Pak In Chol, chairman of the SPA, presided over the session.

As the session was declared open, the national anthem of the DPRK was played.

Deputy Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, made a report on the first agenda item.

The reporter said that the SPA is to discuss and adopt



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Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un delivers speech at Ninth Session of 14th SPA

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, made an important speech at the Ninth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK.

He said:

Dear Comrade Deputies,
Respected Comrade Chairman of the SPA Standing Committee and Comrade Chairman of the SPA,
Observers,

Today our revolution has entered an era of new progress and dynamism, in which we dynamically advance towards an invincible socialist power independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, on the basis of the invaluable successes achieved through an arduous and strenuous struggle.

In particular, this year marking the 75th founding anniversary of our Republic and the 70th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War is a year of great significance for our revolution which has entered a period of new upsurge and great change in the accomplishment of the cause of building a powerful socialist country.

The Party Central Committee called for further boosting the fighting morale of all the people this year, an important occasion in the course of the development of our socialism and the history of our Republic, to make the year 2023 a year of great turn and change to be etched in the history of our Republic's development, and set forth strategic tasks for its implementation.

All the service personnel of the People's Army and people, who have always responded to the call of the Party and the revolution with their full display of patriotism and loyalty, have made proud successes in all fields of socialist construction by boldly waging a devoted struggle to carry out the major Party and state policy tasks set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Party and the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee.

Through national political and cultural events and on many other occasions, we have fully demonstrated our political and ideological might with the single-minded unity of the Party and the people as its core, and have gone all out in the struggle for ensuring the stable development of the national economy and bringing about a substantial change in the improvement of the people's living standard, and this results in a sign of marked growth in all sectors of economic construction.

The amazing reality in the development of agriculture, where bumper harvests are being reaped despite severe natural disasters, and the miraculous changes being witnessed in different parts of the country, including new streets and houses springing up with the appearances beyond recognition every day, promise us a bright prospect for providing our people with affluent and highly civilized living conditions.

The greatest success we have achieved this year is that we definitely ushered in a heyday of leaps forward in strengthening the national defence capabilities and nuclear war deterrent of the country.

The major tasks of the Five-Year Plan for the Development of the Defence



Science and Weapons System have been successfully carried out and a radical leap was made in the development and introduction of powerful nuclear attack means and new strategic weapon system of our own style. Thus, we demonstrated the reliability of the nuclear strategic force of our Republic to the whole world, exposing the hostile forces to insurmountable threat and striking terror into their hearts.

Today the strategic strength of our state, the nuclear war deterrent, is being remarkably bolstered and steadily strengthened to the extent incomparably greater than the past decades.

This eye-opening success, which actually shows great military muscle of the Republic fully equipped with strong and overwhelming defensive and offensive capabilities, clearly and definitely proves the courage and decisive executive ability of the DPRK not to tolerate any acts of violating its sovereignty and right to existence.

This is just the fruit and brilliant miracle our great people have achieved by their own efforts and with their own hands.

The Supreme People's Assembly, the supreme power organ of the DPRK, achieved another significant and epoch-making political success to be specially recorded in the 75-year-long history of its dignified state-building activities and the glorious history of the development of the DPRK at the ninth session of its 14th term.

The present SPA successfully carried out the work of reflecting the actual state of our national power in the new era in the constitution of the country, along with the adoption of various laws related to state

administration, economic development and people-oriented policies. As a result, the current session has been recorded as a historic one which added a remarkable page to the constitutional history of the DPRK.

It is of very deep and weighty significance that we have adopted the decision with unanimous approval to supplement Article 58 of Chapter 4 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with new contents—to ensure the country's right to existence and development, deter war and protect regional and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher level—just in this assembly hall where the codification of the policy of the state nuclear force solemnly took place in accordance with the general will of all the Korean people just one year ago.

This resulted in the successful implementation of the essential historic and political task, whose fulfillment was indispensable to ensuring the successes achieved by our people through their sacred struggle and the nuclear force policy of our state with the supreme law of the Republic, he said, adding:

The DPRK's nuclear force-building policy has been made permanent as the basic law of the state, which no one is allowed to flout with anything. This is a historic event that provided a powerful political lever for remarkably strengthening the national defence capabilities, including the nuclear force, for firmly consolidating the institutional and legal foundations for guaranteeing security and protecting national interests by relying on it, and for accelerating the overall development of our-style

socialism.

Saying that only the country which is strong with the faith of all its people determined to readily dedicate themselves to preserving their self-respect and dignity they regard dearer than their lives, and only the government and people that accomplished the great cause of building a nuclear-armed nation by waging an unprecedented, long and arduous struggle generation after generation in actuality, regarding it as the most precious absolute strength for independence, justice and development, can perform such a miracle, Kim Jong Un, in his capacity as president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, expressed sincere thanks to the deputies for having most responsibly exercised their voting right in the very important and significant state affair discussion for constitutionally consolidating the gains of the great and sacred struggle of all the Korean people.

He went on:

The Socialist Constitution of the DPRK is a legal foundation guaranteeing the dignity, sovereignty and independent development of our state and people and a political charter indicating the orientation of the victorious advance of the revolution and construction.

The crystal-clear stipulation of the keynote policy of bolstering the nuclear force in the supreme state law, which will permanently exist along with socialist Korea, is the most just and reasonable crucial step which fully meets not only the urgent requirements of the present era but also the lawfulness and the long-term requirements of building a socialist country.

It is the fact recognized by the world that the DPRK inevitably had access to nuclear weapons for self-defence and developed its policy of bolstering up the nuclear force into a law, for it is standing in protracted confrontation with the US, the world's biggest nuclear weapons state and the most dangerous war state, and its vassal forces.

The present situation, in which the structure of the "new Cold War" is being materialized on a global scale and the existence of sovereign states and the right to existence of their people are seriously threatened by the reactionary imperialist forces keen on realizing their ambition for hegemony and expansionist fantasy, proves that our Republic was entirely just when it made a decisive decision to build a nuclear force in the face of all sorts of trials and fix it as an irreversible state law.

Had our Republic merely pinned its hopes on the nuclear umbrella of others, exposed to the ever-increasing nuclear blackmail and threats from the US, and failed to boldly decide on the line of arming itself with nuclear weapons, captivated by gestures of "goodwill" hyped up by the imperialists and spurious temptations, and stopped or retreated from the already started arduous journey, it would have certainly suffered a nuclear holocaust and total destruction long ago, and it would have been impossible to imagine the present proud reality in which it enhances the national prestige and might and steers the world toward justice while resolutely countering the enemy's outrageous challenge and pressure.

The US, which had already set it as its state

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policy to physically remove our state and even ignited a war to do so in the last century, has maximized its nuclear war threats to our Republic by resuming the large-scale nuclear war joint drills with clear aggressive nature and putting the deployment of its strategic nuclear assets near the Korean peninsula on a permanent basis after starting the operation of the "Nuclear Consultative Group" aimed at using nuclear weapons against the DPRK in collusion with the "Republic of Korea", while frequently revising the aggression war scenario for realizing the "end of regime" in the DPRK.

Worse still, the accelerated establishment of the triangular military alliance with Japan and the "Republic of Korea" finally resulted in the emergence of the "Asian-version NATO", the root cause of war and aggression. This is just the worst actual threat, not threatening rhetoric or an imaginary entity.

Now that the US, steeped in the Cold War mentality, has gone to extremes in its anti-DPRK military provocations, it is very important for the DPRK to accelerate the modernization of nuclear weapons in order to hold the definite edge of strategic deterrence for more thoroughly deterring and controlling those provocations and fulfill its mission as a responsible nuclear weapons state in the struggle to preserve stability on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity.

But it is not merely based on the analysis and study of the current ever-aggravating situation that the government of the Republic has brought up for discussion at the SPA such an important agenda item as stipulation of the policy of strengthening the nuclear force in the constitution.

As long as our Republic exists as a socialist state and as long as the tyrannical nuclear weapons of the imperialists trying to stamp out independence and socialism exist on the earth, we must neither change nor concede the present position of our country as a nuclear weapons state, but, on the contrary, continue to further strengthen the nuclear force. This is the serious strategic judgment made by our Party and government.

Looking back on history, mankind has desired the world without nuclear weapons since the emergence of nuclear weapons and the first nuclear holocaust on this planet. And our Republic, a direct victim of nuclear blackmail since the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, had made constant peace-loving efforts to make the Korean peninsula and the region nuclear-free.

But the US imperialists have persistently escalated their nuclear threat to our Republic, once a non-nuclear state, for decades in disregard of all our peace-loving proposals, for the mere reason that its idea and system are different. Due to this, our socialist construction has faced and undergone enormous obstacles and grave difficulties, and even the existence of our state has been exposed to critical emergency many times.

This made our Republic keenly realize the immutable truth that it should certainly counter the hostile forces' nuclear threat in kind, and the necessity of preserving and strengthening as eternal state strategic assets the nuclear weapons it is possessed of and preventing anyone from doing harm to them in any case, no matter the lapse of time and the shift in generation.

We must take due pride in having legalized the state nuclear force policy and even squarely stipulated it in the constitution and thus set an example in the building of an independent and self-defensive state and the strengthening of the national defence capabilities and, on the basis of this historic success, wage a more vigorous struggle for the overall

development of Korean-style socialism, he said.

Saying that the important task facing the WPK and the DPRK government, the fulfillment of which should be pushed ahead with nonstop in implementing the present-stage fighting programme set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK, is to rapidly bolster up both in quality and quantity the nuclear force, he stressed the need to push ahead with the work for exponentially boosting the production of nuclear weapons and diversifying the nuclear strike means and deploying them in different services.

Re-clarifying in detail the foreign policy of the WPK at present, he referred to the principled problems arising in proactively conducting the external activities on the basis of the policy.

He urged the external affairs sector to consistently hold fast to the external strategy of the Party Central Committee and conduct in a broad and prospective way the external activities for creating conditions and environment in favour of the Korean revolution and further promote solidarity with the nations standing against the US and the West's strategy for hegemony while firmly adhering to the revolutionary principle and the stand of independence at the fore of the struggle of the anti-imperialist independent countries.

He went on:

The current Supreme People's Assembly is also to deliberate and adopt sectional laws for further promoting the people-oriented policies of the government of the Republic and putting the major economic affairs of the country on a stable track.

Of course, it is a precious success that we have provided a legal weapon for propelling the socialist construction more powerfully as required by the times and the developing revolution. What is more important is to ensure that the decisions and instructions of the Party and the state are carried out thoroughly to make a substantial advance and leap forward in all fields and all spheres.

The historic struggle of our Party and people to implement the resolutions of the Eighth Party Congress, which set forth the new five-year plan for the comprehensive development of socialism, has now entered an important period.

Whether or not the miraculous victories and successes achieved in the brave spirit of uninterrupted progress in the face of the unprecedented manifold national crises ever since the founding of the country lead to greater victory and success depends on how to work in the remaining period of a little over two years.

While further consolidating the successes and experience gained in the struggle so far in all aspects of politics, economy and culture, we should put constant spurs to carrying out without fail the plans and immediate tasks set forth by the Party Congress and the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee and converting them into excellent entities without an inch of deflection.

Today the most pressing task for the government of our Republic is to bring about a substantial change in the economic work of the country and in the solution of problems arising in improving the people's livelihood by successfully attaining the 12 goals for the development of the national economy and other economic objectives.

The Cabinet and other state economic guidance organs and the provincial, city and county people's committees should have a clear grasp of the overall economy of the country and the economic work in the relevant areas and conduct economic operations and guidance more closely and vigorously in keeping with the ever-changing actual conditions and circumstances so that the goals and tasks

for economic development set by the Party and the state are fully attained in a perfect way.

The economic sectors in charge of implementing the 12 goals for the development of the national economy should bring about a fresh upsurge in production and innovative successes in the fighting spirit and stamina of the preceding generations who ushered in the great Chollima era in the history of the Republic, and give more powerful impetus to the overall socialist economic construction.

In particular, the agricultural sector should turn out more courageously in implementing to the letter the programme for the rural revolution in the new era set forth by our Party and the powerful support of the state should be steadily augmented to make our people's centuries-old desire a great reality as soon as possible.

The government of the Republic, which regards it as the supreme principle of its activities to prioritize the interests and demands of the people and hold them absolute, should continue to direct primary efforts to promoting the people's well-being.

To push ahead with the work for building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang Municipality and for regional construction and rural construction in a big way, implement correctly the Party's childcare policy and light industry policies and steadily spruce up the land and improve the ecological environment are the important tasks that should be carried out to bring about fruition without fail in the light of the popular character of our state.

The government of the Republic should bring about a clear and decisive improvement in science, education, public health and other fields of socialist culture in keeping with the rise in our national dignity and prestige.

We should confidently push ahead with the work to successfully implement the state strategy and plans for the development of science and technology decided by the Party Congress and the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee, improve the country's educational structure, content and methods in a qualitative way so that advanced education can be given and consolidate the overall public health foundation on a high level so that the advantages of the most popular health system can be displayed.

The literature and art, media and sports sectors should achieve proud innovative successes conducive to demonstrating the development of our Republic and further enhancing its prestige and patriotic enthusiasm and revolutionary spirit of our people.

Stressing the need for the DPRK government to regard it as a task which should not be neglected even for a moment to establish the strong official discipline in the country and a good communist climate throughout society and make all the fields and spheres seethe with the development-oriented mode of creation and revolutionary work style, he said:

Stronger Party, administrative and legal measures to this end have been taken with the Eighth Party Congress as an occasion, but a very serious shortcoming was revealed intensively in the recent national disaster prevention work. This fact goes to prove that such wrong practices as disorder, irresponsibility and indifference chronically exist in the work of the state leadership bodies and officials.

The government of the Republic should continue to wage a unified and intensive control and struggle vigorously so that all institutions, enterprises and citizens obey the centralistic discipline of the state, strictly abide by the laws of the country and suppress all sorts of anti-socialist and non-socialist practices with a high degree

of political consciousness and sense of responsibility.

The precious tradition of the revolutionary mass movement, an all-people patriotic movement displayed in the stirring annals of our revolution, should be made to show its vitality so that it can be reliably inherited and developed through generations, and all sectors, spheres and units should be actively encouraged to ceaselessly create and develop new things, with priority given to the fundamental and long-term interests of the state.

Saying that it is very important to enhance to the maximum the role of the deputies, representatives of the people, in successfully carrying out the responsible and important tasks facing the DPRK government at present, he earnestly requested the deputies to the SPA to personify exceptionally high patriotism and spirit of love for the people and devote themselves to the development of the state and the interests of the people.

The deputies to the SPA should always and keenly realize what great trust and weight of the state and the people are stored in the sacred call of the supreme representative, whom the people elected with trust, and do their best to remain infinitely faithful to their heavy missions and responsibility, he said, and went on:

You should not forget even for a moment that those who support the state and the people with conscience, faith and heart are genuine representatives and deputies of the people.

As the deputies to the SPA have had the honour and dignity of being the representatives of the people and the supreme power organ under the care of our Workers' Party, they should get a better understanding of all the policies of the WPK than anyone else and always be full of mind to do more beneficial and admirable things for the Party, the state and the people. And they should proudly bring about practical achievements for the country and the people through their devoted efforts.

All of you should bear in mind once again how honourable and worthwhile it is to become the genuine people's representatives and servants upholding most zealously, resolutely and ardently with loyalty and uprightness our dignified Republic which is now fully demonstrating the national prestige, power and glory all over the world.

Dear Comrade Deputies,

We have only a few months left to the end of the year 2023 we saw in with fresh confidence and expectations.

We are faced with heavy duty to proudly conclude this eventful year with more splendid achievements.

The practical success under the present favourable situation, in which the political, material and technical conditions and foundations for building a powerful socialist country have been firmly established and a strong legal guarantee for the building of nuclear force was provided, depends entirely on how the deputies here and all the citizens strive.

I firmly believe that all those present here will faithfully discharge their very responsible and heavy mission and duty they have assumed before the Party, the revolution, the country and the people, for the eternal prosperity of our great state and the well-being of our great people.

On this significant occasion when I feel proud again about the great strength and prestige of our Republic, I ardently appeal to all to turn out in the sacred patriotic struggle for the development of our great country and thus brilliantly adorn this year as a year of proud victory.

For our great people,

For the dignity and honour of our state,
Let us all struggle energetically with one mind and one will.

the 14th Supreme People's Assembly, clearly proved the validity and vitality of the codification of the state's policy on the nuclear force, he said.

He referred to the weighty significance of fixing the principle of state activities on the building of modern nuclear force and the mission of the armed forces of the DPRK for the times in the Socialist Constitution on the basis of the successful codification of the state's policy on the nuclear force.

Saying that reflected in the draft amendment and supplement are the contents that the DPRK, a responsible nuclear weapons state, develops highly nuclear weapons to ensure the rights to existence and development of the country, deter war and defend peace and stability in the region and the rest of the world, and that the mission of the armed forces of the Republic is to defend the national sovereignty and territorial integrity and the rights and interests of the people, protect the socialist system and the gains of the revolution from all threats and guarantee peace and prosperity of the country with powerful military capabilities, he brought up the draft amendment and supplement for discussion at the session of the SPA.

The session adopted an ordinance of the SPA of the DPRK "On Amending and Supplementing Some Contents of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK" with unanimous approval.

The unanimous adoption of the crucial agenda item for formulating the DPRK's policy on the nuclear force as the basic law of the state, in the wake of codifying the policy at the Seventh Session of the 14th SPA, is a historic event as it provided a powerful political weapon for markedly strengthening the national defence capabilities including the nuclear force, consolidating the institutional and legal foundation for security guarantee and protection of national interests based on them and accelerating the comprehensive development of Korean-style socialism.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made a speech.

He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the deputies to the SPA who exercised the most historic right of voting in reflection of the general will of all the Korean people and

added a brilliant page to the history of the DPRK's Constitution, and extended a noble tribute to all the people.

He reviewed the proud successes made this year, which is of great significance for the Korean revolution greeting a new period of upsurge and change in the cause of building a powerful socialist country. And he referred to the orientation and policy tasks for the future struggle and called for concluding the year 2023 with a proud victory by waging a stubborn and substantial struggle till the end of the year.

When Kim Jong Un finished his speech, all the participants gave enthusiastic cheers and applause, full of emotion and joy at having received the ever-victorious action programme for dynamic strengthening of the matchless national power of socialist Korea, an immortal programme promoting the building of an ideal society for the people.

His significant speech serves as a militant banner and a great revolutionary document bolstering in every way the invincible might of our Republic, a true independent power and a genuine people's government, and dynamically propelling the fresh victory and great advance of the cause of building a socialist power of Juche.

The session discussed the draft laws of the DPRK on ensuring the rights of the disabled, irrigation and public servants as next agenda items.

Deputy Kang Yun Sok, vice-chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, made a report on the second, third and fourth agenda items.

The reporter noted that relevant draft laws reflect the principled issues arising in thoroughly guaranteeing the WPK's policy for ensuring the rights of disabled persons and the fulfillment of the programme for the rural revolution in the new era and further consolidating and developing the state and social system.

He explained chapter by chapter the contents of the relevant draft laws, including the regulations for thoroughly ensuring the socio-political, economic and cultural rights of disabled persons and making sure that they enjoy a worthwhile life as masters of the state and society, the legal requirements for realizing the irrigation of agriculture at a higher level and ensuring the sustained and stable development of agricultural production and the regulations for ensuring the correct implementation of the Party

and state's policies and improving the state management by building up the ranks of public servants.

The SPA Standing Committee brought up the draft law of the DPRK on ensuring the rights of the disabled, the draft law of the DPRK on irrigation and the draft law of the DPRK on public servants for discussion at the session, under Article 95 of the Socialist Constitution.

Speeches on the second, third and fourth agenda items were made by Deputies Kim Sung Du, Ho Song Chol, Pak Myong Son, Sin Kwan Bong, Jon Sung Guk and Ho Song Ho.

Speakers recognized that the law of the DPRK on ensuring the rights of the disabled provides all persons with disabilities with better working and living conditions and develops the trait of helping them throughout the whole society and thus makes it possible to display the advantages of the Korean-style socialist system to the full.

They also expressed their opinion that the law on irrigation is of important significance in propelling the increased grain production and the socialist rural development by accelerating the perfection of the overall irrigation system of the country and the law on public servants serves as an institutional guarantee for ensuring the smoothness of state activities by improving the political consciousness, practical qualifications, strong organizing ability and executive ability of public servants, the direct performers of the state administration.

After examining and supplementing the deputies' constructive opinions, the session adopted the ordinances of the SPA of the DPRK "On Adopting the Law of the DPRK on Ensuring the Rights of the Disabled", "On Adopting the Law of the DPRK on Irrigation" and "On Adopting the Law of the DPRK on Public Servants".

The session discussed "On reviewing the enforcement of the law of the DPRK on financial sector" as its fifth agenda item.

Deputy Pak Jong Gun, vice-premier of the Cabinet and concurrently chairman of the State Planning Commission, made a report.

The reporter analyzed and reviewed the success, experience, deviation and lesson drawn from the enforcement of the law on financial sector, with regard to the importance of the work to put the state financial system on a scientific basis in keeping with the requirements

of the developing reality, and referred to the urgent practical matters arising in substantially propelling the development of the state's economy by reinforcing and perfecting the unified financial control system of the state.

Other speakers expressed their determination to make every sector and unit strictly abide by the requirements of the law on financial sector by redoubling their efforts, aware of the heavy duty before the Party, the state and the people and thus financially guarantee the implementation of the resolutions of the Eighth WPK Congress.

At the session, a resolution on the fifth agenda item was adopted with unanimous approval.

The session discussed "On renaming the National Aerospace Development Administration of the DPRK the National Aerospace Technology Administration of the DPRK" as its sixth agenda item and adopted a resolution on it with unanimous approval.

The session discussed the organizational matter as its seventh agenda item.

Members of the Cabinet were newly appointed.

An Kyong Gun was appointed as minister of Machine-building Industry, Ri Sun Chol as minister of State Construction Control, Jon Chol Su as minister of Land and Environment Protection, Kim Kwang Jin as minister of Food Procurement and Administration and Paek Min Gwang as president of the Central Bank

Members of sectional committees of the SPA were recalled and by-elected.

Deputies Choe Kun Yong, Pak Chang Ho and Ri Yong Chol were by-elected as members of the Legislation Committee of the SPA.

Pak In Chol, chairman of the SPA, made a closing address.

The Ninth Session of the 14th SPA successfully finished its work amid the revolutionary consciousness and enthusiasm of the participants to fully discharge their important obligations as representatives of the people and masters of administration, single-mindedly upholding the great Party Central Committee that is powerfully demonstrating to the whole world the dignity and mightiness of the DPRK with its extraordinary idea and leadership.

Members of DPRK Cabinet newly appointed

Members of the Cabinet newly appointed at the Ninth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK are as follows:

An Kyong Gun, minister of Machine-building Industry

Ri Sun Chol, minister of State Construction Control

Jon Chol Su, minister of Land and Environment Protection

Kim Kwang Jin, minister of Food Procurement and Administration

Paek Min Gwang, president of the Central Bank



An Kyong Gun, minister of Machine-building Industry



Ri Sun Chol, minister of State Construction Control



Jon Chol Su, minister of Land and Environment Protection



Kim Kwang Jin, minister of Food Procurement and Administration



Paek Min Gwang, president of the Central Bank

Apple-picking starts on vast orchard



By Kim Il Jin PT

Apple-picking is in full swing at the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm covering a wide range of more than 1 000 hectares of land.

Trucks being loaded with boxes of apples honk on paved roads crossing the fields.

They are busy carrying gathered apples to storehouses.

Those who are picking apples and transporting them are wearing a broad smile on their faces.

On his visit to the fruit farm in August 2015, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that officials and employees of

the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm should hand down the history of the love for people unfolded by the great leaders who had worked heart and soul to supply them with larger amounts of fruits by turning the farm into a world-level thriving one for the people, cherishing a high ambition of attaining world supremacy of fruit farming.

The rolling fields are covered with a large number of dwarf apple trees.

It is now cultivating over 50 kinds of apple trees.

This year, too, it has channelled great efforts into manuring and tending fruit trees in a scientific way and striven to increase fruit output despite unfavourable

climate conditions.

The farm scientifically applied essential nutritive elements to fruit trees on each plot on analysis of soil condition of each field, said chief engineer Kwak Chol Song.

It also established an insect monitoring and forecasting system to prevent and cure diseases with low cost, thus minimizing the decrease in the per-hectare yield.

Thanks to their painstaking efforts, per hectare yield for this year has been further increased as compared to last year's.

The farm succeeded in breeding several varieties of being ripened early, bearing large fruits and containing high sugar content. Typical of them



Apples are harvested at the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm. RYU KWANG
HYOK/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

are "Cholryong" much favoured by children and the old for its rich juice and proper sugar content of 13.5% and "Kumgang" with strong sweet but less sour taste. They provide smooth chewing feeling, emit strong fragrance and

have strong resistance to cold and diseases and bear fruits in a short period of time.

The Dried Fruit Chip Factory and the Taedonggang General Fruit-processing Factory are now busy turning out different kinds of such

processed fruit products from gathered fruits as dried apple chips, juice, cider, vinegar, perfume and rinse.

Meanwhile, fresh apples gathered at the farm are supplied to Pyongyang citizens through commercial service facilities in the city.

Scientific farming methods employed

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Since the beginning of this year, the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm has properly introduced scientific farming methods enjoying great popularity and promoted technical innovation to ensure a rich fruit harvest.

"Our farm regarded cultivating fruit trees in a scientific way as a key to raise fruit harvest and concentrated main efforts on nutrition management and exterminating the blight," said chief engineer Kwak Chol Song.

It organized several rounds of workshops and demonstrations and frequently conducted experience sharing based on them, working out technical manuals for each farming process and field in a scientific way to be distributed.

It further improved the nutrition of fruit trees by realizing the mass-production of carbonated manure which had been conducted on a small scale. According to experts, a kind of organic fertilizer, it

The Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm manures and tends fruit trees in a scientific way.



has high absorptivity rate, boosts root growth and photosynthetic capacity of trees and therefore helps increase the weight of each fruit.

Original carbonated manure production grounds found in several fields turned out less manure for lots of efforts. The farm newly built a ground for producing the manure around a faeces settling trough of the Taedonggang Pig Farm and established a system of producing enough amount of homemade manure to be spread on all fields, realizing the mass-

production of carbonated manure.

It spread organic fertilizer and chemical fertilizers on analysis of the soil of each field and applied amino acid microelement fertilizer for foliar nutrition, thereby raising the rooting rate and fruit-bearing rate of fruit trees to over 90%.

It is now breeding tasty high-yielding varieties. Its recent product "Cholryong" is much favoured by children and the elders for its rich sweet and less sour taste.

It also set up a regular insect monitoring and

forecasting system and chose suitable agrochemicals and fixed the time for spraying them according to a report of the system to remarkably reduce blight damage as compared to previously. In collaboration with a scientific research institution, it introduced highly-efficient nutritive solution and growth stimulants conducive to increasing output and applied liquid manure by dint of a dripping irrigation system.

The farm is now expecting a good harvest.

Orchards of good tree strains built

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Fruit growers across the country have built orchards of good strains of fruit trees in order to produce larger quantities of delicious fruits.

They set up a well-organized system of producing good strains of fruit trees which suit local climatic and soil conditions, have great yielding ability and bear appetizing fruits, including dwarf apple, pillar pear and Kumya large chestnut trees.

More than 1 000 hectares of dwarf apple orchards were built and fruit crops were rotated in over 4 500 hectares throughout the country in spring this year.

Pukchong County created hundreds of hectares of orchards of good-strain fruit trees in a short period by carefully carrying out such work as the production of saplings, digging of trench-type pits and the production and carrying to fields of organic fertilizers.

The Kosan Combined Fruit Farm replaced old trees with less yields and poor fruit quality with various good strains of

trees which are highly resistant to cold and diseases and which bear early-ripening fruits and those with appropriate sweet and sour tastes.

Kwail County built hundreds of hectares of orchards of good strains and is putting big efforts into manuring and tending them.

It has increased the proportion of application of pyroligneous acid and other botanical chemicals with the view that the extermination of harmful insects leads to increased fruit production and properly carries on the nutrition management of fruit trees.

The Toksong Apple Farm and the Onchon Fruit Farm which built solid bases for substitute agrochemicals production introduced efficient sprayers to spray agrochemicals in a planned way.

Fruit farms in North Hwanghae Province fertilized soil by qualitatively producing and effectively applying hukposan and other organic fertilizers.

Other fruit growers improve the quality of fruits as they take relevant steps in keeping with the ecological features of fruit trees.

Internal reserves tapped to increase consumer goods production

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Vigorous efforts are being made to boost the production of consumer goods by tapping internal reserves in all areas and units.

To improve the quality of consumer goods, diversify them in terms of kind, shape and colour and reduce the cost is the issue to which consumer goods producers attach importance.

To this end, the producer masses give full play to their creative initiative and prioritize the development of science and technology while always lending an ear to the voice of consumers.

Well aware of the world trend of development in the production of consumer goods, they have introduced

new technical innovation plans to increase the varieties of the goods and directed big efforts to boldly supplementing and updating equipment and developing and producing new products.

The Kyongsong Ceramic Factory is taking the lead in such endeavour.

“People say that the types of vessels made by our factory are unique and diverse and they do not know what to choose first. The secret of the success is that all officials and workers of the factory are designers and developers of new products,” says Choe Myong Su, chief of the technical department.

The factory holds a show of new products developed by workshops and workteams twice a year and the products are diverse in kind and shape.

It is an important occasion for the employees to remarkably improve their creative faculties.

This year, too, the factory has further improved the quality of products by introducing new technology capable of improving the method of calcination and raising the whiteness while producing designs.

The Hamhung Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory produces more consumer goods with the same amount of raw and other materials than before by pushing ahead with the work to reduce the cost.

The Tulgukhwa(wild chamomile)-brand essential plastic goods from the factory were in the greatest demand at the exhibitions held this year as they were of high quality and were cheap.

Meanwhile, factories and enterprises in the light industry

sector produce high-quality grass, fibre and plastic goods and ornaments by using idle materials to contribute to the people's life. Those in the metal, machine, chemical and mining industry sectors produce daily necessities such as ironware and electric appliances by using by-products and the forestry sector household goods by using spin-offs of woodworking.

Many housewives' and sideline workteams across the country, too, produce large quantities of articles of daily use, foodstuffs, kitchen utensils, handicrafts and toys by collecting and sorting the scraps from the production of main products at factories and enterprises, thus turning everything previously regarded as useless into treasure.

Aspirations of 'Saehuimang' goods producers

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The consumer goods cooperative production station in Kangso District of Nampho was established only a few years ago.

But the goods produced by the station are well known to the whole country as well as the district.

“The station has many employees and most of them are women. Though they previously lived only for themselves and their families, they are now leading a worthwhile life as socialist workers, creating things for society and the collective. So, we chose Saehuimang (new hope) as the brand of the goods,” said Song Myong Gum, manager of the station.

The employees of the station value the call of socialist worker more than anything else.

So, they take an active part in the work for their hometown, the work to make a contribution to the economic life of the country, with the only and one desire though they are different in age, hobby and career.

Many of them have unusual techniques and skills.

They are working together, fully displaying the techniques and skills.

“We find ourselves developing helping and learning from one another while sharing and exchanging techniques and experiences. In the course of it, we've become attached to the new workplace and collective and we go to work with joy,” say the employees.

Finding the zest for and pride of life in their job, they are united with patriotism by which they think of the district,

society and the country before themselves and their families.

As a result, the station has increased production and developed many new goods to bring about an increase in the kind and variety of its products.

The main consumer goods produced by the station are clothing, injection-molded goods, footwear and furniture and their kinds and varieties number 80 and over 380.

In particular, the injection-moulded household vessels took the first place at the 13th commodity exhibition of Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 held in October last year and the spring national commodity exhibition-2023 this year.

Hundreds of kinds of injection-moulded household vessels, including wash basin, lunch box and dress hanger, are characterized by the fact that each kind of them comes in various shapes.

To take lunch boxes as an example, there are those in different layers like two- and four-tier ones and those in square, round and other shapes.

Purchasers say that they are very attractive as their shapes are diverse and new, their colour is beautiful and their transparency and gloss degree are well ensured.

“‘Saehuimang [new hope]’ reflects our aspirations to lead the world with quality and cheap products of our own, things of our own to be envied by others,” said the manager.

The station, which has developed into a powerful unit with a new appearance in a few years, is now making a great contribution to the economic life of the district.

Clothing emblazoned with design of national flag



Employees discuss how to depict the national flag on T-shirts more brightly and vividly at the Songyo Knitwear Factory. WON TONG CHOL/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Clothes with design of national flag emblazoned on them “Now it is a trend and pride for our people to wear clothes printed with the design of the national flag. So we work to print clothes with a design of the flag elegantly and vividly,” said Pak Kyong Hui, chief of the technical department of the Songyo Knitwear Factory.

In particular, they direct efforts to making printing patterns exactly reflect the requirement of designing, she said. What is important is to ensure clear colours

and correctly select the position and size of printing.

Many technical consultation meetings and experiments took place in an effort to ensure exact red, blue and white colours symbolizing the national flag. In the process they established the methods of ensuring rational temperature and making the colours and introduced them into the printing process.

And they create various styles of clothes to offer convenience and meet the aesthetic taste of people different in age and occupation so that they could enjoy wearing them in

everyday life.

“Our people liked bright and clean white clothes from of old. So we mainly make T-shirts with the design of the national flag emblazoned on the white ground in various forms,” said Kim Jin Hyang, designer of the factory.

Recently they have drawn the designs of T-shirts printed with the design of the flag for children from kindergartners to junior middle school students as the children also want to wear such clothes out of love for the country like adults and produced the shirts.

People also favour the clothes with the design of the

flag depicted harmoniously on elegant and decent colour grounds and those with the design of the flag printed on the breast, while the collars and sleeves are decorated with blue stripes so that they look fresh.

The factory regularly conducts the work to develop new clothes and improve the quality of the products and produces clothes under order from many units.

Such clothes from the factory sell as popular goods at Pyongyang Department Store No.1, the Pyongyang Children's Department Store and many other commercial service units in the capital.



Employees pool ideas to improve the quality of goods at the Kangso District Consumer Goods Cooperative Production Station. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

History of WPK is that of attaching importance to education

By Jang Kil Sok

In retrospect, the history of the Workers' Party of Korea is the one in which it has glorified the dignity and honour of the country and nation by directing primary efforts to education.

Since education is a very important undertaking related to the prosperity of the country and the future destiny of the nation, the WPK has paid close attention to education in each period and at every stage of the developing revolution.

Back in the difficult period when he waged the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, President Kim Il Sung had already begun to give free education to children. And after the country's liberation from Japanese military rule, he discussed

the production of pencils for children as an agenda item at the first session of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea.

During the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War, he recalled students from the front to let them continue their study and saw to it that textbooks were transported by the vehicles carrying munitions and factory colleges were founded, which marked the beginning of the study-while-you-work education system.

The wise leadership of the President, who was confident that the future of the country and nation hinges on education and attached importance to education, brought about such events that the locals abolished illiteracy in a short span of time after the country's liberation and the universal 11-year

compulsory education was introduced for the first time in the world.

In the mid-1990s, the hardest time for the country when the survival of its people was itself a miracle, Chairman Kim Jong Il said that if the educational development is delayed by one step, the country's progress would be ten and a hundred steps slower and continued field guidance to the fields of education. Under his guidance every school resounded with voices of reading more loudly and scientific and technological personnel who would lead the campaign for breaking through the cutting edge were trained.

Today, WPK General Secretary Kim Jong Un brightly illuminates the way to develop education of the country

into the most advantageous and ideal one with his extraordinary foresight and ideological and theoretical wisdom.

He put forward a series of ideas and theories such as the idea that if science is an engine driving economic development, education is the mother of science, the idea that education is the basis of state building and an important index determining the national power and the idea of bringing about a revolution in education in the new century. And he wisely leads the work to bring about a radical change in the education of younger generations, the training of cadres for the nation and the education of talents.

Under his leadership, the universal 12-year compulsory education was established, schools were built first

in the disaster-stricken areas and it has become a state policy to provide students with school uniforms and supplies at state expense in the DPRK.

Under the slogans "Let us entrust our future to education!" and "Let us make education an education which can take charge of our future!" a nationwide distance education system has been established, all the people have become parents of students and turn out for education and all fields and units fully display the spirit of giving strong support to education work.

Education is an important matter to which the WPK pays primary attention invariably and it is steadfast in its stand to open up a broad avenue for prosperity by bringing about a radical turn in education.

State provides children with uniforms and other school supplies

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in December 2021 set forth the task of supplying all the students of the country with new styles of quality uniforms and bags and took important measures.

Accordingly, the guidelines on the body measurement of students for the production of school uniforms were distributed across the country. Later, students across the country went to school wearing new uniforms and carrying "Sonamu(pine)"-brand bags.

New pupils of primary schools across the country who received "Haebbaragi(sunflower)"-brand school things were provided with new school uniforms, shoes and "Sonamu" satchels in April last year on the occasion of the new school year.

Everyone rejoiced at that with the parents of the schoolchildren being moved to tears seeing their kids laughing and shrieking happily.

They were unanimous in saying that it gave them greater and deeper pleasure as the production and supply of them were done unconditionally as the top priority, irrespective of favourable or unfavourable economic conditions of the country.

The DPRK has long spared nothing for children and provided them with uniforms and other school things free of charge.

Kim Il Sung made sure that the children's pencil issue was discussed as an agenda item at the first meeting of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea after Korea's liberation. And one April day decades ago the President visited the then Yonphung Senior Middle School and was so satisfied as he saw the students in new school uniforms he took the pictures of them while staying with them for a long time.

Thanks to his loving care for the younger generation, the Korean children were called the "king" of the country and enjoyed a happy life with nothing to envy in the world.

While the state policy of supplying students with uniforms and other school things was invariably enforced, Chairman Kim Jong Il gave detailed instructions over the new styles of school uniforms to be supplied to students across the country and provided schools with modern educational facilities even when the country was experiencing hardships.

The love of the great leaders for younger generations continues to be shown by General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

In order to provide all the children and students of the country with uniforms, bags and other school things, he gave instructions to officials concerned from time to time and spent a long time examining designs for new school uniforms for boys and girls according to school types.

School uniform designs filled the conference room of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea where important issues of the Party and the state are discussed and the General Secretary gave instructions on "Haebbaragi" school things to be supplied to children while presiding over the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK and the facts are still told among people as stories conveying his love for younger generations.

It is the mode of advance and development of Korea to spare nothing for children,

to devote deeper sincerity to them at the time of hardship and to advance persistently towards the future of communism on the strength of the love.

Kim Jong Un is determined to ensure that the past era when the Korean people used to sing the song We Are the Happiest in the World does not remain a moment in history but is recreated in the present era and, thanks to his devoted efforts, it has been an invariable and eternal national policy of the DPRK to provide students with school things and uniforms at state expense.



Pupils in new school uniforms take a lesson.



Various notebooks are produced at the Mindulle Notebook Factory. RI RYON SONG/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Education, a matter of common interest

By Pang Un Ju PT

In the DPRK education is a matter of nationwide interest.

In recent years alone, the Pyongyang Municipal Power Distribution Station provided various facilities needed for improving the educational conditions and environment of Pyongyang College of Electric Engineering and the Toksong Farm in Anak County pulled down an old school building to build a new one with excellent conditions.

North Hwanghae Province has also organized a significant educational aid exhibition and encouraged the social atmosphere to ensure that the public assistance will help actually solve the knotty problems in education.

From the viewpoint that they are also responsible for education, all institutions and establishments actively play their part as supporters' organizations, acquainting themselves with the situation at schools in their charge to timely resolve difficult problems.

There are also people who became parents of an ordinary student.

In February 2022, Jo Kwon Ik was preparing for entrance examination of a university after finishing Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans. But suddenly he fell ill and was rushed to the hospital.

Kim Un, principal of the school, was told about it and immediately visited the hospital. She said to its medical workers: "I am the mother of Kwon Ik. It is his dream to go to university after finishing the middle school. Please help him to achieve his dream."

At the time, the medical workers of the hospital comforted her, saying

"Kwon Ik is not only the son of you, principal of the school. We are also his parents. Don't worry. Kwon Ik will sit the university entrance examination."

For him, they drew up the most efficient and fast-recovering treatment plan and hastened his treatment. Thanks to the doctors' utmost sincerity, Kwon Ik got out of the critical situation and went to the university for entrance exam. And another surprising thing happened in front of the main entrance of the university.

The president and other officials of the university came out there to meet Kwon Ik and took all measures for him to take the exam without a hitch.

After the exam was over and Kwon Ik returned to the hospital, many people called on him with tonics and the patients in the same room and their families prepared special foods and school things for him. When he and Kim Un thanked them repeatedly, they answered in unison that they are all Kwon Ik's parents.

Such impressive stories in the field of education have become a commonplace that can be heard everywhere in the country.

Underlying them are the policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government that pay primary attention to the education of rising generations from the viewpoint that education is a patriotic undertaking for the future of the country and how many excellent talents are trained is an important matter related to the future destiny of the country and nation, and with an attitude that if they fail to do other things, they can be done by the younger generations instead of them, but if the education of them is neglected, the development of the country will be retarded that much.

On board floating restaurant Taedonggang

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The landscape along the Taedong River is really wonderful as an old story said that Kim Hwang Won, a poet in the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392), was so captivated by its beautiful scenery that he tried to compose a poem to sing of it, but failed to choose proper poetic words to finish it and finally broke his writing brush, lamenting his poor ability.

People enjoy seeing the beautiful and impressive sights along the riverside aboard the floating restaurant Taedonggang.

According to the waitresses, visitors say it is very uncommon to enjoy the scenery of Pyongyang in the middle of the river on board the ship.

Travelling up the river, they can see the Taedong Gate, Ryongwang Pavilion, gable-roofed Okryu Restaurant covered with green tiles and Chongnyu Pavilion on Chongnyu Cliff of



Floating restaurant Taedonggang smoothly sails along the Taedong River. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Moran Hill and others. And when they go downstream aboard the ship, the Rungna People's Recreation Ground,

Pyongyang Taedonggang Seafood Restaurant, Ryugyong Health Complex, People's Open-Air Ice Rink,

Mirae Scientists Street and other modern structures attract their attention.

"I visit the Taedonggang

on holidays and Sundays. I think it is the most delightful to look up at the Tower of the Juche Idea

and the large fountains marvellously spewing out water high into the air beside it in the middle of the Taedong River on board the ship," said Jon Nam Chol, a resident of Tongsin-dong No.1 of Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang.

The floating restaurant provides full service not only to see the sights but also relish superb foods.

Most popular among them are slices of raw carp and Ryongjong fish, which taste fresh and mellow and have good medicinal effects, waitresses said.

The menus of the floating restaurant include famous Taedonggang beer and such dishes which can be tasted only in the DPRK as Pyongyang cold noodles, sinsollo, Ryongjong fish soup and steamed carp in fermented soybean paste and famous dishes of the world.

The two-storey ship has a banquet hall and dining rooms and soft drinks are served at the balcony of the ship's bow.

Taedong riverside favourite haunt of people



People are out for a morning exercise on a road by the Taedong River.

WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Taedong riverside serves as a good resting place for people in midsummer.

The wide riverside promenades are ideal paces for morning exercises.

In the morning the places bustle with people running or doing exercises, breathing in the fresh air. Most of them are young and old.

The places also serve as good resting places in the evening. Toward evening, many people are out there to have a rest cooling

their bodies in the gentle river wind while sitting in benches fixed here and there.

The scene of little children toddling on the grass there adds beauty to the river.

Boating on the river also attracts people.

Boaters include a sturdy young man looking at a girl sitting shyly with bowed head in front of him, an old man leisurely paddling satisfactorily looking at his grandson and granddaughter sitting before him, vivacious girls who can hardly repress

their laughter even at the sight of rolling fallen leaves and a middle-aged couple talking intimately.

People say they feel relieved of fatigue and refreshed in the cool river wind while paddling, which is good for an exercise of the whole body, in a bobbing boat.

Many people walk along the promenades on their way back home from work. A resident of Ryusong-dong of Central District in Pyongyang situated on the riverside says he deliberately walks a section of his bus route

along the promenade on the way back home from work.

More conspicuous are the people engrossed in angling on the promenades.

"In midsummer it is specially interesting to do angling while sitting together with my little granddaughter in the cool river wind," said Ri Kon Bong, an old man living in Phyongchon-dong No. 2 of Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, who was fishing on the riverside while sitting in a wide straw mat with various hooks and all sorts of bait at hand.

Cultural level improves in rural communities

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

People are pleased at the news on the rise in the number of model families of socialist cultured way of life in rural areas across the country along with the news about successive house moving there.

Frontrunners in such campaign are the Sosin Vegetable Farm in Ryokpho District and the Jangchon Vegetable Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang.

The farms make sure that all farmers establish a way of life that meets the standard of the model family by encouraging them to keep their houses clean and tidy in a cultured way and possess a high spirit of law observance.

In particular, every family planted many fruit trees and other good tree species and ground-cover plants around their homes to add beauty to the landscape of rural villages and thereby most of families became the model families of socialist cultured way of life.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of agricultural workers for making their native villages the places better to work and live in, thousands of families have been registered as such model families in rural communities in South Hwanghae Province, including Janghae-ri in Pyoksong County, this year alone.

At this news, a resident of Sosong District in Pyongyang said, "I spent my childhood in Pyoksong County with my grandparents. Perhaps, that's why I want to see the socialist rural villages undergoing a great change and farmers as well."

Farmers in North Phyongan, Jagang and North and South Hamgyong provinces keep their modern houses provided by the state for free clean and tidy regularly on the occasion of rural hygiene day each month and in that course the model families of socialist cultured way of life continue to increase in number.

Ro Hyon Hwa, farmer of the Jisin Vegetable Farm in Huichon, Jagang Province, said, "It's very nice to cook rice with methane gas. It's so pleasant to do kitchen work in the new excellent house equipped with a full set of things necessary for housekeeping. It is too natural to keep the house smart and make the village more beautiful."

She added that when all rural families manage their households and villages assiduously, the rural areas of the country will become socialist fairylands better to live in.

Backed up by such efforts of agricultural workers, over 19 000 families became the model families of socialist cultured way of life in the first half of this year.



Visitors look round the International Friendship Botanical House in the Central Botanical Garden. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

One of people's aims of visit to the Central Botanical Garden is to see the beautiful and rare plants of different countries of the world.

You can see gift plants presented to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il by heads of state and prominent figures of many countries and

overseas Koreans, including Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, in the Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia greenhouses and the gift plant greenhouse of the International Friendship Botanical House in the botanical garden.

Special eye-catchers are the elegant and rare progenitors and cultivated varieties of Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, world-famous flowers named after the great men in praise

of them.

"I often saw the flowers on TV and publications, but as I see them with my own eyes in this botanical garden, I feel that no flower is more beautiful than these flowers," said Sin Hyang Mi living in Songyo District, Pyongyang.

Foliage ornamentals in the gift plant greenhouse boast their robust and corpulent stems and leaves.

The tall betel palm, an

evergreen tree belonging to Palmae, stands imposingly at one side and Monstera karwinskyi, Philodendron selloum, cycad, Pandanus veitchii and date palm show off their fresh and green and gorgeous leaves at the other side. In particular, Monstera karwinskyi attracts visitors with its leaves in primeval shape.

According to Pak Myong Suk, horticulturist at the gift plant greenhouse, it is a

favourite haunt for artists, photographers and flower lovers and especially flower lovers stay there for a long time as they marvel at flowering plants.

"Visitors often say after looking round our greenhouse they feel as if they have travelled the world," added Pak.

In the plant museum, there grow date palm and banana trees and other plants growing

in tropical, temperate and subtropical zones.

The museum also has a constant stream of visitors like the gift plant greenhouse, according to its curator Han Yong Man.

Visitors are pleased to see the gift plants keeping their original unique shapes which horticulturists tend with much care to ensure favourable growth conditions of different kinds of plants.

Tea culture

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Tea takes the lion's share in the beverage culture of the Koreans.

Tea trees began to be grown in Korea in the mid-7th century as the tea drinking practice was adopted.

Tea came into vogue in some parts of Korea originally and spread widely during the Koryo dynasty (918-1392) as tea trees were cultivated on a large scale after the 9th century.

The tea consumption greatly increased in the period of the kingdom and the production and wide use of elegant Koryo ceramics stimulated the popularity of the Koryo tea with an original

flavour and fragrance.

Koryo ceramics varied in shape, kind and use and teacups held a large proportion of them.

The developed tea culture of Koryo was widely known to other countries as was evidenced by some relics that were unearthed from the chambers of the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon.

In the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty, fruits, leaves, roots and other parts of trees with medicinal value were used for making tea and different methods of brewing herbal teas and drinking them were developed accordingly.

According to historical records Sejong

Sillok (Chronicles of King Sejong) and Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam (Revised Handbook of Korean Geography), different kinds of teas were on the list of offerings made to the state from southern areas of Korea.

Herbal teas are now in great vogue in the DPRK, as well as traditional teas. Typical of them include insam, Schizandra chinensis fruit, persimmon leaf, pine-needle, blueberry and apple teas. They are popular as they are rich in medicinal substances that are effective in curing diseases and good for health.

In particular, Unjong tea is much favoured by people.

It is rich in caffeine, tannin

and vitamins including vitamin C and therefore effective in preventing senile arteriosclerosis, hypertension and cardiomegaly and improving heart functions.

It has also remarkable fatigue-relieving, diuretic, antidotal and anticancer effects and is good for retarding ageing and refreshing mind.

Its name is associated with the special care of the great leaders.

The tea tree had been

believed to be impossible to cultivate in the areas north of 36 degrees latitude north.

However, in order to provide the Koreans with excellent tea, President Kim Il Sung planted tea saplings he received from a foreign personage as a gift and grew them in the garden of his residence to acclimatize the plant before spreading it throughout the country.

And to hand down for all ages the benevolent care

of the President associated with the tea, Chairman Kim Jong Il named it "Unjong" (benevolent affection) and took measures to build its plantation and produce large quantities of it.

Therefore, the Korean people are very fond of the tea.

Unjong tea is served in teahouses and restaurants in Pyongyang and local areas and the Unjong Tea Factory turns out various tea products convenient to use.

Unjong tea enjoys growing popularity among local customers.

WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Russia focuses on Far East development

KCNA

Russia is channelling efforts into the development of its Far East.

The government defined the development of the Russian Far East as an important part in implementing its national strategy and set up the ministry of Far East development in the government in 2012.

President Vladimir Putin said that it is a long-range and unconditional priority task for Russia to achieve rapid development of the Far East, adding that this is the prospect of the country's development envisioning hundreds of years ahead, not decades.

The development of the Russian Far East is aimed at actively promoting the economic development of the country as required by the developing reality by foiling the West's ever-more vicious moves to impose sanctions against the country and isolate and stifle it.

The government is devoting primary efforts to infrastructure construction to lay a solid foundation for the development of the region.

According to the governor of the Maritime Territory Administration, the port

of Sukhodol with a freight transport capacity of 20 million tons has been completed. The territory is pressing on with the designing, construction and expansion of harbours and when the new projects are completed, the harbours in the region will be able to handle a total of 250 million tons of freight.

The modernization projects of the Baikal-Amur trunk line and trans-Siberian railway are being pushed ahead and the traffic capacity of these railway lines will increase 1.5 times by 2024.

The airlines running between St Petersburg and Vladivostok through the Arctic Ocean were put into operation, thereby opening up a prospect for international shuttle flight from Asia to Europe.

The role of Vostochny Cosmodrome is being highlighted.

This year alone, the spaceport witnessed the launches of the first Condor-FKA radar satellite, the automatic space station Luna-25 which is the first lunar probe in modern Russian history, the meteorological satellite Meteor-M (Nos. 2-3) and other Russian and foreign spacecraft atop the Soyuz-2.1a and Soyuz-2.1b carrier rockets.

Russia plans to carry out

manned space missions by means of the spaceport.

The government is also pressing ahead with urban development projects in order to improve the living standards of residents in the Far East and solve the problems of talents and manpower needed for the development of the region.

President Putin recently convened a consultative meeting on the implementation of the Far Eastern regional development programme in Vladivostok.

He said that city construction should above all be based on the demands of local residents and stressed the need to make effective use of detailed geographical advantages.

Describing Vladivostok, Blagoveshchensk and Khabarovsk as major educational centres in the Russian Far East, he referred to the need to encourage young people to remain there after graduation to work and look for their career prospects in the beloved cities.

By 2024, the scale of house construction in the region will reportedly increase 1.6 times as compared to the level in 2019. And additional measures have been taken to update the communications infrastructure and support public health,

education and social fields as a whole.

Efforts are being made to improve the quality of higher education, upgrade the educational system and infrastructure and develop Far Eastern Federal University into a world-class university.

The Russian government is promoting international cooperation to accelerate the development of the Far East.

As it has been sponsoring the Eastern Economic Forum since 2015, it has developed the region as a cooperation project of an international scale.

There was Eighth Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok from September 10 to 13 on the theme of "Let's advance to cooperation, peace and prosperity".

Through the forum Russia introduced the achievements made in the development of the region and promoted mutually beneficial cooperation with many countries.

The Russian government and people will surely reap good fruits in their efforts to further strengthen the position and role of the Far East in the economic development of the country and expand and develop international cooperation and collaboration.

Tourist business on constant growth

By Choe Yong Nam PT

September 27 is the World Tourism Day.

The third session of the World Tourism Organization general assembly held in Spain in 1979 adopted a decision on designating September 27 every year as World Tourism Day.

The purpose of the designation of WTD was to raise public awareness of the role and importance of tourism as well as its impact on the overall social and economic life including politics, the economy and culture on a worldwide scale.

Founded in January 1975, the international governmental organization has set a variety of themes on the occasions of the WTD every year and conducted different kinds of activities and events.

As countries and nations constantly raise their cultural and living conditions and promote exchanges and cooperation worldwide, people are getting more eager to visit more places and experience more things.

Through tours, people acquire a deep understanding of the politics, economy, culture, customs and natural environment of their country and other countries.

Tourism, which took its first step with tourist information service, diversified to include different branches like tourist transportation, board and lodging, welfare service and sports and cultural amusements, and developed into a comprehensive service sector by forming an integrated system.

As the tourist industry grew, the content of tourist activities got more varied and new forms of tourist activities emerged one after another.

Different kinds of tours like cultural tour, exclusive tour and scientific research tour appeared to accommodate the demand of tourists with different levels and desires.

The DPRK joined the WTO in 1987.

It is increasing the number of tourist resorts and scenic spots like the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, Masikryong Ski Resort and Mt Myohyang and renovating them to further promote the cultural and emotional life of the people.

The number of domestic tourists are on a constant increase as tourist offices in Pyongyang and local areas are publicizing tourist services in different methods through publications, the mobile communications network and national data communications network so that people can get extensive knowledge about tourism and travel to destinations more conveniently.

Various types of tours are also organized, like spa, ski, horse-riding and mountain-climbing tours and new tourist routes connecting major tourist attractions are developed, while the quality of tourist guide, transport and board and lodging is improved.

The theme for this year's WTD is "Tourism and green investment".

People and socialist Korea



Kim Won Ho
department director of the Pyongyang
Municipal People's Committee

The founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a historic event that marked a new epoch of building a people-centred sovereign state for the first time in the 5 000-year history of the Korean nation.

Since the word "people" was inscribed in the name of the country, the Korean people have been genuine masters of the independent and sovereign state and everything of the state and society has served them.

The DPRK holds the people in high esteem as the most sacred beings and takes it as the starting point of state activities to realize their dreams and ideals.

Making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people has become its national trait and mode of existence and it gives the highest and absolute priority to what the people like in overall social life.

As the state has regarded the safety of the people's lives and the improvement of their living

standards as its most important affair, especially in hard times, it firmly protected their lives and mobilized all the human and material resources of the country to eradicate the misfortune of the residents in stricken areas amid the world health crisis and recurrent terrible natural disasters.

The DPRK is a country that advances on the inexhaustible strength of the masses of the people.

All the people uphold the lines and policies of the state with one mind and will as they give precedence to state affairs over their domestic affairs and share difficulties with the country.

Virtues and traits of caring for and valuing each other prevail in society and the flames of

collective innovation blaze everywhere through comradely cooperation and unity.

The Workers' Party of Korea prioritizes housing construction and other projects most awaited and welcomed by the people. Accordingly, it presses on at an alarming speed with the construction of 50 000 flats in the capital city, rural development in the new era and other tremendous undertakings for promoting public welfare.

The state makes selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people and the latter sincerely support the former as they entrust their destiny and future entirely to the former. This is the true image of socialist Korea embodying the people-first principle.

BYWORD

Powerful socialist country

A powerful socialist country the Korean people are building is a country strong in national strength and eternally prosperous and the one where the people enjoy the happiest life in the world to their heart's content.

It is the noble intention of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to turn the DPRK into the foremost power in the world as early as possible as desired by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Under the wise leadership of Kim Jong Un who is making tireless patriotic efforts for the prosperity of the country and happiness of the people with such intention, the DPRK developed racing against

the time to reduce ten years to one so as to proudly hold the position of a strategic state recognized by the world and the entities of change for providing the people with a happy and civilized life have mushroomed on this land.

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Matter of urgency facing mankind

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

Experts had expressed concern that the extremely abnormal climate phenomena would occur more often and on a larger scale due to the overlap between El Nino and global warming that is getting ever more serious, while predicting that El Nino would begin in June this year. As if to prove this, the sea surface temperature in the eastern and central waters near the equator of the Pacific Ocean remarkably rose, leading to a series of catastrophic climatic anomalies.

Some regions had record high daily temperatures, whereas some countries suffered heavy damage from unexpectedly violent storms.

Disasters caused by

abnormal climate are still occurring across the world, inflicting enormous human and material losses on different countries.

Large numbers of people have suffered severe damage from heavy rain.

Different parts of China were hit by unprecedentedly heavy rain.

According to news reports, the heavy rain that began to pour down in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on September 7 flooded roads, underground stations and shops and more than 100 people were taken to hospitals. The torrential downpour turned streets into a raging river and the water was several metres deep in some areas.

Shenzhen and other areas in the southern part of

China had the heaviest rain ever since 1952.

Tajikistan suffered casualties including over ten deaths due to pouring rain.

In Maritime Territory of Russia, heavy rain paralysed traffic in 27 residential areas and caused serious losses to the agricultural sector.

When torrential rain is causing flooding in some parts of the world, terrible wildfires are spreading in other parts to reduce everything to ashes in an instant.

Texas of the US sustained wildfire damage. According to the relevant authorities,

as high temperature persisted for the past two months and there was only a little rain, grass and trees have dried up to increase the risk of wildfire.

Meanwhile, wildfire damage keeps expanding in Canada which has suffered huge losses from the already massive wildfires. In the country, wildfires occurred in about 1 000 places. As a result, an emergency was declared in many cities and residents were evacuated.

Tunisia was also hit by wildfires in some areas as hot and dry weather continued and the temperature rose to 50°C. Wildfires occurred in ten places of five provinces in 24 hours.

Some areas of such European countries as Italy, Greece and Spain were also engulfed in flames.

The damage by typhoon is also tremendous.

Typhoons occurred on the Pacific Ocean in succession to cause severe damage to Japan, the Philippines, China and other countries

and regions.

In the Philippines, which suffered several typhoon attacks this year, about 200 000 people were afflicted by Typhoon No. 9 alone.

As seen above, various kinds of ceaseless natural disasters caused by abnormal weather are endangering the existence and development of mankind.

The problem is that all this is just the beginning presaging greater disasters to be brought to mankind.

Experts say that the earth might become warmer in 2024, heat waves might appear more frequently and their intensity might be fiercer, warning that this is just the beginning.

A pressing issue for mankind is to cope with disastrous abnormal climate.

Japanese society with no future

By Choe Song Jun PT

These days inhumane maltreatment of children is prevalent in Japan as the days go by.

A man pushed his four-year-old son into a drawer of the TV set table to death and his wife caused burns to several parts of her three-year-old daughter's body by pouring hot liquid on it. And in midwinter a woman committed an outrage on her 8-month-old daughter, fracturing bones on scores of parts of its body, and went so far as to leave the child in the toilet for 20 hours, with the result that it was frostbitten.

According to data available, the cases of ill-treatment of children that occurred in Japan last year number over 219 000, breaking the highest record in history.

Across the country there are child guidance clinics and the cases of consultation about abuse of children there have continued to increase for 32 years since 1990.

Whenever cases of child abuse are disclosed in Japan, its society seethes with serious criticism and concern.

In April this year the Japanese government inaugurated a children's family agency as a measure to cope with mistreatment of children.

Meanwhile, the minister in charge of child policy on July 3 announced that they would offer temporary lodgings for children and youths who are homeless or left their houses owing to penury or maltreatment of them by their parents.

A girl in such a place said that

she had left her house because of her bad home environment and that the place houses many children with the similar wound.

Such steps taken by the Japanese government as a measure to cope with child abuse are no more than the last resort to appease the public enraged by ill-treatment of children.

In Japanese society where extreme egoism is rampant children are becoming objects of contempt and maltreatment without getting protection and care by the public.

Egoism rampant in society is reducing more and more people to mental monsters who only pursue their own comfort while disregarding their own parents, their friends and even their own children.

It has become commonplace in Japan to regard one's own child as a burden, maltreat it and go so far as to kill it. Most of young people of the new generation in the country reportedly refuse to have a child.

Many children in the country are still helplessly withering away, suffering all sorts of ill-treatment, far from being under the warm care of their parents.

Cases of child abuse occurring in succession are a showcase of the corrupt Japanese society where people know only money and themselves.

Mistreatment of children is ineradicable in Japan as long as hatred for man and extreme egoism are rampant there.

The corrupt Japanese society, where children, the future of the country, are withering away owing to maltreatment and negligence by their families and the public, is really a community with no future.

Gun crimes, malignant tumour of American society

By Song Jong Ho PT

Gun-related crimes are growing more rampant in the US, throwing people into uneasiness and horror.

On May 27, three people were killed and five others wounded by a shooting in a small town in New Mexico. The following day, a criminal randomly fired at people at an amusement quarter in Texas to injure several of them at the end of a fight.

Most recently, an armed man fired at a house in Chico, California, killing a teenage girl and wounding several others.

These are the tip of the iceberg compared with the full picture of gun crimes in the US, which has gained notoriety as the kingdom of gun crimes.

The US is the only country in the world where private gun ownership is legally allowed.

Once, a foreign newspaper carried an article, which said that "We want to ask why Americans keep going gun crimes and gun culture which bring death to lots of innocent people every year and when they could reduce the number of deaths," grabbing public limelight.

But there is no answer to this question in the US. Because the US administration, congress and judicial bodies help munitions businesses make huge profits by legalizing the ownership of firearms and munitions businesses in turn support politicians and judicial officers with huge funds they collected by selling lethal weapons.

Such being the situation, guns are openly sold as ordinary goods at shops in the US without any control and ads are posted on the streets to show which shop sells what kinds of weapons. So, everyone can easily buy weapons.

At present, the firearms possessed

by the US population are 120.5 pieces per 100.

Today, gun crimes that occur ceaselessly in the US grow ever more serious due to American-style culture of violence rampant in society.

In actuality, computer game makers in the US are selling a lot of violent games and film makers, obsessed with money-making, are competitively producing violent and horror movies. Eighty percent of TV entertainment programmes contain bloody murders and daily TV programmes show scenes of violence 8-12 times an hour on average.

Such a culture of violence has a great negative effect on the intellectual growth of young people, pushing them to the road of gun crimes from childhood.

This year alone, a six-year-old schoolboy shot and fatally wounded a girl teacher after a quarrel at a primary school and a boy student fired several bullets with a pistol, seriously injuring two members of the teaching staff at a high school in Denver, Colorado.

According to an opinion poll jointly conducted by the US media over the ceaseless gun crimes at schools, about 40 percent of Americans said that schools are not safe due to gun violence. This is reportedly the highest rate in the last decade.

Now Americans are busy preparing such a "school thing", called bulletproof satchel, being afraid to send their children to schools as they are worried about their children's lives.

Reality clearly proves that the US is a human rights desert and a veritable hell.

Gun crimes are an incurable disease in the US, where extreme individualism and hatred are rife in society and the law of the jungle prevails.

Briefly

Russia

FM censures US, its following forces for fanning war mania around Korean peninsula

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov condemned the US and its following forces for fanning war mania around the Korean peninsula at the general political discussion of the UN General Assembly session on September 23.

He said that the US is accumulating its strategic potentials in the region and that it is causing uneasiness among the people that Washington and its Asian allies are whipping up war hysterics around the peninsula.

China

19th Asian Games open in Hangzhou

The 19th Asian Games opened in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province of China, on September 23.

An opening ceremony took place at Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium.

Chinese President Xi Jinping was present at the opening ceremony together with the acting chairman of the Asian Olympic Council and the chairman of the International Olympic Committee.

A delegation of the DPRK Olympic Committee led by Minister of Physical Culture and Sports Kim Il Guk attended the ceremony.

Teams from 45 countries and regions participating in the games entered the stadium.

President Xi Jinping declared the 19th Asian Games open.

Amidst the playing of the music of the Asian Olympic Council, the flag of the council was hoisted and a ceremony of setting fire to the torch was held.

Turkiye

FM denounces profanation

The Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned on September 23 the acts of profanity committed against Islam in the Netherlands.

Provocative acts of insulting the Koran, or Islamic scripture, were perpetrated in front of embassies of Turkiye and other Islamic countries in the Netherlands.

As to this, the Turkish Foreign Ministry asserted that a provocative hate campaign to defile religion and believers is being waged under the signboard of "freedom of speech". Demanding those countries where such acts are committed take effective measures against them, the ministry emphasized that sacrilege against Islam is being recognized as a religious hate action and a violation of international law by the United Nations.

Palestine

Israeli troops keep oppressing Palestinians

Israeli troops are hell-bent on oppressing Palestinians in the West Bank.

On September 24 they stormed into a refugee camp of a city on an unreasonable pretext and fired at Palestinian protesters.

As a result, two Palestinians died.

Taekwon-Do contest held as part of national championships



Scenes from a special-skill show (left) and self-defence show (right) of the Taekwon-Do event of the National Championships. RYU KWANG HYOK/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Sports games as part of the national championships took place in Sports Village in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, between September 18 and 27.

Taekwon-Do, paduk, wushu and karate competitions were played at the Taekwon-Do Hall, janggi (Korean chess) games at the Taekwon-Do Holy House and bowling games at the Pyongyang Gold Lane.

The most attractive of the games was that of Taekwon-

Do, the orthodox martial art of the Korean nation.

The Taekwon-Do event drew more than 140 excellent male and female players from 13 Taekwon-Do teams including those of Pyongyang Municipality and Kangwon, North Hwanghae and North

Phyongan provinces.

It was held, divided into pattern, sparring, self-defence, special techniques and power breaking.

Men and women players of the Pyongyang municipal Taekwon-Do team took the first place at the team pattern events by ensuring correctness, power, consistency and balance of movements. The Ryongaksan and Pyongyang municipal Taekwon-Do teams won the men's and women's events of team sparring respectively.

In individual sparring which was held, divided into weight divisions, Ri Hyok of the South Hamgyong provincial Taekwon-Do team unfolded impressive scenes based on high skills and fast speed at the men's 52kg category event and Ri Cho Won of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do team won enthusiastic applause of the spectators at the women's

67kg category event.

Tu Kum Song of the Kangwon provincial Taekwon-Do team and Sin Chung Song of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do team, who beat their rivals by dint of wider and stronger power than those of lightweights, displayed high skills, patience and fighting spirit at the over 92kg category event. Kang Chol Ok of the Pyongyang municipal Taekwon-Do team and Kim Yun Gyong of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do team showed good sportsmanship and tactics at the over 77 kg category event.

An eye-catcher was the self-defence event.

Whenever players skilfully performed movements of high degrees of difficulty as they checked the blows by mock enemies or bringing them down simultaneously and struck their rivals just after

cleverly freeing themselves from the grip of the latter and other skilful movements in succession while dodging, checking and countering blows of mock enemies who attacked with murder weapons, a storm of hand clapping arose at the auditorium.

The North Phyongan provincial Taekwon-Do team won the men's self-defence event and the Pyongyang municipal Taekwon-Do team the women's similar event as their players were rated as excellent in terms of composition, degrees of difficulty of movements, maintenance of balance, artistic quality and so on.

The special technique and power breaking events left a deep impression on the spectators as players displayed their high physical ability and strong striking power.

Autumn sports tournament of aged persons held

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The autumn sports tournament of aged persons took place at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium between September 25 and 28.

The competition was open to men above 60 and women above 55 and any amateurs who wanted to participate in it.

According to Jo Myong Guk, staffer of the Central Committee of the Korea Federation for the Care of the Aged who was one of the organizers of the tournament, the event drew more than 270 aged persons. Among them, over 200 took part in the badminton competition and over 170 applied for the table-tennis competition.

The badminton competition was held, divided into team and individual events.

The individual event was divided into categories of the aged and amateurs and the mixed category of the aged and amateurs, and the entrants played in men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles. According to the principle of formation of each pair, a male pair had to be over 140 or 128 years when the ages of the two men were put together, a female pair over 127 and a mixed pair over 130 or 118. And there were also the doubles of aged married couples.

Old people compete in a men's doubles badminton match during the autumn sports tournament of aged persons.

JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



The amateur event was divided into singles of men above 43 years and under 42, doubles of men above 43 and under 42, doubles of women above 38 and under 37 and mixed doubles of each pair whose age was above 81 and under 80 in total.

Each pair had to be above 111 years in total in the mixed event of the aged and amateurs, under 110 in the men's doubles and under 98 in the women's doubles.

The table-tennis competition was also classified into team and individual events.

In the team event, a team was assembled with the administrative district as a unit involving three men in the 60-65 age group, two men in the 66-70 age group, a man above 71 and three women above 55 to

form three men's doubles pairs, a women' doubles pair and a mixed doubles pair, and the ranking was decided according to the results of their games.

The individual event was divided into categories of each pair being above 144, above 134 and above 124 years in total.

Each match drew the gaze of spectators all the way.

Badminton and table-tennis require fast speed of the ball and no small physical burden. But aged players showed impressive scenes with amazing skills and kinesthetic sense as good as those of young people.

The spectators broke into applause whenever Ri Hyon Sok, a 70-year-old living in Sosong District, Pyongyang, and Kim Sung Ryol, a 73-year-old in Rangnang

District in the city, scored a point with a strong cross.

Thrilling scenes also unfolded at the badminton competition.

Aged players put young people in the shade as they struck back the high ball flying to a corner of the court and nimbly hit back the ball falling near the net.

Expressing their surprise at the high level of playing of the elderly players, spectators said they came to realize through the games the meaning of "The older one gets, the more vigorous he becomes".

The old players from Moranbong District beat those from Phyongchon District to win the badminton competition, and those from Mangyongdae District defeated those from Rangnang District 3-1 in the final of the table tennis event.

Folk games on Chusok

When Chusok (or Hangawi) or Harvest Moon Day came round, the Korean people got together to celebrate the holiday, playing a variety of folk games.

The most distinctive of the games was *ssirum* (Korean wrestling). That day, the sport took place on a large scale across the country with a bull as the prize.

In particular, the sport taking place in Pyongyang was famous throughout the country.

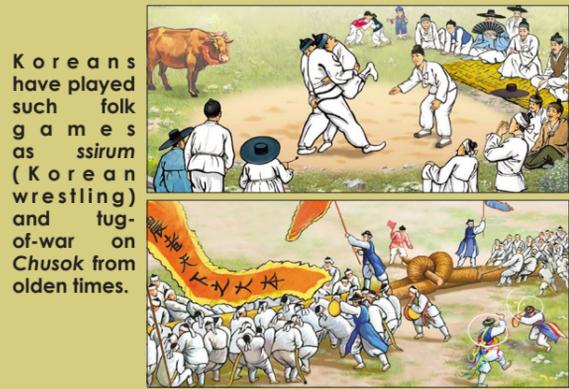
On the day swinging was popular among women while the Korean wrestling was so among men.

Women in beautiful attire also danced by forming a circle by thirties or forties, singing folk

song Kanggangsullae. And they took out what they wove to dance a weaving dance. The dance included various movements such as measuring and stroking cloth or holding it together to pull or fly it. This showed the diligent Korean women's attachment to work and their good nature.

On the day the Koreans played other folk games such as archery, *yut*-game, *janggi* (Korean chess) and tug of war, which are still carried on and developed.

Im Sung Bin, PhD, associate professor and department chief of the Folklore Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences



Koreans have played such folk games as *ssirum* (Korean wrestling) and tug-of-war on Chusok from olden times.

