

General Secretary Kim Jong Un receives Russian Foreign Minister



Both sides exchange views on important matters of mutual concern like the issue of expanding bilateral ties in all fields by joint efforts, a consensus of views is reached

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, received Sergei Lavrov, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, on a visit to the DPRK at the office building of the WPK Central Committee on October 19.

Present there were Andrei Ludenko, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un had a happy meeting with Sergei Lavrov and warmly welcomed him to the DPRK before having a talk with him in an atmosphere of comradeship.

At the meeting, Sergei Lavrov courteously conveyed the warm greetings of Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un expressed deep thanks for it and sent the warm greetings of the WPK and the government and people of the DPRK to Putin and the fraternal

Russian people.

He looked back with deep emotion on the meeting he had with Putin at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in September, leaving a remarkable trace in the history of the traditional DPRK-Russia friendship.

He expressed the steadfast stand of the WPK and the DPRK government to work out a stable, forward-looking, far-reaching plan for the DPRK-Russia relations in the new era by faithfully implementing the agreements made at the DPRK-Russia summit, and to promote the well-being of the peoples of the two countries and

push forward with the cause of building a powerful state by dint of the said plan.

Exchanged in an open-minded manner at the talk were views on such important matters of mutual concern as the issue for the two countries to actively cope with the complicated regional and international situations on the basis of their solid political and strategic trust relations and expand in a planned way the bilateral ties in all fields with joint efforts, and a consensus of views was reached.

The talk proceeded in a friendly and amicable atmosphere.

Talks held between DPRK and Russian foreign ministers



Talks are held between Korean and Russian foreign ministers in Pyongyang on October 19.

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There were talks between Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Sergei Lavrov, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, in Pyongyang on October 19.

Present there were Im Chon Il, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and other members of the ministry from the DPRK side and Andrei Ludenko, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK from the Russian side.

The talks discussed in detail the practical direction and ways for putting the state-to-state relations on a higher stage as required by the

new era and present situation and for politically and diplomatically promoting bilateral exchanges and cooperation in all fields, including economy, culture and advanced science and technology, on the basis of the agreements reached at the historic DPRK-Russia summit meeting in September 2023.

Exchanged at the talks were profound opinions for strengthening joint actions with regard to different regional and international issues, including the situation in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia, and a consensus of views was reached.

The talks were followed by the conclusion of a 2024-2025 exchange plan between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Premier Kim inspects different sectors

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

Looking round the Taean Heavy Machine Complex, Kim encouraged its workers putting more vigorous spurs to the struggle to implement the decisions of the plenary meetings of the WPK Central Committee and learned in detail about the production of major custom-built equipment.

At the construction sites

of the second-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area and a new street in the Sopho area, he called for carefully operating and commanding the projects to push ahead with the construction of each object and process without fail as scheduled.

Discussed at the on-spot consultative meetings were the matters of making relevant units fully provide equipment and materials needed for the production of the custom-built equipment and for the construction of flats in time and paying special attention to ensuring the builders' living in line with seasonal conditions, and relevant measures were

taken.

The Premier also visited the Pyongyang Construction Machinery Factory to discuss the problems arising in accelerating the planned making of the equipment in keeping with fast progress being made in the construction of flats and to take necessary measures. And at the 11th national exhibition of the university scientific research achievements and a national exhibition of university educational experimental apparatuses and teaching aids, he stressed the need to widely generalize valuable research findings and experience in sci-tech research and education.

Choe Ryong Hae inspects several units in Nampho

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Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, inspected several places in Nampho.

At the Kangso Sprayer Factory, Choe said that the factory should make a substantial contribution to implementing the Party's programme for the rural revolution by directing efforts to expanding its production capacity,

modernizing production processes and improving quality with the fighting spirit and mettle of self-reliance and thus developing and producing more sprayers with high efficiency.

At the Nampho Fishery Station, he stressed the need for the officials and employees of the station to carry out its seafood production plans without fail by upgrading fishing boats and implements and raising its fish processing capacity true to the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee.

At the Taedae Vegetable Farm in Waudu District, he mentioned about hastening the immediate threshing work

while scientifically manuring and tending autumn vegetables by nurturing the heightened enthusiasm of agricultural workers. He then went to the food administration station to call for improving the grain storage and processing capacities.

Inspecting the work of the Hanggu District People's Committee, he discussed the issues of strengthening the role of power organs in establishing the spirit of law observance throughout the society and of making deputies to the people's assemblies personify ardent patriotism and spirit of love for the people and work devotedly to serve the interests of the people.

Russian Foreign Minister visits DPRK

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At the time when the traditional DPRK-Russia relations reached a new strategic height to meet the demand of the new era, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov paid an official visit to the country on October 18-19 at the invitation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry.

DPRK Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui and ministry officials, Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, and his embassy staff members greeted Sergei Lavrov and his party. Pyongyang citizens warmly welcomed the dear friends from Russia.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, received Sergei Lavrov at the office building of the WPK Central Committee and had a talk with him in an atmosphere of comradeship on October 19.

During their stay, talks were held between the

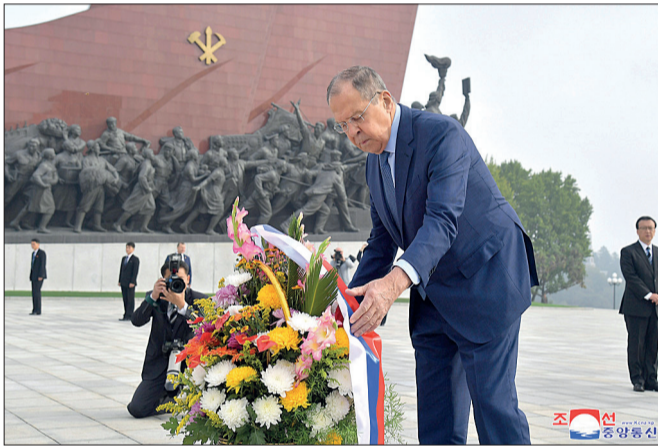
Korean and Russian foreign ministers.

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The Russian foreign minister climbed up Mansu



The Russian Foreign Minister lays a flower basket at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill on October 19.

Hill to lay a basket of flowers at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. He laid wreaths at the Liberation Tower and the cemetery of fallen Soviet soldiers in Sadong District, Pyongyang.

The DPRK government hosted a reception on the evening of October 18 to welcome the Russian foreign minister.

Present there at invitation were his entourage including

Andrei Ludenko, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Russian ambassador Alexandr Matsegora and staff members of his embassy.

Attending it were Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, Deputy Foreign Minister Im Chon Il and other members of the DPRK Foreign Ministry.

Choe Son Hui made a speech at the reception.

She, on behalf of the DPRK government, warmly welcomed Sergei Lavrov and his party on a visit to Pyongyang for friendship, solidarity, exchange and cooperation between the two countries.

She expressed the hope that satisfactory results would be achieved for expanding the comprehensive and constructive bilateral relations on a higher level and promoting the well-being of the peoples of the two countries during their current visit according to the historic agreement reached by the top leaders of the DPRK and Russia.

Then Sergei Lavrov made a speech.

Extending congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Russia and the DPRK, he said that he looked

back in humble reverence upon the exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who gave birth to the Russia-DPRK relations and made a great contribution to their development on the occasion of the significant day.

He affirmed that their current visit would be a significant occasion for achieving substantial results for the implementation of the agreement reached at the Russia-DPRK summit

The participants drank a toast to the good health of Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, and Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation.

A joint performance was given by the band of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and the State Merited Chorus.

Sergei Lavrov successfully wound up his travel itinerary and left Pyongyang on October 19.



Sergei Lavrov lays a wreath at the cemetery of fallen Soviet soldiers in Sadong District on October 19.

meeting and talks which demonstrated the will to develop the bilateral relations into comprehensive and strategic ones in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

He and his party were seen off by DPRK Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui and other ministry officials and staff members of the Russian embassy in Pyongyang and citizens of the capital city.



The DPRK government holds a banquet on October 18 to welcome the Russian Foreign Minister.



The Russian top diplomat leaves Pyongyang on October 19 after paying an official visit to the DPRK.

Definite guarantee for implementation of five-year plan

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea set the task of mainly completing the plan for readjustment and reinforcement decided by the Eighth Congress of the Party this year.

All sectors and units of the national economy are pushing ahead with the readjustment and reinforcement of production foundations, bearing in mind that a sure guarantee for implementing the five-year plan for national economic development lies in mainly completing the plan for readjustment and reinforcement decided by the Party Congress this year.

The economic policy of the WPK at present is to develop the national economy as a whole.

The Party's economic policy of putting all the economic sectors on the world level by developing them all together, achieving the independent and sustainable development of the economy and realizing the overall rejuvenation of socialism cannot be implemented apart from the readjustment and reinforcement of the overall national economy.

The best way to put the country's economy on a normal track and the stage of revitalization in the face of all obstacles and difficulties is to implement the strategy of readjustment and reinforcement. Herein lies a shortcut to ensuring the sustainable and stable development of the self-supporting economy, irrespective of whether the objective environment is favourable or unfavourable.

Only when the economic work system and order are properly rearranged, organic ties between sectors restored and readjusted, production processes further perfected and modernized and domestic production of equipment and raw and other materials is realized can substantial changes and practical progress be made in economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards in the period of the new

five-year plan for national economic development.

To readjust and reinforce the overall national economy is a strategic undertaking to be carried out at a certain stage.

All sectors and units of the national economy have perseveringly pushed readjustment and reinforcement to consolidate the material and technical foundations for the sustainable and stable development of the economy while overcoming manifold trials and difficulties for the past two years since the Eighth Congress of the Party.

In the first half of this year, in particular, different economic sectors accumulated new potentials to readjust, consolidate and develop the overall economy.

A series of progress made in those days has become a precious asset for the advance of the national economy.

To mainly complete the plan for readjustment and reinforcement within this year is related to the characteristics of the work to create new production capacities.

The new five-year strategic goals for national economic development were set with it as a prerequisite to expand the production capacities of all sectors and units of the national economy.

To increase their production capacities, all sectors and units have to undertake relevant construction projects and install production equipment.

However, even if the tasks are carried out, it does not mean production is immediately carried on at the design capacity. It requires technological refinement and the rationalization of processes, namely time.

Only then, can the strategic goals be successfully attained during the five-year plan.

Different economic sectors have arranged and commanded work in a more meticulous way by fully relying on talents and science and technology after analyzing in depth the experience and lessons gained in the first half of this year.

The crystal thenardite production line is inaugurated with due ceremony at the December 5 Youth Mine on October 15.



New chemical production line inaugurated

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The crystal thenardite production line construction project of the December 5 Youth Mine, which is of crucial importance in the establishment of an independent sodium carbonate industry, has been completed.

The completion of the Korean-style crystal thenardite production

line offered prospects for raising the proportion of self-sufficiency of basic chemical products like sodium carbonate by relying on locally-abundant glauberite.

The inaugural ceremony of the production line was held on the spot on October 15.

It was attended by Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political

Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, O Su Yong, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Chol Su, minister of Mining Industry, Kim Sung Jin, president of the State Academy of Sciences, Ri Yong Chol, chairman of the North Phyongan Provincial

People's Committee, officials concerned, builders, scientists, technicians, employees of the mine and working people in the province.

Vice-Premier Yang Sung Ho delivered an inaugural address, followed by other speeches.

After the ceremony, the participants looked round the newly built production line.

'We will modernize light industry factories in a substantial way'



Ri Song Chol, department director of the Ministry of Light Industry

The Workers' Party of Korea set it as a primary task to effect substantial changes and innovations, which bring tangible benefits to the people, in the period of the five-year plan.

The light industry sector plays an important part in carrying out the task.

And accordingly, there are important undertakings whose urgency is highlighted.

They include the technical upgrading of production processes, expansion of production capacity and building of new processes at light industry factories, which are geared to making

remarkable progress in the production of consumer goods.

It is one of the tasks assigned to the light industry sector by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea to step up the

modernization of light industry factories and build up the sector by reinforcing weak parts and processes and setting up missing ones.

The sector is now pushing ahead with the modernization of light industry by updating production processes and building new bases for the production of consumer goods in keeping with the developing reality.

In the course of this, modern bases for producing consumer goods have been built one after another, and emulating the local-industry factories of the county, which make various

consumer goods as required by the residents, many units strive to improve or build even a single process in such a way that it makes a substantial contribution to the people's living.

The Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory has recently built a large-scale institute, with a view to raising the quality of "Pomhyanggi" cosmetics to the world level.

The institute, which has 10-odd basic research rooms and several analytical laboratories, plays a pivotal and core role in developing the factory into a technology-intensive, high-tech enterprise where science, technology, production and sales are integrated.

When you look round the institute provided with all conditions and environment for research as well as analytical and experimental facilities, you will know about how much workers of the factory are aware of their duty as those shouldering the development of the country's cosmetics industry.

The experience gained in such modernization work is exchanged with each other and the work to overtake and learn from each other is actively under way.

It is also important in modernizing light industry to steadily improve the producers' level of scientific and technological knowledge and their technical skills.

Recently, the Kyongsong Ceramic Factory has effectively pushed ahead with the readjustment and reinforcement of the foundation for production by dint of science and technology.

The factory is encouraging many employees to take an active part in solving technical problems arising in the process of modernization.

In the course of this, many valuable inventions have been made by producers, making the technical updating of production processes substantial.

This shows that the key to achieving a sure success in all work lies in firmly relying on talents and science and technology.

The Ministry of Light Industry will, in the future, too, bring about a decisive turn in the production of consumer goods by modernizing production processes substantially so as to make the people practically benefit from them.

To optimize production and management activities

By Yun Kyong Il PT

These days, the Kwangbok Kumgangsán Foodstuff Factory in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is drawing public attention.

Because though only a few years have passed since it was inaugurated, the factory has modernized all its production processes and produces products favoured by local residents.

Rim Son Hye, manageress of the factory, said, "The secret of success is the optimization of production and management activities."

Modernization to suit actual conditions

The factory now produces more than 100 articles of foodstuffs in six kinds including instant noodles, bread, biscuits and drinks.

The factory produced only several kinds of instant noodles at first. Last year, however, it decided to

increase the kind and variety of products including bread and biscuits and made relevant preparations. But there was a difficulty.

According to the manageress, the factory was located in the middle of the residential district and its area was limited, not big enough to accommodate huge pieces of equipment.

"We decided to modernize the production processes to suit the actual conditions of the factory," she recalled.

The factory decided to make and install small and highly productive pieces of equipment in contact with relevant units to suit its actual conditions instead of imitating huge ones of similar factories under the central authority.

For example, it made small-size bread production facilities, including multistage oven for baking bread, while designing them to be identical to huge ones in structure and mechanical characteristics, thus making it possible to reduce investment and power consumption.

It thus ensured the domestic production of many facilities for the production processes of instant noodles, bread, biscuit and drinks and all its production processes won food safety management system certificates.

Meanwhile, the factory is directing primary efforts to improving the quality of products.

It makes it a routine to hold a monthly prize sci-tech contest to be attended by everybody from the manageress to newcomers.

All workteams are encouraged to propose new inventions for improving the quality of products they produce in conformity with their own characteristics and the selected of the proposals are introduced in trial production. Then the products are analyzed in comparison with those from other units by indices in the analytical laboratory and those better in taste and higher in nutritive value than the latter are immediately introduced into production.

Beef-flavoured instant noodles, bread and biscuits produced by the factory are favourably commented upon by people for their quite good taste and quality.

Digital management method

The products of the factory are packaged in different sizes from 30 to 500 grams even though they are of the same kind and their output is not fixed.

One day, the manageress visited a shop to see a woman buy her little child a loaf of bread bearing the trademark of the factory.

As she looked at the child to observe his response, she detected a problem.

The child could hardly eat even half of the bread.

It was tasty, but it was too much for the child to eat.

Then she realized that even a quality product inevitably loses its competitiveness if

it is produced monotonously without scientific calculation, the manageress recalled.

Afterwards, she buckled down to fixing afresh the net weight of the factory's products as a whole.

For example, they analysed in detail the amounts of consumption according to different ages and constitutions to obtain reasonable values and thus decided to package instant noodles in 80- and 100-gram vinyl packets or foamed plastic bowls, yeast bread in 70-, 300- and 500-gram vinyl packets, table bread in 350- and 500-gram ones and sponge cake in 180-, 240- and 400-gram ones.

And the daily output of the factory was accurately calculated by taking into account various factors such as the composition of consumers and their daily consumption and applied to practice, for example, foodstuffs to be packed in 70- and 500-gram vinyl bags are produced by 25% and 40% of the total production respectively.

Besides, the factory numerically put together such factors for foodstuff production as raw materials, labour, equipment and consumption to find out latent reserves for lowering the cost.

As a result, foodstuffs were packaged in various forms to meet the demand of consumers, making it possible to markedly reduce the cost.

This made the employees to realize again that numbers just mean reserves for increased production. Now they are developing a habit of thinking in a scientific and creative way in making even a single product.

Functional bedclothes in great demand



Employees of the Manbok Joint Venture Company have a discussion to improve the quality of functional quilts. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

The Manbok Joint Venture Company has already been well known to the local people for the production of quilts suited to the liking and aesthetic tastes of the Korean people.

The company now enjoys growing popularity again with the production of functional bedclothes.

"The choice of right materials for bedclothes according to seasons is very important for improving the health of people. Our company produces bedclothes that are good for health from famous Korean silk, cotton, soft feathers and others," says Hwang Kum Hyang, director of the company.

For example, it manufactures dozens of kinds of quilts.

"Silk and cool quilts are most popular in midsummer season," says Pak Jong Ae, a company official.

Generally, silk is called the queen of fibres as it is lighter, more elegant in

colour and softer to touch than other fabrics.

Korean silk was famous for its beauty. From olden times the Koreans have made various kinds of goods such as clothes, quilts and scarves with silk and used them in their life.

The company makes silk quilts with silk cloth in sober and soft colours and cotton and silk cotton to meet modern aesthetic taste while preserving national traditions.

They make users feel cool and refreshed in summer and warm and mild in winter. They are strong in containing bacteria, effective for the treatment of various kinds of skin diseases and illnesses resulting from body chill and good for health as they have also a soft massaging effect.

According to the manufacturers, the cool quilts have been produced from cloths and cotton which are made by mixing bamboo extract.

They smell sweetly of bamboo and produce anion. As they are cool and well absorb sweat and moisture from the body, they keep the skin soft and smooth and help users sleep well.

Quilts made from goose, duck and other birds' down and camel hair are also in great demand.

Now, many people visit the company to order the designs and shapes of quilt covers and the upper strips on the outside of quilts and even the colours and quality of lining and raw materials.]

Various kinds of "Manbok"(all blessings)-brand bedclothes, such as quilts, pillows, bedcovers and wrapper of quilts, were highly appreciated at several exhibitions held this year.

"The name of the company 'Manbok' reflects the wishes of our manufacturers for happy life of all people," say the company employees.



The Kwangbok Kumgangsán Foodstuff Factory produces nutritious ramen noodles. JO RYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Experience sharing helps improve quality of consumer goods

By Kim Il Jin PT

The DPRK has been organizing different exhibitions of consumer goods on several occasions this year after setting the production of consumer goods as one of the most urgent economic tasks for the year.

So far, there have taken place the Spring National Commodity Exhibition-2023, Spring Women's Clothes Show-2023, Spring National Footwear Exhibition-2023 and August 3 National Consumer Goods Exhibition-2023 in Pyongyang.

All of them presented

important opportunities for sharing experience to improve the quality of consumer goods.

"Many production units regard such exhibitions as a good occasion for advance and leap forward and take an active part in them, promoting sci-tech exchanges and experience sharing," said an official of the Ministry of Light Industry.

During the shows, technicians and workers from the participating units shared successes and experience achieved and obtained in improving quality, lowering production costs, developing new products, ensuring domestic

production of raw materials and recycling in order to develop their products into famous ones favoured by the people.

All participants in each exhibition said that they were very glad as they actively spread goods of Korean style meeting the development trend of consumer goods and the modern aesthetic tastes and shared and exchanged advanced techniques of designing and processing.

During the Spring Women's Clothes Show-2023 alone, lots of garment producers visited booths of different garment factories which presented new and

distinctive clothes designs and plans to exchange technologies and share experience in order to develop better clothes.

The exhibitions were also characterized by the sharpening of competitive edge of all exhibiting units in Pyongyang and the provinces.

The units participating in the Spring National Commodity Exhibition-2023 held simultaneously at five commercial service units in Pyongyang unlike the previous event nearly doubled as compared to previously and it brought together over 3 660 kinds of goods including industrial

goods, foodstuffs, household appliances and electronic products. Most consumer goods producers and commercial service units displayed their goods at more than two department stores.

"Through such an exhibition we get some fresh ideas for developing popular goods badly needed in practice. We are now devoting our wisdom and energy to developing new products, always giving priority to the people's demands," said Kim Phil Song, senior engineer of the Unha Daesong Foodstuff Factory, after being awarded a top prize at the exhibition.

All the producers participating in such exhibitions make up their mind to be responsive to the demand of the developing reality and produce better goods before the people demand them.

Success achieved in agricultural science research

By Kim Il Jin PT

The State Academy of Sciences is doing a good job by concentrating efforts on research into agricultural science.

The phased goals of putting agricultural production on the track of stable and sustainable growth were attained and progress was made in solving technical problems to contribute to realizing agricultural irrigation, mechanization of farm work and comprehensive application of chemicals in agriculture.

The State Academy of Sciences, through intensified joint research, brought about research findings conducive

to increasing the grain production area.

Scientists and researchers established a geographic information technology-based method of selecting right soil for double cropping, thus making it possible to scientifically cultivate preceding crops including wheat and barley.

And they expanded the natural bioactivator production facility which can produce dozens of times more than last year and produced and sent large amounts of bioactivators to farms across the country.

A preceding crop ripening stimulant for wheat and barley as preceding crops as well as for maize developed by the nano-engineering branch of the State Academy

of Sciences proves effective in practice.

Hwang Yong Il, manager of the Pyongyang nano products station, said that the stimulant developed by the branch speeds up the ripening of cereal crops by promoting their growth and it has been introduced and proved effective in several units in the past some years.

The branch established a mass production process so as to make the stimulant practically effective in cultivating preceding crops first and successfully produced and supplied it as much as it is needed across the country until mid-May.

Thus it was effectively used in shortening the ripening period of wheat and barley, increasing a

thousand-grain weight of the crops and decreasing their moisture content to prevent their decay and degeneration, thus contributing to successfully concluding the farming of the preceding crops.

And the academy accelerated the development, introduction and production of highly efficient nano correction water and slow-acting fertilizer to help increase the per-hectare yield.

The Ferrous Mining Research Institute of the academy researched and made facilities effective in storing grain and introduced them into reality.

Grain is stored mainly in silos and if it contains much moisture and many impurities, it is easily

degenerated.

That is why it is important in keeping grain to carefully select and dry it.

The research institute conceived the idea of a new inertial oscillation-type grading machine after studying and analysing the principle of the process for selecting grain and separating impurities from the grain, and intensified relevant research.

They also intensified research for making a vertical dryer to provide a sci-tech guarantee for storing grain more safely.

The facilities made by the institute cost low and is easy to manage and operate and thus they are favourably commented upon by the units that use them.

Meanwhile, scientists and technicians of the academy dispatched to the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and Hungnam Fertilizer Complex solved sci-tech problems arising in normalizing the operation of equipment to lay a foundation for increasing fertilizer production while saving raw materials.

In addition, the academy has put forward many plans for helping farm machine factories accelerate their modernization and improve precision in processing parts and innovative technical plans needed for the readjustment and reinforcement of irrigation structures for preventing damage from drought and inundation.

NEW APP DEVELOPED



Researchers hold a discussion on a new facial recognition app at the IT Institute of the High-Tech Research & Development Centre of Kim Il Sung University. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By To Kyong Chol PT

The IT Institute of the High-Tech Research & Development Centre of Kim Il Sung University developed the face recognition development library Ryongnamsan 1.0.

The face recognition technology is widely in use as it is more convenient and has a wider application as compared to other bio-recognition technologies.

Ryongnamsan 1.0 provides libraries, source codes and technical documents so that programs to which facial recognition is applied can be developed easily and quickly on the devices using Android OS such as smartphones, tablet PCs and intelligent robots.

“Our product based on world-class technologies has incomparably superior functions than other open source codes and products, with all technical

specifications fully satisfying the requirements of different platforms,” said lead developer and section chief Kwak Hyok.

According to him, it facilitates user authorization based on face recognition in apps for mobile phones including logging into e-payment systems.

Its primary merit is that it is offered to all developers and enterprises gratis. Users have free access to libraries, documents and source codes stored in the SDKs for developers without any restriction and therefore developers and enterprises bear no financial burden in applying the face recognition function to their own products.

Another merit is that as it lowered the threshold for face recognition application, it enables users to quickly understand how to use it, shorten the development period and accelerate the marketing of their products.

To this end, it provides three types of SDKs for experts, beginners and face identification, so that not only experienced developers but also beginners can easily develop face recognition products.

The developers applied their product to the Manmulsang e-payment system, one of the leading digital economic platforms in the country, and started its operation, in collaboration with the Yonphung Commercial IT Company.

Manmulsang e-payment app 1.1 installed with Ryongnamsan 1.0 remarkably improved the convenience and security for users by ensuring quick and correct authorization by dint of face recognition in users’ login and payment. And it saves users from remembering or changing passwords or typing passwords on their mobile phone keyboards.

The face recognition feature embedded in the Manmulsang app has been already used by a large number of people and the number of users is on the steady rise.

According to the lead developer, electronics products development companies can develop various products with the help of the face recognition SDK, including attendance and leaving register, passage controller, ID card reader, payment machine and automatic gate.

The face recognition technology can also be applied to traffic, tourism, education, public health, construction and many other fields to put them on a digital and intelligent basis.

The development and wide use of Ryongnamsan 1.0 will ensure a wider application of AI technology into real life and contribute to enhancing the informatization level of social life.

Cost-effective gauge developed to improve metal analysis

By Kil Chung Il PT

The analysis apparatus research institute of the Metal Engineering Faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology has developed and applied into practice an atomic emission spectrometer capable of making an accurate and rapid analysis of the contents of various elements in ferrous and nonferrous metallic materials.

“The atomic emission spectrometer using concave diffraction grating is widely used around the world as it has a short analyzing time and high accuracy and yet costs much less than other metal analysis tools. Recently, in the DPRK, research projects were conducted to develop an atomic emission spectrometer with local efforts,” said Ri Won Gil, section chief of the institute.

The scientists of the institute set a goal of developing an atomic emission spectrometer of a Korean style and intensively studied a large number of documents and repeatedly conducted computer

simulations and experiments. As a result, they designed and built the concave diffraction grating spectrometer.

They also made a filtering device to improve analytical precision according to the actual condition of the country, confirmed the optimal analysis conditions for different qualities of metallic materials and developed the corresponding sensor driving circuit and driver program.

In the final stage of the development of the gauge, they set up the methods of analyzing various alloy materials and created a program that can control the device and display and store the analysis results.

The new spectrometer does not need any reagents that were used in previous chemical analysis methods. Through its introduction into different sectors of the national economy, the device, which costs much less than similar ones imported from other countries, was scientifically confirmed to be on a par with most advanced ones in terms of technical specifications.



Researchers discuss ways to upgrade the atomic emission spectrometer at the analysis apparatus research institute of the Metal Engineering Faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Distance education and intelligent workers

By Pang Un Ju PT

The distance education system, which runs on a nationwide scale in the DPRK, plays a big role in training broad sections of working people to be intelligent workers.

According to the noble intention of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to train all the working people to be intelligent workers possessed of modern science and technology, a well-regulated online education system was established as a study-while-you-work system for all the people and bases for the diffusion of science and technology were built across the DPRK in order to enable working people to acquire sci-tech knowledge to their heart's content, and the law on distance education was adopted to guarantee it by law.

At present many working people are involved in the system to acquire sci-tech knowledge and make a big contribution to the development of their units.

Over 131 000 working people are now studying under the system across the country.

Officials in the education sector work hard to develop the higher education system of studying while working in conformity with the requirements of the age of knowledge-

based economy.

The universities running the online education system have pushed ahead with the work to make teaching contents practical, comprehensive and up-to-date in the direction of bringing the contents closer to the practical requirements of the production sites, while continuously increasing the number of study subjects of distance education.

They have also updated the online education system while developing and introducing an intelligent education management system and made remarkable progress in putting the education on a scientific and practical basis.

Agricultural universities that established a distance education system this year have produced hundreds of online education presentations for each course and subject and distance education faculties of different universities have made steady efforts to raise their educational level.

The online education of the DPRK which has emerged as a powerful means for all-people study according to the plan and under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea makes rapid progress day by day to turn working people into intelligent workers.



By Ryom Un Gyong PT

Kim Chaek University of Technology has developed and applied a number of distance education methods to improve the quality of the education.

"Our online education faculty has updated distance education curriculums for general basic subjects, special basic subjects and special subjects and the teaching plans of dozens of subjects and developed and introduced practical, comprehensive and up-to-date teaching methods to enable working people

Online education methods helpful to enhancing cognitive effects

to practically use them at production sites," said section chief Kim Jang Hak.

For example, the teaching plan on the subject of survey machine instrument is designed in the style of a lecturer explaining the principles of a surveying instrument, which is often used in the field, while surveying a target in virtual reality, and having a discussion with students.

In addition, more than 10 online education plans including the physics teaching plan combined with basic education and the analytical chemistry

combining lecture and experiment have been drawn up in a popular style and therefore they are easy to understand.

Unlike in the past when all students were taught the same subjects in the same online course, the lecturers subdivided the subjects to be taught in the course so that students can choose and study the subjects they regard as necessary in their production activities.

They also worked out an online education plan of hypermedia type and created and applied teaching and learning methods capable of giving

interactive lectures, so that working people involved in the online education system can solve sci-tech problems arising in the field by making an immediate use of what they learned.

The teaching method for improving students' conceiving and design abilities and the mode of lecture using the augmented reality technology are also helpful to heightening students' cognitive effects.

Meanwhile, the faculty offers online continuous education to economic officials through the Risang (ideal) website.



The online education faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology runs an online refresher course through its website Risang. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Worker-students at the forefront of technical innovation drive



Workers of the Pyongyang Construction Machine Factory, who are enrolled in the online education courses, pool efforts to solve technical problems arising in production. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

There are many students among the employees of the Pyongyang Construction Machine Factory who are enrolled in the study-while-you-work system to acquire profound knowledge.

In recent years alone, dozens of students of the factory who study at the distance education faculties of Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering and Pyongyang University of Architecture have presented several valuable new technical innovation plans.

Kang Kum Chol, a worker at the sheet metal processing workshop, entered the online education faculty of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering two years ago. He worked hard to learn practical knowledge and apply what he learned at

the lectures to practice in the workplace.

It happened when the workshop manufactured elevating boxes.

In the past, it needed two workers for fixing the steel plate and even a welder to make the elevating box.

Kang carefully scrutinized the work process and groped for a way to get maximum profit, and finally conceived of a jig for the assembly and welding of the box floor setting frame.

When the control device of the medium frequency induction furnace broke, Ri Nam Gun, casting workshop manager who receives online education at Kim Chaek University of Technology, made a new control device in collaboration with technicians of the scientific research institutions. Kim Nam Chol, a worker at the casting workshop, is also student at the same university. He invented a

novel idea to remove gas which is produced during the injection of molten iron when castings are produced.

Their inventions and technical innovation plans are characterized by original ideas and simple principles.

For example, Ri Son Gwon of the melting workshop, who is also enrolled at the online education course of a university, invented an automatic water level circuit breaker for normal operation of the medium-frequency induction furnace by using the buoyancy of water to prevent accidents and waste of water.

"It is the advantage of the study-while-you-work system," said Son Gwon.

As the worker-students take the lead in technical innovation, many production processes have been streamlined to boost the production at the factory day by day and the employees feel growing enthusiasm for learning.



Bureau concentrates on strengthening the foundation of medical appliances industry



The Myohyangsan Medical Appliances Factory turns out a variety of medical appliances. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Pang Un Ju PT

The Medical Appliances Industry Management Bureau of the Ministry of Public Health has pushed ahead with technical innovation with a high goal for carrying out its plan.

The Myohyangsan Medical

Appliances Factory, at which General Secretary Kim Jong Un gave field guidance for the remodelling and updating project in 2020, is now producing medical appliances including universal dentist's chair, otorhinolaryngological treatment equipment,

ultraviolet sterilizer, defibrillator, etc. by its own effort.

The bed branch plant of the factory turns out different types of beds for the convenience of patients.

The Pyongyang Electronic Medical Appliances Factory produces many medical

appliances while boosting cooperation with scientific research institutions.

It has developed portable and household medical appliances to promote the convenience of users while channelling primary efforts into the immediate production of medical appliances, thus

manufacturing different treatment appliances based on biological resonance and calefaction whose effect has clearly been proved in clinical practice.

It also succeeded in making medical appliances which are applicable in such Koryo therapies as moxibustion and

acupuncture.

Efforts are being made in the medical appliances industry sector to develop and introduce new technologies such as the introduction of

domestic PP resin in place of stainless steel and the resin lamination technique based on the 3D printing technology.

Broccoli invigorating drink good for health

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The physical strength-promoting products station develops and produces a drink that helps quench thirst and supplies nutrients and energy to make up for those consumed during mental and physical activities.

It is a natural mixed fermented beverage made by mixing broccoli, one of 10 world health vegetables, and laver, carrot, mushroom and potato good for health and fermenting the mixture with lactic acid to produce immediate pharmacological effects.

According to experts, if a man fails to take necessary vegetables on a scientific basis every day, it makes him unable to supplement his dietary fibre and liable to illnesses including night blindness and respiratory infection and affects his eyesight, skin and mucosae. In particular, it prevents children from growing in stature.

The developers of the drink say,



Drinking vegetable

“Broccoli contains 20 times more vitamins than ordinary vegetables. The drink made with it as the main ingredient is very good for the protection of the intestinal flora, nutritive enrichment, termination of indigestion, juvenile skeletogeny and relief from stress, as it contains

lactic acid, bifid and other bacteria favourable for human health.”

The drink prevents obesity, promotes digestion, relieves constipation and improves immunity.

In particular, the children, who

are reluctant to eat vegetables and have an unbalanced diet, reportedly come to have a balanced diet with an improved digestive system and have good memory shortly after taking the drink.

It is also much favoured by the women who care about their weight.

It is now chosen as an ideal drink as it contains plenty of nutrients and medicinal substances and has an uncommon flavour like milk taste.

It is light green in colour.

The art squad of the youth league central committee conducts artistic motivational activities at the construction site of a new street in the Sopho area. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Young artistes awaited by young builders

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

The construction site of a new street in the Sopho area of Pyongyang is seething with young people who are entrusted with the construction project as a whole.

The construction site is always enlivened by performances given by members of artistic motivational teams from across the country.

What the young builders are most eager to see is the performance given by the central youth artistic motivational team.

The builders say that the

team's performance is always entertaining as it is full of optimism and varies in theme.

Especially, their witticisms are always popular as they depict details of life at the construction site in an interesting and meaningful way.

The creators of the team created works, inspired by the way shock brigade members spent even their leisure time finding good things to do. The works are acclaimed by the audience for their individualistic depicting of characters and witty dramaturgy.

Male and female vocal soloists do even three

encores as they touch the heartstrings of the builders with unique voices and fresh representation.

Pak Min Hye, a talented female vocal soloist of the team, said, "Whenever the builders cheer and call for my encore as if they want to encourage me, I feel joy and pride as a soloist. In my childhood I dreamed of singing in fine attire on the stage of a theatre with an auditorium of hundreds of seats and under flickering illumination. But whenever the builders waved to and applauded me from the high-rise apartment houses, I realized again the weight of each song I sang."

There is a song about an old couple on a visit to their daughter's home in Pyongyang, which was composed decades ago. The couple see with wonder at the changed appearance of the city where apartment houses mushroomed here and there and say that all people smile thanks to the benevolence of the Party.

The song rendered by a male quartet of the Mansudae Art Troupe at the time is still popular among people as wonderful new streets appear one after another and people move into new houses, enlivening the whole country.

A harmonica quartet of the team plays the music of the song, winning great popularity.

Many pieces of music performed by the team are mosso and throbbing in rhythm. To the tune of their music, the speed of the builders' shovelling and steps grows fast and the construction site seethes with great enthusiasm and thus the builders carry out their tasks at one go.

The members of the team give a performance several times a day, but this is not an easy job.

They have to prepare scripts and numbers to suit different

venues for performance and practise through the night and give performances here and there in a day.

But they say they are satisfied if their singing encourages the builders and makes a contribution to the construction of the new street.

Kim Tong Uk, head of the team, said, "We will continue to give stirring performances so as to help the builders perform greater feats at the house construction site in the capital than the young people of preceding generations who dedicated their patriotic sweat and conscience everywhere across the country."

Teacher and his students volunteer for housing project

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

The construction site of a new street in Pyongyang is alive with activities of young men and women as the project is undertaken by them. Among them are seen those who studied in the same class and volunteered for the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade after graduating from middle school. Surprising is the fact that their teacher has also come and work with them.

It is said that two years ago graduates of a senior middle school in Tonghungsan District of Hamhung City got together and discussed their jobs after graduation for a few days.

It is the trend of the times that many young people find jobs in the most challenging sectors to which the Workers' Party of Korea calls to repay the trust and love shown by the Party that regards young people as reliable builders of a thriving country. They wanted to keep pace with it. So they finally made up their mind to volunteer for the construction site of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang.

"Seeing the excited students in high spirits at the time, I felt proud of the new generation. And the more trustworthiness and admirable they looked, the more intensely I felt an urge to go together with them. Because I wanted to help them, though little, who would

take the first proud step for the country and to serve as the roots that support them," said Choe Kun Chol.

Their teacher's decision encouraged the students and all the class volunteered as builders.

Among them was a classmate who lived with a sick mother.

School officials, his teacher and friends advised him to look after his mother in place of his elder brother serving the army. But his mother supported his son, saying she only wishes he would always take the lead in the efforts for the country.

As a result, all the class members and its teacher Choe Kun Chol left for the construction site in Pyongyang.

The High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade paid special attention to their life and meticulously guided them to acquire construction skills.

Under the warm trust and care, they became accustomed to the life of shock brigade and learned how to create something with their efforts.

Now they perform feats at the construction site of the new street in the Sopho area after finishing the first-stage construction of 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area.

"It is the strong viewpoint and standard of them that they, group volunteers, should lead others in all things," said Jang Kum Song, a deputy workteam leader of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade.

Devoting whole life to design of monumental structures

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

There is an old saying: "An old man lives in memory," said Ko Pu Ung, an adviser at the National Design Administration who is DPRK Labour Hero and Merited Designer. "Whenever I look at the Mansudae Art Theatre and the Grand People's Study House on my way to work every morning, I relive my youth in spite of myself."

Turning 81 this year, he is a meritorious designer who devoted his whole life to the design of monumental edifices in the country.

He has so far designed the Mansudae Art Theatre, Grand People's Study House, Pyongyang Acrobatic Theatre, Ice Rink, Hyangsan Hotel and other large and small buildings, several hundred in total.

"Ko Pu Ung is a passionate man who works hard to produce a good design which would be flawless even in the distant future," said Kim Hak Chol, section chief of the Pyongyang Urban Planning Institute.

Ko had lived in Japan before returning to the homeland in 1960. And he graduated from Pyongyang University of Architecture and became a designer of the Pyongyang Urban Planning Institute as he desired.

He was assigned the task of designing the Mansudae Art Theatre to be built in the heart of Pyongyang.

Feeling proud of being one of lead designers of an important national

project, he drew every line and point in the design of his part with great care to make it look modern and more gorgeous than the theatres built earlier.

He burned the midnight oil for several days to finish the design, but his design was bitterly criticized by the old designers and jury members.

"That day I was full of remorse for what I had done and so could not sleep all night. I keenly realized that I could produce nothing new without knowing the thoughts and feelings of the people and the spirit of the times," said Ko Pu Ung.

But he thought that if he quit, it would be ungrateful to the country which took care of him in its warm embrace and did him every favour and be as good as betraying the trust of the university lecturers and friends who showed him brotherly affection. So, he resumed the design from the beginning with redoubled efforts.

He put his heart and soul into the design of every detail from the roof to show the racing pulse of the country and national flavour.

At last, the design of the Mansudae Art Theatre was completed and the theatre was built splendidly.

Chairman Kim Jong Il examined the design of the theatre several times, looked round the completed Mansudae Art Theatre and praised the successful construction.

Since then, Ko Pu Ung has produced excellent designs of major



Ko Pu Ung

projects of the country.

He had worked for a long time as chief engineer of the Pyongyang Urban Planning Institute, through senior engineer and assistant chief engineer, and now has become an authority in the field of design.

"Ko Pu Ung always says to young designers that we, designers, should work hard to express their love for the country even in one point or line of the design first and write their CVs with proud creations of their own on the land of the country," said Kim Hak Chol.

In recognition of his distinguished contributions to the design of monumental structures, the country invited him to national meetings, provided a modern house in Haebangsan-dong, and sent a birthday spread to and conferred the title of Labour Hero on him on his 70th birthday.



Distinctive indoor greening

The indoor garden of the Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kil Chung Il PT

The Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople is well known not only for its tasty and distinctive foods but for its green environment.

The green indoor spaces of the factory's cultural and welfare facilities draw the admiration of visitors.

Leaf ornamental plants including a banana tree boasting large and thick foliage and appetizing fruits remind viewers of the plant museum of the Central Botanical Garden and as they

go so well with a water wheel and pavilion of strong national colouring and an artificial hills, ponds and waterfalls are so nice, you will feel like looking at a beautiful picture.

The employees of the factory say they feel refreshed and invigorated at the sight of fresh plants in hot midsummer.

Kim Un Ok, gardener of the factory, said there are more than 100 plants of over 10 species growing inside the factory.

The indoor greening, a pride of the factory, was by no means an easy job, she noted.

According to her, the

factory planned and pushed a project for uniquely decorating the interior with ornamental plants, and it took much effort to breed and cultivate them and she encountered considerable difficulties.

It was especially hard to provide the different species of the living things with different ecological conditions they required, including temperature and humidity.

She visited lots of eminent gardeners, researchers and plant enthusiasts and pored through reference books to

find solutions and sweated to apply nutritive liquid to the plants.

"I did not do all those things alone. Officials and other employees of the factory pooled their efforts to solve various problems arising in indoor greening and as a result such a nice environment as now was created," Kim said.

Employees are unanimous in saying that the varied living environment bring them huge benefits.

According to them, air is always clear and good for health thanks to the plants

with air clearing abilities and the plants also help adjust indoor temperature to save energy resources and yield other big profits in business activities.

Han Song Sim, an employee, said: "When I come to our factory, I feel refreshed. The fresh green leaves seem to make me young. I am proud of my workplace where I can feel such emotion and attachment."

The cultural and distinctive environment of the factory also helps workers produce distinctive products favoured

by people.

Consumers of their products say the goods are unique in taste, colour, brand and packaging and, as to this, employees say that as the factory environment is unique, their ideas seem to be unique, too.

A resident of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, who is a regular buyer of its foods, said she picks the products of the Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople at the thought that its products might be better in quality and safety since it is modern and has a cultured environment.

Popular novels out of print

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

Printed books still retain their appeal.

"To old people like me, reading a paper book is a course of appreciating culture. Printed books give us unique pleasure as they enable us to immerse ourselves in such an atmosphere and ruminate on their contents every now and then," said Jon Kyong Ran living in Hungbu-dong of Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

The Art and Literature Publishing House publishes many books to meet the growing demand for printed books.

It brought out a collection of short stories *Great Devotion* on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the DPRK (September 9).

"There are more facts unknown than those known to the public about the devoted efforts of President

Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who dedicated their whole life to the good of the people and about the great dedication of General Secretary Kim Jong Un. Unable to suppress an impulse to tell about such stories to people, I have edited the collection," said Kim Kwang Song, department head of the publishing house.

According to readers, the collection of 12 short stories makes a deep impression on them as it shows the world of burning love for the people of the great leaders and the General Secretary.

A full-length novel *Red Soul* also wins popularity among readers. It portrays the struggle of underground political workers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army who worked with Mt Madu as their base true to the all-people resistance idea for national liberation of General Kim Il Sung in the first half of

the 1940s.

It grippingly depicts the course of confrontation between the underground political workers of the KPRA and head of a Japanese criminal affairs division dispatched by the government-general of Korea. Under the skilful command of the hero of the novel, members of the underground organization defeat the Japanese imperialists.

The other full-length novel *Green Hill* shows the struggle of unconverted long-term prisoner Ri Yong Gak, inspiring people to reconsider the meaning of faith.

In the novel, its author writes about faith as follows:

"If you have a spiritual mainstay to rely on, you can steadily go along the road of revolution without vacillation in the face of any difficulties, but if not, you will easily succumb to difficulties with

no hope for the future.

"The unconverted long-term prisoners could have avoided the suffering of prison life if they said they would recant, but they followed the only road of holding in high esteem the Sun of destiny and faith for decades."

Full-length historical novel *Dawn of Koguryo* (Parts 1 and 2) has also been read by many. It describes the struggle of the people of Koguryo (277 BC- AD 668), which was known as a medieval power in the East for nearly a thousand years, who

turned out in the fight against foreign aggression to defend their national dignity and sovereignty in the opening years of the kingdom.

In addition, the Art and Literature Publishing House brought out dozens of other interesting books this year.



Some of the recent publications of the Art and Literature Publishing House.

Young people of DPRK, Russia get together through exchange of video

KCNA

A friendly gathering of young people took place at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang on October 17 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Russian Federation.

Present there were Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, and youth league and other relevant officials.

The meeting was held

by way of watching congratulatory videos which were exchanged between the SPYL Central Committee and the National Council of the Russian Association of Youth and Children.

Through the video, Mun Chol extended warm congratulations to the Russian youth organizations and young people on the occasion of the anniversary and offered full support and solidarity to the just struggle of the Russian young and other people for building a powerful state and

defending the sovereignty and security of the country in the name of the Korean youth.

Grigory Petushkov, chairman of the National Council of the Russian Association of Youth and Children, stressed the importance of duty and role of young people in the development of bilateral relations, saying that the Russia-DPRK summit meeting was a landmark event which injected fresh vitality into the ties of friendship.

The Russian youth will stand together with the Korean counterpart on the road for realizing international justice, he said, wishing the Korean people peace, progress and prosperity.

The friendly get-together served as a significant occasion in deepening friendly feelings between the young peoples of the two countries who are determined to firmly carry on the tradition of good neighbourliness and friendship, true to the noble intentions of top leaders of the two countries.



A friendly gathering of young people is held to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the DPRK-Russia diplomatic relations at the Sci-Tech Complex on October 17.

'We will fulfil our responsibility in construction of new street'



Ri Il Gon
Chief of staff of the Pyongyang Construction Commission

At the historic Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the WPK set it as the kernel of its construction policy to turn the country into the one which would be the first to solve the housing problem.

The construction of 10 000 flats on Songhwa Street, the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District and houses for the first-stage housing project on Hwasong Street which changed the Hwasong area with another construction miracle and in the Taephyong area has completed, and the construction of flats for the second-stage housing project

of Hwasong Street and a new street in the Sopho area begun in succession in recent years, changing the looks of the capital city of Pyongyang.

The construction of dwelling houses for the people is progressing apace on a nationwide scale, including posh houses in the City of Samjyon built as a model of mountainous city of culture and the Komdok area to be built as a city in the mountain gorge, and modern farmhouses being erected in rural villages across the country along with the new era of socialist rural development.

The great successes in the gigantic construction projects now give great pleasure to the people.

These projects have been undertaken, not because the country has favourable conditions and enough money for them.

We are short of many things and faced with manifold difficulties.

But we work hard despite these difficulties and hardships because our Party's policies, which put forward the construction of houses for the people as the top priority task and spares no investment even in the face of enormous economic losses, are for the

good of ordinary people like me.

We will achieve the construction targets for this year without fail.

Over the past three years officials, designers and builders in the construction sector have broadened their horizon and insight and improved technical knowledge and skills, while further enhancing pride in our own strength and style and self-confidence that we are able to attain all our ideals.

Not only our builders but also units in charge of supplying materials needed for construction are waging a dynamic increased production drive.

We will build new streets more wonderfully and in a more fashionable style on this land where the people's ideals are translated into reality.

Risky military attempts of Japan, war state

KCNA

Japan has now completely removed the bothersome mask of "exclusive defense".

On October 10, the Japanese defense minister said that his country would advance the period of deployment of long-range missiles for the possession of "capability for attacking enemy bases" to directly strike the DPRK, China and other neighbouring countries.

Earlier on October 5, he visited the US and begged it to deliver the US-made long-range cruise missile Tomahawk one year earlier than scheduled.

It shows that Japan's military moves towards overseas reinvasion have reached a very grave phase.

As is well known, the Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" have already exceeded the demand for "exclusive defense" long ago.

The war expenditure rising to a record high every year, the introduction of ultra-modern military hardware for attack including aircraft carrier and latest stealth fighters, the establishment of military operation posture in the domains of outer space, cyber and electromagnetic waves and others are clearly aimed at waging a war of aggression.

Large-scale military drills in the archipelago and at sea to steadily master and complete the offensive capabilities are a continuation of such desperate moves.

Japan has already provided a springboard for expanding the sphere of the SDF's activities to the whole world. It also announced the war guidelines specifying the possession of "capability for attacking enemy bases" and the increase of defense expenses at the end of last year.

In order to realize its military ambition, it has interfered in the internal affairs of other countries and stepped up the overseas advance of the SDF forces, availing itself of the US strategy for hegemony. It has persistently caused friction with neighbouring countries on the pretext of territorial dispute, maritime security and other issues and openly staged multinational military drills at home and abroad under the cloak of strengthening alliance.

In August the heads of the US, Japan and puppet south Korea agreed to run a "real-time sharing system of north Korean missile warning information" within the year and stage the triangular military drills annually at Camp David in the suburbs of Washington.

A "legal justification" for the SDF to become highly adept at the reinvasion of the Korean peninsula and be committed to the Korean front in case of emergency, the "annual triangular military drills" are little short of an "entrance ticket" to the Korean peninsula.

Japan's overseas reinvasion and Japan as a war state are not fiction, but fact and have become a reality.

Japan's arrogant choice will create new challenges to security, further aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

But Japan should not act rashly. The armed forces of the DPRK, with the important mission to defend peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region, are closely watching every move of Japan, sworn enemy, to fly a war criminal flag on this land again, with its eye on the territory of Korea generation after generation, oblivious of the history of defeat.

BYWORD

Fragrance of socialism

Lots of rare events arousing the admiration of the world people take place in the DPRK, a socialist society centred on the masses of the people.

Ordinary workers, farmers, lecturers and scientists are provided with excellent houses

gratis in rural villages turning into socialist fairylands as well as in the capital city of Pyongyang.

It is a society where it is common occurrences for people to care for others before themselves, adopt orphans and support lonely

old people and become the spouses of honoured disabled soldiers who were wounded during the execution of their military duties, and where there are many "girl mothers" and "boy fathers" that can be found nowhere else in the world.

All these beautiful things that happen in the DPRK, where all the people live in good harmony forming a large harmonious family with virtues and love, are affectionately called the fragrance of socialism by the people.

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Cuba's developing culture

By Choe Song Jun PT

It is the common aspirations of mankind to value and further develop their culture.

The Cuban people significantly mark October 20 when their national anthem was composed as the Day of Culture.

Before their victorious revolution, they were very backward in civilization. A great number of people failed to read letters due to poor educational foundation and doctors were scarce throughout the country.

The historic victorious revolution in 1959 opened up a broad avenue for creating and developing

their genuine national culture.

After the establishment of the revolutionary government, Cuba enforced socialist and people's democratic policies, which brought about great cultural progress.

Above all, the educational sector has undergone rapid development.

After the victory of the revolution, Cuba became the first illiterate-free country in Latin America. Its party and government enforced the free educational system after putting forward the educational development as a nationwide affair.

It is the policy of the government to grasp the

educational work as an essential field for the future of the country and nation and the progress of the revolution and give further stimulus to its development.

At present, Cuba has got over 10 000 educational institutions at all levels including Havana University.

All the children have access to education in the country.

Cuba also pays close attention to the development of public health.

A great deal of successes have been achieved in promoting the people's health under the well-organized medical service networks in all regions of

the country. The Cuban children enjoy state benefits from their birth and medicines of the country with a developed pharmaceutical industry are the focus of attention of the international medical circles.

Great progress has also been made in scientific research and the country's sports have reached a high level.

Many scientific and technological research centres and groups including the Academy of Sciences of Cuba and other research institutes are in operation to lend impetus to the country's sci-tech development.

Modern scientific research organs have been formed, including the genetic and bioengineering institute, the state scientific research institute, robotics institute, nerve operation and nerve reproduction institute and computer information and computer institute, to successfully conduct research work.

The Cuban party and government direct great efforts to carrying forward and developing national cultural heritage in keeping with the people's thoughts and feelings.

Thanks to the correct policy of the Cuban party and government, its culture will make further progress.

World Food Day

By Song Jong Ho PT

October 16 is World Food Day. The 20th Conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization held in November 1979 designated October 16 as World Food Day and decided to commemorate it every year.

It was aimed at promoting international discussion on the urgency and way to solve the worldwide food problem, including the elimination of poverty and famine by increasing food production, while helping all countries and peoples in the world have a correct understanding of the importance of the problem.

Major contributors to the ceaselessly worsening global food crisis are disastrous abnormal weather caused by global warming and a sharp decrease in grain output and grain price hike stemming from continued armed conflicts.

Out of them, global warming-induced climate change is very serious. According to scholars, the grain output decreases by 3 to 5% with a 0.5°C rise in annual average temperature. In addition, many people are facing starvation due to a drastic reduction in agricultural production in different countries resulting from drought, water shortage, downpour, etc.

Especially, many countries around the world suffered unprecedentedly high heat due to El Nino plus climate change-induced temperature rise this year. The World Meteorological Organization described last summer as "severe summer" inflicting great damage on human health and environment and its secretary general noted that severe weather coming more frequently owing to global warming has a big influence on people's health, ecosystem, the economy, agriculture and others.

Announcing that about 345 million people in 82 countries are now suffering from food shortage, the World Food Programme recently expressed concern over the limited available resources in contrast to the growing demands for food.

The settlement of food problem is of great importance in ensuring the development of countries and nations and the existence of humankind.

Many countries therefore pay great attention to resolving the food crisis as they take new measures for overcoming unfavourable climate conditions and solving the food problem, while positively applying advanced technologies to agricultural production.

The international community makes steady efforts to overcome the serious food crisis.

Nations foster common stability and development by promoting exchange and cooperation

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Regional cooperation and exchange between different countries gain momentum in the international arena.

It has become an international trend in the present age to oppose the existing old and unfair international order and fight to build a multipolar world.

The chief of the general staff of the Cambodian army paid an official visit to Laos from October 1 to 4 and met the deputy prime minister who doubles as defence minister and the chief of the general staff and concurrently vice-minister of defence of Laos to hold bilateral talks. Both sides agreed to work together to strengthen friendship and solidarity, preserve peace, stability and security in the border areas and suppress criminal acts, flesh and drug trafficking and arms smuggling in the areas. They also discussed the issue of arranging the schedule for the security cooperation committee meeting in conformity with the comprehensive and long-term strategic cooperative relations.

The president of Uzbekistan and the emir of Qatar discussed issues of improving bilateral cooperation to the level of strategic partnership.

On a recent visit to Qatar the Uzbek president met its emir to hold talks with him. At the talks they discussed the issues of increasing contacts at various levels, expanding the scale of mutual trade and arranging air transport between the capitals of the two countries.

In addition, both sides confirmed their will to substantially implement the joint investment plan in the fields of the increase of trade indices, green energy, petrochemistry, metal processing, agriculture, construction, tourism, finance

and others. To promote such working relationship, they proposed organizing the first intergovernmental joint committee, a business council meeting and business forum in Doha, Qatar, in January 2024.

At the talks, they expressed their will to support in every way the efforts to boost exchanges in culture, education and tourism and exchanged views on world and regional issues. The heads of state of the two countries issued instructions on preparing a series of joint "roadmaps" and establishing a mechanism for effectively implementing the agreements reached. After the talks, they concluded important documents for further enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile, Iran and Saudi Arabia stressed the need to boost the cultural and sports cooperation between the two countries on October 5. A relevant agreement was reached through telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

On the same day, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon decided to reopen the UAE embassy in Beirut and take practical measures for the development of bilateral relations.

On October 2, lawmakers from Bolivia and Russia agreed to organize a friendship parliamentary group to boost the relations between the two countries. The agreement was reached between the president of the Bolivian Senate and the chairman of the State Duma of Russia on the sidelines of the first Russia-Latin America international parliamentary forum. At the talks with the speaker of the State Duma of Russia the president of the Bolivian Senate said that the two countries agreed to promote the building of a multipolar world

and preserve equality in the world relations, while respecting the principles of justice.

A ceremony took place at the State Duma of Russia on October 2 to inaugurate the Russia-Nicaragua inter-parliamentary cooperation committee. The first meeting, which followed the ceremony, designated public health, transport, agriculture, energy, trade and investment, financial cooperation, struggle against dominationism and foreign intervention as the main fields of bilateral cooperation. Both sides called for close cooperation in the historic friendship and fraternal relations between Nicaragua and Russia and in all work.

On October 7, a three-party agreement was concluded between Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi on the development of a materials transport system and use of ports. It was signed at the opening ceremony of the reconstructed Nacala Port in Mozambique. At the event of signing the agreement, the Zambian president praised the efforts of the Mozambican government to reconstruct and expand the port, noting that the development of a transport system, including the railway line linking the port to Zambia and Malawi, is an important matter for regional economic development and trade revitalization and that the establishment of a regular materials procedure system should be pushed ahead in parallel as well as railway construction.

Zambia, which forges ahead with the expansion of trade, also spurs the development of a transport system connected to the port of Lobito in Angola together with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola as well as Nacala Port in Mozambique.

Briefly

China

Xi Jinping underlines need to protect ecological environment

Chinese President Xi Jinping held a round-table talk on the qualitative development of economic zone in the Yangtze River in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, on October 12 to stress the need to properly protect ecological environment.

For nearly eight years since the development strategy was enforced in the economic zone, provinces and cities along the coastal areas as well as relevant sectors implemented decisions and assignments of the Party Central Committee, maintained ecology-first and green development and conducted the work to protect and restore the ecological environment of the river, he stated.

He added that party committees and governments at all levels should strengthen comprehensive management on the ecological environment of relevant areas, increase the management degree of pollution, plan the protection of water resources, environment and ecology in a unified way, push the prevention of atmospheric and soil pollution, and decrease the emission of contaminants.

Russia

Parliament speaker slams US for fishing in troubled waters

Byacheslav Volodin, speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, disclosed the criminal record of the US on October 11.

Saying that the US has abused the tragedy suffered by millions to gather its wealth by instigating armed conflicts, he noted that its aircraft carriers are now heading for the coasts of Palestine, not for peace but for another war.

Quoting information from a stock exchange, he referred to the fact that the stock price of large American weapons companies has risen after the Palestinian-Israeli dispute escalated.

Washington has always used tragedies experienced by millions of people to serve its economic interests, he added.

Venezuela

FM condemns US' aggression moves

The foreign minister of Venezuela said in a recent UN meeting that the US is committing acts of aggression against his country in many directions.

Saying his country is constantly under threat of aggression, he disclosed that the US' measures against it have negative effects on the rights of its people.

Referring to the fact that the US and other countries have enforced over 930 "restrictive and punitive" measures against his country, he said it has caused obstacles to its efforts to improving the people's living standard.

Syria-Israel

Israel fires missiles at airports in Damascus, Aleppo

Israel launched a missile attack on two international airports in Damascus and Aleppo of Syria on October 12, according to the Syrian army. Both airports closed down temporarily as the runways were badly damaged.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THEIR HEIGHT

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The DPRK Championships, one of the major sports events in the country, are now in full swing.

Various game tactics applied

The women's water polo event took place as part of the DPRK Championships at the Swimming Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang between October 7 and 13.

It was the teams of the Ministry of Fisheries Sports Club and Central Sports School who stole the show at the event in which rankings were decided by knockout competitions following preliminary league matches.

The team of the Ministry of Fisheries Sports Club beat the team of Central Sports School 18-10 in the first final match.

According to Ri Myong Hyon, deputy secretary general of the swimming association, the current championships have organized the final match in the event two times. The purpose is to correctly assess the ability of the teams that advanced to the final and at the same time give the runner-up another chance to fuel the players' desire for victory.

As if to prove his words, the second final match which was played on October 13 proceeded against the expectations of all.

As it did in the first final match, the Ministry of Fisheries Sports Club relied on direct throw-in of the centre forward with high striking ability and volley based on blocking and breakthrough on the left side.

But Central Sports School that had drawn lessons from the first match scored lots of goals with long-distance and light throws by making good use of its advantage that it has an excellent goalkeeper and demerits of its opponent.

The seesaw battle ended in a 13-13 tie in the fourth round.

Though the ministry team won the championships by putting together the results of the first and second matches, the second final match spoke volumes.

Sensational

Senior male and female basketball matches of the DPRK Championships started at the Basketball Gymnasium on Chongchun Street on October 3.

The three-person women's basketball event drew the attention of the audience.

As there were changes in the composition of the April



Snapshots from women's basketball and water polo matches held at the basketball and swimming gymnasiums on Chongchun Street. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

25 and Amnokgang teams, which team would win was the focus of discussion before their match began.

The Kigwancha team won the women's three-person basketball event by defeating all opponents with quick movements and passes and the April 25 team with high

person-to-person dribbling capacity lifted the trophy in the men's event with all wins.

After the three-person basketball matches were over, experts said that the championships would be a good occasion for judging the ability of each team and that they should fully display

their capacity as all teams are on a similar level.

In the basketball event the April 25, Amnokgang, Pyongyang, Kigwancha and Sobaeksu teams are registering good results.

At present, the April 25 has won all matches, but the Amnokgang, Sobaeksu,

Pyongyang and Kigwancha are holding each other in check, making it impossible to decide the rankings.

As the future rankings are unpredictable, the event is increasingly becoming the focus of attention of the spectators, growing fiercer with each passing day.

Advanced well filtering technique of Koguryo people

By To Kyong Chol PT

From olden times, people used spring water mainly as household water, and in places where there were no

springs, they dug wells and obtained drinking water.

When the ground is dug to a depth where the groundwater layer is located, water gathers into the well and fills up. The groundwater at a depth

of up to 10 metres meets the standards for domestic water.

The well at the Jongnung Temple site near the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong, Rimhung-dong wells Nos. 1 and 2 and other

wells from the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668), which have been unearthed so far, are approximately 10 metres deep in general.

The Koguryo people used the groundwater for domestic

purposes after filtering it again.

The two Koguryo wells (Nos. 1 and 2) discovered in the Rimhung-dong area, Taesong District, Pyongyang, were made by tamping gravel, sand and mud at the base, placing a square wooden frame on it and laying well-cut stones to build the wall. The back of the wall was compacted with clay and stone to adhere closely to the earth.

This prevented surface runoff and water used around the well from penetrating directly through the well wall and, at least, ensured that the water was primarily filtered as it passed through the earth down to the well's depth and reached the groundwater layer.

Therefore, groundwater only seeped up into the well after going through the bottom of the well, which was compacted with gravel, sand and clay.

In the course of excavation, the researchers noticed a

large amount of groundwater seepage after breaking the compacted layer at the bases of wells Nos. 1 and 2 in Rimhung-dong.

Ri Kwang Hui, head of a department of the History Faculty of Kim Il Sung University, said that the excavation helped understand that Koguryo people filtered the groundwater from the well again before using it and clarify the use of wooden frames needed for washing, and thus proved the technique of water-quality improvement in the well.

The Archaeology Society of the DPRK recognized that the remains and relics in Rimhung-dong dating back to the period of Koguryo were of great academic significance. The non-permanent tangible heritage assessment committee evaluated the sites and registered Koguryo wells Nos. 1 and 2 in Rimhung-dong on the list of preserved sites.



The inside of Koguryo well No. 1 in Rimhung-dong and its octagonal frame (above). The inside of Koguryo well No. 2 in Rimhung-dong and its rectangular frame (left).

