



Invincible DPRK-Russia Friendship Shining with Victory and Glory



Historic meeting to be specially recorded in great heyday of DPRK-Russia friendship President of Russian Federation arrives in Pyongyang to pay state visit to DPRK Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un warmly receives President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin





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The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un came to the airport to greet Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

The presidential plane of the Russian Federation landed on Pyongyang International Airport.

There was an emotional meeting between Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

Pyongyang International Airport was decked in a festive attire to warmly greet as the highest honoured guest of the state President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation who would pay a state visit to the DPRK at the invitation of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK.

The national flags of the DPRK and the Russian Federation were fluttering at the flagstaffs.

Seen at the airport were Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, and his embassy staff members.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un came to the airport to greet Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

The presidential plane of the Russian Federation landed on Pyongyang International Airport.

There was an emotional meeting between Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

Kim Jong Un shook hands with Putin and embraced him warmly, expressing his joy and gladness of meeting him again in Pyongyang over 270 days after the meeting at Vostochny Spaceport in September 2023.

Being pleased that his Pyongyang visit was realized, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin expressed deep thanks to Kim Jong Un for coming to the airport to greet him warmly.

Putin was presented with a bouquet by a woman worker.

Among his entourage were Foreign

Minister Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Mantrov, Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Nobak, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration and President's Press Secretary Dmitri Peskov, Aide to the President of Russia for Foreign Policy Yuri Ushakov, Minister of Defence Andrei Belousov, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology and Chairman of the Russian Side of the Russia-DPRK Inter-Governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology Alexandr Kozlov, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashuko and Minister of Transport Roman Starovoyt.

Kim Jong Un took Putin's private car to guide him to his lodging quarters.

Passing through the streets of Pyongyang at night, decorated with bright illuminations, the top leaders exchanged the inmost thoughts that had so far been confined to them and their will to

more surely develop the DPRK-Russia relations in conformity with the common desires and intentions of the peoples of the two countries with their meeting as a momentum.

They arrived at the Kumsusan State Guesthouse.

Kim Jong Un personally guided Putin, having a friendly chat with him.

Putin's visit to the DPRK at a remarkable time, when the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and Russia have surely entered the course of new comprehensive development, is of great importance in reliably promoting the strategic and future-oriented development of the bilateral relations consolidated in the trials of history generation after generation and from one century to the next and powerfully propelling the cause of building powerful countries, a desire common to the peoples of the two countries.

Historic event demonstrating friendship, unity and genuine relations of comrades-in-arms between peoples of DPRK and Russia

Grand ceremony held to welcome President of Russian Federation

Hundreds of thousands of Pyongyang citizens greet President of Russian Federation as highest honoured guest of state

KCNA

Pyongyang, the capital city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has greeted a goodwill mission of the fraternal Russian people as the highest honoured guests of the state and is filled with a welcoming atmosphere.

Large portraits of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin were displayed on the front walls of high-rise apartment buildings and skyscrapers in the

capital city, draped with the national flags of the DPRK and the Russian Federation. Seen in different parts of the city were posters and signboards bearing such slogans and catchphrases as "Welcome President Vladimir Putin of the Russian

Federation", "Welcome Putin", "Long Live Invincible DPRK-Russia Friendship and Unity!" and "The DPRK-Russia Friendship Is Everlasting!"

Both sides of streets extending scores of kilometres, decorated with beautiful

flowerbeds, flags and bunting, were crowded with a large number of people from all walks of life who came out to greet the dearest friends from a friendly neighbouring country.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin's

presidential limousine, which, escorted by motorcycles, left the Kumsusan State Guesthouse, was given a rapturous welcome by Pyongyang citizens along the route.

The citizens enthusiastically waved the national flags of the two countries and bouquets, chanting welcoming slogans with warm feelings about the militant kinship between the DPRK and Russia which are boldly

opening up the new horizon of friendly and cooperative relations through whole-hearted mutual support and selfless encouragement for the joint cause despite

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geographical differences.

On Ryomyong and Kaeson streets and along the road at the foot of Moran Hill, where the Liberation Tower symbolic of the militant friendship between the peoples of the DPRK and Russia stands, and on other streets citizens expressed their deep respect for and trust in Putin.

A ceremony for welcoming the president of the Russian Federation took place at Kim Il Sung Square on June 19.

The national flags of the DPRK and the Russian Federation were fluttering and the guard of honour of the Korean People's Army, the honorary cavalry and the central military band of the Ministry of National Defence lined up at the square elaborately decorated for the day's grand ceremony.

Present there were Kim Tok Hun, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, Choe Ryong Hae, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the DPRK,

secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK and other senior officials of the Party and the government.

Also present at the ceremony were Kang Sun Nam, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, and other commanding officers of the ministry.

Pyeongyangites, service personnel of the KPA, youth and students and children stood with the national flags of the two countries and bouquets in their hands.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, came to the venue for the ceremony.

At 12:00 President Putin's limousine arrived at Kim Il Sung Square.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un warmly greeted Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin amid the playing of welcome music.

Kim Jong Un introduced the leading officials of the Party, government and military to Putin.

Kim Jong Un exchanged greetings with Foreign Minister of Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Mantrov, Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Nobak, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration

and President's Press Secretary Dmitri Peskov, Aide to the President of Russia for Foreign Policy Yuri Ushakov, Minister of Defense Andrei Belousov, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology and Chairman of the Russian Side of the Russia-DPRK Inter-Governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology Alexandr Kozlov, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashuko, Minister of Transport Roman Starovoyt and other entourage members of the Russian side.

A ceremony of welcoming the Russian president began.

When Kim Jong Un took the platform together with Putin, a 21-gun salute was fired amid the playing of the national anthems of the Russian Federation and the DPRK.

Putin received a salute from the head of the guard of honour of the KPA.

Guided by Kim Jong Un, Putin reviewed the guard of honour of the KPA.

There took place a march-past of the guard of honour of the KPA.

At the end of the ceremony, a large number of balloons were released into the sky amid rousing cheers, beautifully decorating the bright sky of June.

Jets of the KPA Air Force flew past the sky above the square, giving off tricolor trails symbolic of the national flag of the Russian Federation.

Putin expressed his heartfelt thanks to Kim Jong Un for paying close attention to his Pyongyang visit and lavishing cordial hospitality on him.

Kim Jong Un and Putin took an open limousine amid a sea of dancers sweeping the square.

The people cheered enthusiastically, looking up to the top leaders who have more firmly cemented the durable and genuine ties of friendship between the DPRK and Russia with a long history and traditions and confidently led them to the road of comprehensive and strategic development as required by the new era.

The top leaders of the DPRK and Russia warmly acknowledged the cheering crowds.

The ceremony of welcoming Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin on his visit to the DPRK at time-honoured Kim Il Sung Square was recorded as a historic event that clearly demonstrated the friendship, unity and genuine relations of comrades-in-arms between the peoples of the two countries.



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un has talks with President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had talks with Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, on June 19.

Prior to the talks, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with Comrade Putin against the background of the national flags of the two countries at the Kumsusan State Guesthouse.

Present at the talks from the DPRK side were Kim Tok Hun, premier of the DPRK Cabinet, Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, Pak Jong Chon, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the

WPK and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Song Nam, director of the International Department of the WPK Central Committee, Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations who is chairman of the DPRK side to the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology, and Im Chon Il, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs.

Present from the Russian side were Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Mantrov, Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Nobak, Aide to the President of Russia for Foreign Policy Yuri Ushakov, Minister of Defense Andrei Belousov, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology and Chairman of the Russian side to the Russia-DPRK

Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology Alexandr Kozlov, other entourage members and Russian Ambassador to the DPRK Alexandr Matsegora.

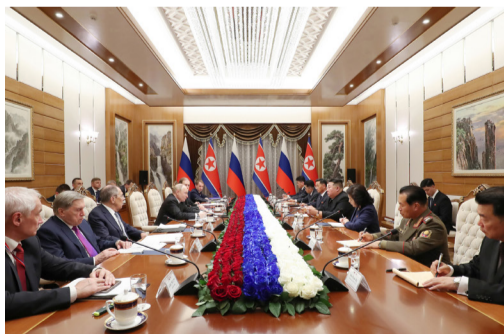
At the talks Kim Jong Un, on behalf of the DPRK government and people, warmly welcomed President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin on a state visit to the DPRK with feelings of friendship and comradeship.

Noting that the great wave of welcome, which pervaded the streets of Pyongyang today, vividly reflects the present state of the relations between the two countries which entered a new period of overall efflorescence, he said that Putin's visit would be a strategic step of significance in developing the DPRK-Russia

good-neighbourly relations, further consolidating the friendship between the peoples of the two countries and the basis of their mindsets and defending global peace and stability.

Appreciating the important mission and role the Russian Federation assumes in foiling the imperialists' hegemony-seeking policy, maintaining the strategic stability and balance of the world and building a peaceful multipolar world, he affirmed that the DPRK government would further strengthen the strategic communication with the Russian leadership to cope with the ever-changing complicated international political situation and consolidate the foundation for the invincible DPRK-Russia

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friendship and solidarity.

Putin said that he was very pleased to visit the DPRK at the invitation of President of the State Affairs Kim Jong Un, adding that the Russia-DPRK relations have vigorously developed in all fields, including politics, the economy and culture, since the historic meeting at Vostochny Spaceport.

Noting that he was deeply touched by the sincere welcome of Pyongyang citizens today, he said he was greatly impressed by the very beautiful appearance of the capital city of Pyongyang, which has changed beyond recognition under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Un and thanks to the devoted efforts of the diligent Korean people.

Saying that the deep friendship and close good neighbourliness based on the principle of equality and mutual respect are linking the Russian Federation with

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he expressed belief that the current talks would prove very effective.

The top leaders of the two countries candidly discussed the long-term plans for steadily expanding the practical action measures for comprehensively implementing the agreements reached at the summit in September 2023 and for promoting mutual trust by further boosting the multi-faceted exchange and cooperation between the two countries.

At the talks, they had a wide-ranging and in-depth exchange of views on the crucial changes recently taking place in the world political arena and on the international and regional issues of mutual concern, and reached a consensus. They also discussed the important issues arising in further improving the strategic cooperation and tactical collaboration to promote the well-being of the peoples of the two countries and defend their core interests.

Expressed at the talks was the Russian government's deep apprehension over the negative impact of the irresponsible and unreasonable provocations of the US and its allies seriously threatening the security environment of the Korean peninsula on the sovereign rights and security interests of the DPRK and regional and global peace and stability. And reconfirmed were the full support and solidarity of the DPRK government and people to the Russian counterparts as regards the special military operations in Ukraine.

The talks were followed by one-on-one talks between Kim Jong Un and Putin.

They discussed important issues for at least two hours.

The top leaders talked about the issue of developing the relations between the two countries into comprehensive strategic partnership and expanding them in an all-round way and reached a perfect consensus on it, and came to a satisfactory agreement on the important issues arising in defending regional

and global peace and international justice and on the matters of immediate cooperation.

The talks proceeded in a friendly and comradely atmosphere.

After the talks, Kim Jong Un presented gifts to Putin in commemoration of his visit to the DPRK.

Putin expressed deep thanks for this and presented Kim Jong Un with gifts reflecting his utmost sincerity.

The historic Pyongyang talks between the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and the respected Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin are a great event which injected great vitality into the cause of building powerful countries of the Korean and Russian peoples, who are dynamically advancing along the road of justice and truth with anti-imperialist independence as the ideological basis, and which opened up a new heyday of friendship between the DPRK and Russia and their relations of strategic cooperation.



Treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation signed

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un signs treaty with Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin



KCNA

An inter-state treaty on establishing comprehensive strategic partnership on the principle of equality, respect for sovereignty, good neighbourliness and mutual benefit was signed between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, signed the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation on June 19.

Attending the signing ceremony were leading officials of the DPRK and Russia.

When Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin signed the treaty and exchanged documents, the participants clapped their hands in congratulation of the signing of the treaty.

Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with Putin in commemoration of the conclusion of the historic treaty to be specially recorded in the history of the DPRK-Russia relations.

The two top leaders made a joint statement as regards the conclusion of the treaty.

Noting that his heart was overflowing with deep emotion as he was together with the comrades of Russia, the sincerest and closest comrades-in-arms, at the

significant moment when the whole world focuses its attention on Pyongyang that received a friendly mission from Russia, Kim Jong Un said that he signed with Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin a treaty to be etched in the history of the development of the friendly relations between the two countries.

Calling it a great event, he said that he felt really honoured to have responsibly brought about, together with President Putin, a political event of great strategic weight and significance, in his capacity as the president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, for the excellent peoples of the two countries and for the present and the future.

He said that the conclusion of the treaty put the relations of the two countries on

a new higher stage, a stage of relations of alliance, and thus established a legal framework for carrying out the far-reaching plan of the leaderships of the two countries and the century-old desire of their peoples to build powerful states while firmly defending the regional and global security environment in conformity with their common interests. The relations of the two countries have also been placed on a more wonderful track of long-term development conducive to the progress and well-being of the two countries through the expansion of mutual cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, military and various other fields, he added.

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He said that he would like to stress in particular that the birth of the most powerful treaty in the history of the DPRK-Russia relations would be unthinkable separated from the outstanding foresight, bold decision and will of Comrade Putin, a close friend of the DPRK people.

The great DPRK-Russia alliance, which will serve as a watershed in the history of the development of the relations between the two countries, has signalled the start of its grand voyage after raising the historic anchor at this ceremony, he said, affirming that the DPRK government will always be faithful to its obligation specified in the treaty throughout the future journey for steadily developing the comprehensive strategic partnership, the invincible relations of alliance with the Russian Federation.

He expressed his firm belief that the powerful bilateral treaty would become an engine for accelerating the building of a multi-polarized new world free from domination, subordination, hegemony and high-handedness as a very constructive, long-term, thoroughly peace-loving and defensive one for promoting and safeguarding the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries.

He solemnly declared the invariable will of the DPRK government that there will be neither an iota of difference

in interpretation nor any slightest hesitation and vacillation in fulfilling all the historic tasks conducive to the eternal development of friendship and promotion of the wellbeing of the peoples and posterity of the two countries and in remaining faithful to performing the duty to tackle with concerted efforts any affairs, events and national difficulties already faced and to be faced in the future by the two countries.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin said that the Russian Federation has attached primary significance to strengthening the traditional friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries, adding that it has accumulated vast experience in the development of mutual cooperation with the DPRK in various fields for decades.

He stated that the treaty on the comprehensive strategic partnership, signed between Russia and the DPRK, is an actual breakthrough document reflecting the desire of the two countries to put the relations of Russia and the DPRK on a new qualitative level, not merely remaining on the level they reached.

Saying that Russia and the DPRK are both pursuing independent foreign policies of their own, not tolerating any words of blackmail and pressure but actually opposing any imposing of politically-motivated sanctions and restrictions, Putin stressed that the two countries will continue to cope with the

manoeuvres for sanctions and pressure, methods habitually employed by the West to maintain its hegemony in politics, the economy and other fields, and in that context, the indefinite restrictions imposed on the DPRK by the UN Security Council at the instigation of the US and its followers, should be reexamined.

Saying that the main reason for escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula is the confrontational policy of the US scaling up and intensifying military exercises with the involvement of the countries hostile toward the DPRK, including the ROK and Japan, he noted that Russia will never tolerate the attempt to shift the blame for the aggravated situation onto the DPRK.

He said that the DPRK has the right to bolster up its own defence capabilities, ensure its national security and defend its sovereignty, adding that Russia has the willingness to make political and diplomatic efforts to remove the danger of the recurrence of armed conflict on the Korean peninsula and establish a long-term peace and stability structure in the region on the basis of the invariable principle of security.

The treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership signed today envisages ensuring mutual support if one of the signatories to the treaty is invaded, Putin said, adding that the Russian Federation shall not rule out military technical

cooperation with the DPRK under the treaty.

Expressing belief that the talks of the day would contribute to further developing the relations of friendship and partnership between Russia and the DPRK and strengthening security in all regions, he expressed thanks once again to Kim Jong Un and all the friends of the DPRK for according cordial hospitality and organizing an undertaking beneficial to both sides.

The top leaders of the DPRK and Russia hoped that the significant treaty-signing ceremony would serve as a strategic choice whose significance would be further highlighted along with the development of the DPRK-Russia relations for the next one hundred years and as an unforgettable occasion promising bright futures of the peoples of the two countries, strongest and wisest in the world.

The great comradely unity and militant friendship between the DPRK and the Russian Federation, which have been remarkably developed into comprehensive strategic partnership and invincible relations of alliance in the new era under the outstanding and energetic leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and the respected Comrade Vladimir Putin, will encourage the struggle of the progressive mankind desirous of a just and peaceful new world and demonstrate their great vitality to the whole world.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un develops rapport with Comrade Putin, spending time together in garden of Kumsusan State Guesthouse

KCNA

developed rapport with Vladimir together in the garden of the Kumsusan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
Vladimirovich Putin, president of the State Guesthouse after the signing
Russian Federation, spending time ceremony of the historic "Treaty on the

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between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation."

Taking in turn the driver's seat of the car presented to Kim Jong Un by Putin as a gift, the top leaders of the two countries enjoyed driving along the path of the beautiful garden of the guesthouse.

Highly appreciating the performance of

the car, Kim Jong Un expressed thanks to the Russian president again for the excellent gift.

Strolling along the walkway to the rosarium and the garden, the top leaders of the DPRK and Russia had a friendly and sincere talk.

Through the significant meetings and talks at the Vostochny Spaceport and in Pyongyang, they shared their deep emotion and joy of laying a solid foundation for the

development of the DPRK-Russia relations in the new era. They also discussed a series of important plans for safeguarding the common core interests while deepening the strategic partnership and alliance between the two countries.

Appreciating that they reached a satisfactory consensus on the important issues for realizing the common ideals and goals through the Pyongyang meeting, they expressed their will to continue to

vigorously promote good neighbourliness based on excellent history and traditions onto a new higher stage true to the aspirations and desires of the peoples of the two countries.

Kim Jong Un presented a pair of Phungsan, the national dog of the DPRK, to Putin as a gift in the garden of the Kumsusan State Guesthouse.

Putin expressed his thanks to Kim Jong Un for it.

Highest order of DPRK awarded to Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

KCNA

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Standing Committee of the Supreme

People's Assembly of the DPRK decided to award the Order of Kim Il Sung, the highest order of the DPRK, to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, who has performed great exploits in developing the good neighbourly relations between the

DPRK and Russia with long historical traditions into the strategic partnership and invincible ties of alliance as required by the new era.

An awards ceremony took place on June 19.

Present there were Foreign Minister of

the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Mantrov, Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Nobak, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration and President's Press

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DPRK Alexandr Matsegora.

Saying that he deems it a great honour to award the Order of Kim Il Sung, the highest order of the DPRK, to Comrade Vladimir Putin, who has rendered distinguished services for the development of the DPRK-Russia relations and their future, as the highest expression of the DPRK government's and people's profound respect for and trust in him, Comrade Kim Jong Un read out the joint decision of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on awarding the order, and personally awarded the order to him.

Putin expressed deep thanks to Kim Jong Un and the DPRK government and people.

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President Putin lays wreath at Liberation Tower

KCNA

the Liberation Tower to greet Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

Comrades Kim Jong Un and Putin

The militant comradeship and friendship between the armies and peoples of the two countries that were forged with blood will be immortal and the noble self-sacrificing spirit displayed by the fine sons and daughters of the Russian people and their merits will remain long in the memory of the Korean people along with the Liberation Tower.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation on a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, laid a wreath at the Liberation Tower on June 19.

The guard of honour of the Korean People's Army lined up at the tower.

paid a silent tribute to the memory of the fallen fighters of the Soviet Army who unhesitatingly dedicated their precious lives to the sacred war for Korea's liberation with a noble sense of mission for the cause of internationalism.

The militant comradeship and friendship between the armies and peoples of the two countries that were forged with blood will be immortal and the noble self-sacrificing spirit displayed by the fine sons and daughters of the Russian people and their merits will remain long in the memory of the Korean people along with the Liberation Tower.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, came to

A wreath in the name of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin was laid before the tower amid the playing of the wreath-laying music.

sense of mission for the cause of internationalism.

There took place a march-past of the guard of honour of the KPA.

will remain long in the memory of the Korean people along with the Liberation Tower.



Artistic performance given in honour of Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin



KCNA

A grand artistic performance was given at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on June 19 in honour of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, on a state visit to the DPRK in order to deepen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, enjoyed the performance together with Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation.

Kim Jong Un greeted Putin at the plaza of the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium.

When Kim Jong Un appeared at the auditorium together with Putin, all the participants paid the highest tribute to the two leaders who have put the sacred cause for the common well-being, development and prosperity of the DPRK and Russia and the peoples of the two countries, and genuine international justice and peace, on a new strategic stage, and are confidently leading them along the road resplendent with victory.

Present there at invitation were Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Mantrov, Deputy Prime

Minister Alexandr Nobak, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration and President's Press Secretary Dmitri Peskov, Aide to the President of Russia for Foreign Policy Yuri Ushakov, Minister of Defense Andrei Belousov, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology and Chairman of the Russian Side of the Russia-DPRK

Inter-Governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology Alexandr Kozlov, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashuko, Minister of Transport Roman Starovoyt and other members of the Russian president's entourage, and Russian Ambassador to the DPRK Alexandr Matsegora and staff members of the Russian embassy.

Among the audience were Kim Tok Hun, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, Choe Ryong Hae, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the DPRK, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, other senior officials of the Party, government and military, officials of the WPK Central Committee, ministries and national agencies, Pyongyangites, youth and students.

The national anthems of the Russian

Federation and the DPRK were played.

Put on the stage of the performance, which began with a ceremony of the combined military band, were numbers reflecting the revolutionary mettle, noble patriotic spirit and national emotion of the peoples of the DPRK and Russia, which had been fully displayed in the sacred decades for overcoming all challenges of history and defending justice and truth.

The performers sang in high praises of the prestige of the heroic Korean people who are carrying out the great cause of building a prosperous country with powerful armed forces, demonstrating their dignity with independence and achieving epoch-making victories and great changes by dint of self-reliance and self-defence under the guidance of the great Workers' Party of Korea.

The audience was touched by the famous songs of Russia truthfully representing the Russian people's true patriotism, devotion to their country and strong desire to build a prosperous and powerful state without fail.

The Russian song "The Sacred War," by a male chorus, served as a militant encouragement to the army and people of Russia who are displaying matchless bravery and patriotism in the struggle to firmly defend the inviolable dignity, sovereign right, security, development

and interests of the country under the leadership of Putin.

The audience waved the national flags of the two countries and cheered to the tune of the beautiful and elegant melodies and dance rhythms, expressing their deep reverence for the dear guest from the friendly neighbouring country.

A portrait of Comrade Putin, who is energetically leading the building of a strong Russia while uniting society and people with his experienced political ability and iron will and boosting the national strength, was projected onto the backdrop.

The performance elicited loud applause from the audience as it represented the invincibility of the common ideal and cause of the peoples of the two countries and their feelings of friendship.

Kim Jong Un and Putin had a floral basket presented to the performers in congratulation of their successful performance.

Expressing his impressions of the wonderful performance, Putin requested Kim Jong Un to convey his kind regards to the performers.

The audience was deeply impressed by the performance as it gave a vivid artistic description of the friendly feelings of the people of the DPRK towards Putin and the fraternal Russian people.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un hosts banquet for Russian President



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on the evening of June 19 hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

Present there at invitation were Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Mantrov, Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Nobak, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration and President's Press Secretary Dmitri Peskov, Aide to the President of Russia for Foreign Policy Yuri Ushakov, Minister of Defense Andrei Belousov, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology and Chairman of the Russian side of the Russia-DPRK Inter-Governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology Alexandr Kozlov, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashuko, Minister of Transport Roman Starovoyt and other members of the Russian president's entourage, and Russian Ambassador to the DPRK Alexandr Matsegora and staff members of the Russian embassy in Pyongyang.

Also on hand were Kim Tok Hun, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, Choe Ryong Hae, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing

Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, secretaries of the Central Committee of the Party, the government and the military.

When Kim Jong Un appeared at the banquet hall together with Putin, all the participants welcomed with enthusiastic applause the top leaders of the two countries who are ushering in a new heyday of the DPRK-Russia friendship by dint of their exceptional wisdom and outstanding leadership.

Kim Jong Un made a speech in welcome of Vladimir Putin's visit to the DPRK.

Warmly welcoming President Putin, who visited Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, again as he had done 24 years previously on the threshold of a new millennium, and all other Russian friends, he extended his profound respect and warm fraternal greetings to the Russian government and people on behalf of the DPRK government and people.

He expressed his joy of sharing the table with all the participants at the banquet welcoming Putin, the highest honoured guest of the state for the Korean people, on the historic day when the DPRK-Russia relations of friendship witnessed a great event of concluding the most effective and comprehensive new inter-state treaty.

He once again expressed his heartfelt thanks to Putin for fully showing in practice his will to write a new chapter in the history of the DPRK-Russia

relations and guarantee eternal wellbeing for the peoples of the two countries and their bright future for all ages, saying that today's great event witnessed in the development of the DPRK-Russia relations is a brilliant fruition of President Putin's decision, efforts and meticulous care.

Saying that it is a source of greatest pride and honour for the DPRK to have a powerful state like Russia as a strategic partner and an ally, he clarified the invariable stand of the DPRK government to permanently develop the invincible DPRK-Russia relations of friendship while strongly supporting and cooperating with the Russian Federation in a multifaceted, all-round way on the basis of the new inter-state treaty.

He proposed a toast to the good health of the respected Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, to the everlasting prosperity of Russia, which is the DPRK's most friendly neighbour, to the immortality of the invincible DPRK-Russia relations of friendship to be envied by the world, and to the health of all comrades and friends present at the banquet.

Then Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin spoke in reply.

He once again expressed his sincere thanks to Comrade Kim Jong Un and all other Korean friends for inviting him to pay a state visit to the excellent DPRK.

Noting that he was deeply impressed by the warm hospitality shown in arranging a banquet in his honour, he said that today's talks reaffirmed that both sides are paying

concern to further developing bilateral cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit.

Noting that despite the vicissitudes of the world situation, the two countries have steadily strengthened the ties of comradely relations, fraternal support and good-neighbourly cooperation, on the basis of the glorious traditions provided by the preceding generations, he stressed that they are proactively cooperating with each other in the international arena to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the rest of the world, and taking joint action against the hegemony and neo-colonialist practices of the US and its vassal forces and against the attempts to impose the development model and values that have nothing to do with the two countries.

Citing a saying common to Russia and the DPRK, which goes that a good neighbour is better than a brother far away, he said that such public wisdom reflects the character of the relations between the two countries.

Putin proposed a toast to the further development of friendship and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the DPRK, to the well-being and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries and to the good health of Comrade Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, and the Korean friends present at the banquet.

The banquet proceeded in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with friendly feelings.

Russian President leaves Pyongyang after paying state visit to DPRK

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un warmly sends off Comrade Putin



KCNA

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, who paid a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the invitation of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, left Pyongyang by the

presidential plane on the night of June 19 after successfully finishing his schedule.

At the Pyongyang meeting, which recorded a new page in the history of the DPRK-Russia relations of friendship and cooperation proud of a long history and good traditions, the top leaders of the two countries further deepened their comradely relationship firmly based

on the ennobling ideals and achieved important and meaningful results for ensuring the long-term development of the strategic and future-oriented DPRK-Russia relations and comprehensively expanding them in the new era.

That day Pyongyang citizens warmly saw off the closest and precious friends along streets of the capital city, filled

with the Korean people's special respect and sincere feelings of friendship towards President Putin and the Russian people.

Fully displayed at the roadsides was their will to further develop the full support and solidarity with the Russian people struggling for independence,

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FROM PAGE 13

peace, justice and truth and deepen the ties of friendship and unity between their country and Russia.

The guard of honour of the Korean People's Army lined up at the apron of Pyongyang International Airport, where the national flags of the DPRK and the Russian Federation were fluttering, and a large number of people and pretty children stood with flowers.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un came to the airport to send off President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

Present at the airport were Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the DPRK, Pak Jong Chon, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Jo Yong Won, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Song Nam, director of the International Department of the WPK Central Committee, and Kim Yo Jong, deputy

department director of the WPK Central Committee.

Seen there were Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, and his embassy members.

The motorcade carrying the friends from Russia, a close neighbouring country, arrived at the airport amid warm send-off by the citizens.

A ceremony took place to see off Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

The national anthems of the DPRK and the Russian Federation were played.

Kim Jong Un, together with Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, reviewed the guard of honour of the KPA.

Putin bid farewell to senior state officials of the DPRK who came to send him off.

Kim Jong Un said that he was very satisfied with the fact that he further deepened the genuine comradely friendship with Comrade Putin and reached excellent agreements consolidating the cornerstone of the DPRK-Russia relations

in the new era, even though the latter's stay in the DPRK was not long, adding that it is the consistent stand of the WPK and the DPRK government to attach utmost importance to the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and steadily develop them.

He warmly said that the WPK and the DPRK government will, in the future, too, extend full support and encouragement to the sacred cause of Russia for building a powerful country and achieving independence and justice, and that he and the Korean people will always be with Comrade Putin and the Russian people, wishing the president safety on his way home.

Putin expressed his heartfelt thanks to the DPRK government and people for having offered warm hospitality and organized grand events for him with utmost sincerity during his visit and to Comrade Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, for having shown special care to ensure that

his Pyongyang visit could produce a wonderful and satisfactory result.

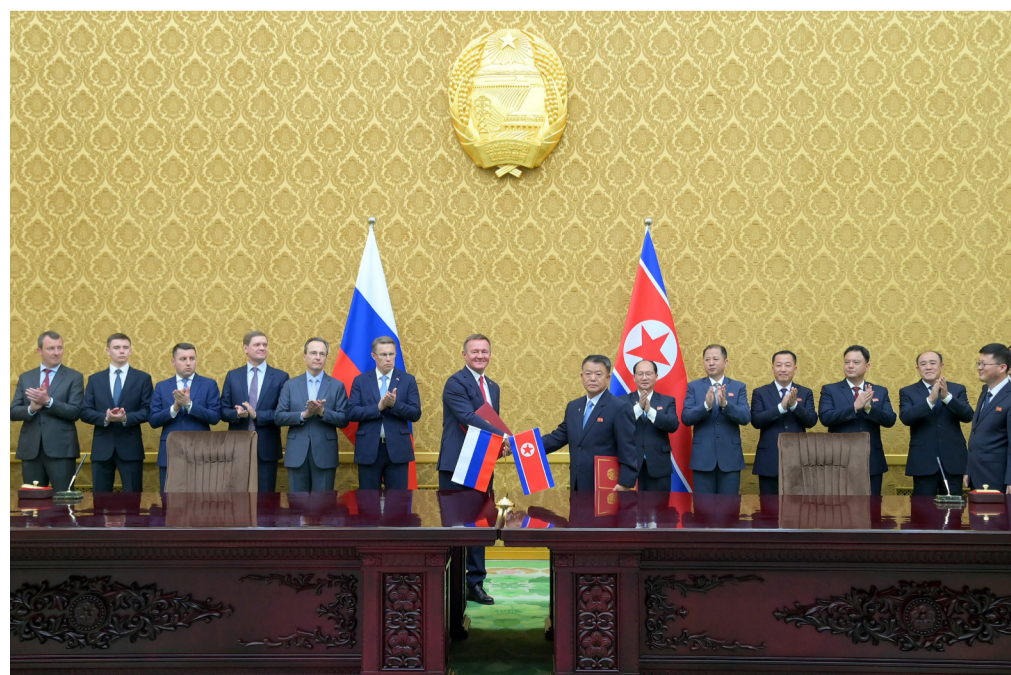
The two top leaders warmly embraced each other and shook hands, promising to steadily develop the friendly and cooperative relations and militant unity between their countries, which have reached a new strategic level, in conformity with the aspirations and desire of the peoples of the two countries.

The presidential plane of Putin left Pyongyang International Airport.

That day Putin visited the Jongback Church before leaving Pyongyang.

The visit to the DPRK by Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, which recorded the most brilliant page in the history of the great DPRK-Russia friendship and unity, serves as an important occasion of providing fresh vitality and great motive power to the progress and development of the two countries advancing towards the goal of building powerful states.

Agreements between governments of DPRK and Russian Federation signed



KCNA

Agreements were signed between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation on building a motorcar bridge over the Tuman River on the DPRK-Russia border and on cooperation in the fields of public health, medical education and science.

Present at the signing ceremony held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall were Kim Kyong Jun, minister of Land and Environment Protection, Jong Mu Rim, minister of Public Health, and officials of the Foreign Ministry from the DPRK side. Present there from the Russian side were Minister of Transport Roman Starovoyt, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashuko, working officials and staff members of the Russian embassy in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK. Kim Kyong Jun and Jong Mu Rim signed the agreements respectively on behalf of the DPRK government, and Roman Starovoyt and Mikhail Murashuko on behalf of the government of the Russian Federation.

Symposium marks 60th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's start of work at Party Central Committee

KCNA

A symposium of social scientists took place on June 17 to mark the 60th anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il's start of work at the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The meeting heard papers explaining and proving the immortal Party-building exploits of the peerlessly great men who developed the WPK into a revolutionary party of Juche with their outstanding ideas and leadership and ushered in a heyday of strengthening the whole Party by steadily enhancing its leadership role. The papers were made public by Ri Yong Chol, section chief of

the Academy of Social Sciences, Hong Kwang Chol, head of a department of the University of National Economy, U Sang Ho, researcher at the Central Cadres Training School of the WPK, and Ri Yong Chol, section chief of Kim Il Sung University.

Speakers said that Kim Jong Il's start of work at the top general staff of the Korean revolution was a historic event that marked a new milestone in the development of the WPK and the history of the Juche revolution.

They explained that he is the eternal head of the WPK who set an epochal example in building a socialist ruling party and laid an everlasting foundation for the

country's prosperity by remarkably enhancing the leadership ability of the Party.

They praised the great Comrade Kim Jong Un as a prominent leader who is ushering in a golden age of the WPK's development with his distinguished ideas and leadership.

They called upon social scientists to fulfill their duty in the sacred struggle to dye the whole Party and society with his revolutionary ideas.

Present at the symposium were Thae Hyong Chol, president of the Academy of Social Sciences, and officials, lecturers and researchers in the fields of science, education and revolutionary relics and the Party cadres training institutions.

Day of Persons with Disabilities marked in DPRK



A meeting takes place at the Sci-Tech Complex on June 18 to mark Day of Persons with Disabilities.

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

A meeting took place under the theme of "Avenue to the happiness" at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, to mark Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Present there were Yun Chang Il, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, officials and employees of relevant units, disabled persons and their families and officials of the units which

support disabled persons.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK examined and adopted "The DPRK Law on Ensuring the Rights of the Disabled" in September 2023.

The law sets June 18 as "Day of Persons with Disabilities" and stipulates that relevant agencies, enterprises and organs should organize various functions and activities for persons with disabilities on every occasion of the day.

The meeting was the first after

the adoption of the law.

At the meeting, speeches were made.

Yun Chang Il, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, said that persons with disabilities were objects of sympathy and protection in the past but now proudly participate in public life and develop their talents and carry their wishes into effect.

Then followed a presentation of the achievements made by disabled persons and introduction of officials and working people who are taking parental care of them.

A video dealing with the successes made in the protection of the disabled in recent years was shown.

Meanwhile, a performance was given by members of the art group of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled at the North Phyongan Provincial Art Theatre in commemoration of Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Premier inspects agricultural sector in North Hwanghae



Premier Kim Tok Hun (fourth from left) inspects the Kachang Farm in Sohung County.

KCNA

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, inspected the agricultural sector in North Hwanghae Province.

Going round Hwangju, Yonthan, Sohung and Singye counties and other areas of the province, he met officials and working people in the agricultural sector who are directing all efforts to farming with a single mind to uphold the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee with increased grain production, and learned in detail about farming.

He called for properly setting the harvest time in each area in consideration of the ripening rate and weather conditions in conformity with the harvest period of such earlier crops as wheat and barley and for concentrating manpower and means on harvesting crops in time and without any waste and drying and storing grains well.

He also called for having a good knowledge of growth situation

of paddy rice according to its varieties and fields, putting the cultivation including irrigation and application of nutrient solutions on a scientific and technological basis and positively introducing advanced farming methods and techniques capable of ensuring a high and stable yield even under the influence of the disastrous abnormal weather.

He called on agricultural guidance organs to work out detailed plans for increasing the production of wheat and barley next year on the basis of successes, experience and lessons obtained in earlier crop farming this year and properly carry them out from now on and, in particular, to properly introduce high-yield varieties.

He also stressed the importance for the agricultural sector to push ahead with the work to raise the proportion of mechanization in keeping with the increase in crop production area, step by step and in a planned way, and arouse the enthusiasm of agricultural workers for production and innovate management in a methodological way by taking into account the actual conditions in the relevant areas and units.

World Blood Donor Day observed

KCNA

An event took place at the National Blood Centre under the Ministry of Public Health on June 17 to mark World Blood Donor Day.

Present there were officials of the Ministry of Public Health and the relevant sector, voluntary blood donors and employees of the centre.

The participants watched a video on blood transfusion service, looked round photos introducing blood donation and saw an art performance



An event takes place at the National Blood Centre under the Ministry of Public Health on June 17.

given by employees of the centre.

Meanwhile, World Blood Donor Day was also marked in local areas of the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Birthday spread sent to woman centenarian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Om Ok Sun, a woman centenarian living in neighbourhood unit No. 6 of Kyongdo-ri, Phangyo County, Kangwon Province, on her 100th birthday.

The centenarian expressed her deep thanks to Kim Jong Un after receiving the birthday spread amid the congratulations of officials in the county, family members, relatives and villagers.

Haeon Restaurant remodelled in Rason

The Haeon Restaurant was remodelled and opened in Rason.

Present at the opening ceremony held on June 16 were Sin Yong Chol, chief secretary of the Rason City Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, working people in the city and employees of the restaurant.

Sin Chang Il, chairman of the Rason City People's Committee, delivered an opening address.

School uniform factory inaugurated in Hamhung

The Hamhung School Uniform Factory was built in South Hamgyong Province.

An inauguration ceremony of the factory took place on the spot on June 16.

Quality analysis institute and riding club inaugurated in Jagang

Jagang Province built the provincial quality analysis institute and the Kanggye Riding Club.

Present at their inaugural ceremonies held on the spot were Kang Yong Chol, secretary of the Jagang Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, builders, working people in Kanggye City and employees of the institute and the club.

Kim Yong Chun, chairman of the Jagang Provincial People's Committee, delivered inaugural addresses.

Breakthrough made in attaining WPK's ten-year goals to bring overall regional development

KCNA

The grand general onward march of the regional-industry revolution the great Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea declared as a project for the great change to promote the overall rejuvenation of the DPRK and is steadily leading is being staged vigorously by involving the entire Party, the whole country and all society.

Soldier-builders and officials, Party members and working people across the country, who have turned out in the first-year advance for implementing the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, true to the noble aspiration and leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who thoroughly orients and subordinates all Party and state affairs to the promotion of the people's well-being with an idea of "The people are God" and the spirit of devoted service for the good of the people, successfully made a breakthrough in the drive to attain the ten-year goals of the WPK in succession in less than half a year with indefatigable efforts.

Thanks to the heroic struggle of officers and men of the 124th regiments of the Korean People's Army standing at the forefront of the regional-industry revolution, the framework construction of regional-industry factories in 20

cities and counties, the first year's construction projects, has been completed in the main in a little over three months since their groundbreaking and their landscaping is being pushed ahead simultaneously.

Definite precedence was given to laying material and technical foundations for normalizing production at regional-industry factories under construction, including the creation of tens of thousands of hectares of raw materials bases and the training of technicians and skilled workers both in quality and quantity throughout the country. An increased production and transport drive was waged dynamically in different economic sectors to bring about a joint innovation in the production of materials and equipment to be supplied to the regional construction sites.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un took Party and state measures for the supply of funds, manpower and materials needed for construction and gave meticulous guidance and precious instructions on the issues arising in creating raw materials bases, training technicians and skilled workers and establishing a well-organized working system.

The might of the great army-people unity, a national trait peculiar to the DPRK, is being fully demonstrated in the struggle for putting the WPK's policy of developing regional industries into

a brilliant reality.

Officers and men of the 124th regiments of the KPA, who had been dispatched to the construction sites on the order of the Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, kindled fierce flames of a new construction revolution.

Those who were involved in the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County took the lead in the campaign for regional change in the new era.

After finishing the huge project of foundation excavation in a matter of five days, the soldier-builders secured hundreds of thousands of blocks and aggregate and rounded off the framework construction qualitatively by pushing ahead with steelwork, fixing of shuttering and concrete placing in a three-dimensional way.

Those, who were dispatched to Janghung, Onchon, Usi, Kyongsong and Jaeryong counties, finished the framework construction ahead of schedule by carrying out their daily assignments in a matter of several hours.

Regional-industry factories began to take shape as the framework construction has been completed in the main thanks to the great devotion of the soldier-builders who had performed exploits every day in their proud struggle for upholding the policy of the Party and the state and bringing happiness to the people.

Keeping pace with the intensive struggle of the 124th regiments of the KPA, provincial, city and county Party committees pressed ahead with the preparations for operating factories simultaneously, while holding fast to the creation of raw materials bases and the training of skilled workers as their own affairs.

Supported by the patriotic zeal of working people to create a new life and civilization by treasuring and tending everything in their native villages, raw materials bases covering tens of thousands of hectares have been secured across the country.

Every province has given priority to training skilled workers for the operation of new factories while attaching importance to strengthening technical forces.

Those to be trained for different production processes and kinds of work have been selected and demonstrations and passing-on-technique sessions organized effectively in light-industry factories in Pyongyang and provinces, resulting in the growing ranks of skilled workers.

The February 17 shock brigade of scientists and technicians was organized to implement the regional development policy in hearty response to the Party's call on the scientific circles to rise up and vigorously lead and promote the country's economic growth. They have launched ambitious research projects to contribute

to establishing production lines, breeding high-yield crop varieties and improving the quality of products.

Workers of industrial establishments in different parts of the country and those in the fields of rail, land and maritime transport are performing collective and joint innovations out of a desire to make contributions to the successful implementation of the Party's regional development policy.

The patriotic deeds of the service personnel of the 124th regiments of the KPA and officials and workers across the country, who are upholding the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, a gigantic revolutionary programme for bringing about epochal changes for national rejuvenation, with practical successes, rather than speech, inject fresh confidence in victory and vigour into the ranks of the all-people general advance for implementing the decisions of the Eighth WPK Congress.

A sure victory is in store for the 10-year revolution for bringing about an overall regional development as there are the wise leadership of the WPK that advances the revolution by dint of intense love for the people, the great potentials of the self-supporting national economy and the united strength of the people and KPA service personnel based on patriotism with firm faith in scientific accuracy and validity of the Party's policies.

Ceremonies of moving into new houses held across the country

KCNA

Farmers moved into new houses in Naejung-ri and Sinjong-ri in Yomju County, North Phyongan Province.

Present at the ceremonies for moving into new houses were Ryu Song Hyok, secretary of the North Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers'

Party of Korea, and officials, builders and agricultural workers in the county.

Choe Yong Chol, vice-chairman of the North Phyongan Provincial People's Committee, made a congratulatory address at the ceremonies.

Agricultural workers of the Namyang Farm in Kilju County of North Hamgyong Province moved into new modern houses.

Present at a ceremony for moving into the houses were Han Yong Song, secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned and officials, builders and agricultural workers in Kilju County.

Pak Myong Ho, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's

Committee, made a congratulatory address.

Dwelling houses for hundreds of families have been built on the Thaephyong Farm in Hyangsan County, Jagang Province, this year, too, in the wake of last year.

A ceremony for moving into new houses took place on the spot on June 16.

Present there were Han Chil Song, secretary of the Jagang

Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials of the Party and power organs, builders and agricultural workers in Hyangsan County. A speech was made.

New modern houses have appeared at the Ryongyong Farm in Sakju County, North Phyongan Province.

A ceremony for moving into those new houses was

held on the spot with the attendance of Ryu Song Hyok, secretary of the North Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials, builders and agricultural workers in the county.

Choe Yong Chol, vice-chairman of the North Phyongan Provincial People's Committee, made a congratulatory address.



New modern farm houses spring up across the country. RODONG SINMUN



Farmers are happy to have a good crop of wheat and barley in Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province. RODONG SINMUN

Joy of good harvest in each field Wheat and barley reaped in time

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Wheat and barley are now reaped on farm fields across the country as soon as they are ripe.

Officials of the Agricultural Commission and all

provincial, city and county agricultural guidance organs are organizing the farming process in such a way as to ensure good results like estimated yields.

South Hwanghae Province, the "granary" on the west coast, is bustling with the

harvesting of the crops.

The province overfulfills daily plans as it has increased the proportion of the farm work done by machines with a view to finishing the harvesting of the crops as soon as possible.

North Hwanghae Province

is speeding up the similar work with the determination to finish it in good time.

Kumchon, Thosan and Phyongsan counties were the first to begin the farm work, and others, too, buckled down to the work, registering good results

every day.

Nampho City exceeds its daily target, which was set higher than before, as it has made full preparations because the per-hectare yield is estimated to increase much more than last year.

Farms in Pyongyang and South Phyongan and South Hamgyong provinces, too, are stepping up the harvesting of wheat and barley as soon as they are ripe while correctly calculating the right time for harvest for each plot and field.



Farms in South Hwanghae Province accelerate wheat and barley harvest with pleasure of having produced a rich crop.

System of identifying crop blights and weeds developed

By Kim Il Jin PT

A research group of Kim Il Sung University has developed an identification system of crop blights and weeds.

The system is a smart phone app which identifies species on the basis of photos of blights and weeds taken with a smart phone and indicates their characteristics and extermination measures.

In the past, the identification of blights and weeds and their extermination could be done by some technicians possessing special knowledge.

Therefore, it was impossible to discriminate in time new kinds of blights or weeds appearing in all the fields of a farm and take relevant measures.

To solve the problem, the intelligent science institute of the Information Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung

University set an ambitious goal of developing an information system with high speed and identification accuracy of blights and weeds and intensified research into it.

In collaboration with scientists of the agricultural informatization institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science, they collected hundreds of thousands of photos of blights and weeds in farms situated in the

suburbs of Pyongyang and common knowledge about them as well.

On the basis of it, the research group developed an app for the system.

When users take photos of blights on stems, leaves and fruits of crops or weeds in paddy and dry fields with smart phones in the near distance, the app immediately displays their names, features and extermination methods so that farmers can easily

discriminate them and take measures for exterminating them.

As it has the functions for keeping the log of date, place and record of the photographs of blights and weeds and reading the common knowledge of them that damage domestic crops, it helps gather information on the appearance of blights and weeds in each field and acquire wide-ranging knowledge of them.

According to Ri Kwang Chol, director of the institute, the system is capable of identifying well over a hundred blights and 50-odd kinds of weeds growing in paddy and non-paddy fields, which damage cereals, vegetables, fruits and industrial crops, with an accuracy of more than 90 percent and can be easily used with simple operation even under diverse field conditions.

Memorial service for Choe Hong Hui held

KCNA

A memorial service for Choe Hong Hui, ex-president of the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF), took place at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Sinmi-ri of the DPRK on June 15 on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of his death.

It was attended by executive members of the ITF and the International Martial Arts Games Committee, representatives of national associations, Taekwon-Doists and persons related to martial arts from different countries and the bereaved

family members.

On hand were officials of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, relevant officials, Taekwon-Do instructors and players of the DPRK.

Laid before the grave of Choe Hong Hui were wreaths in the names of the ITF, the International Martial Arts Games Committee, the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, the Committee for Aiding Overseas Compatriots of the DPRK and the Overseas Koreans' Affairs Administration, and bouquets as well.

The participants paid a silent tribute to the memory of Choe Hong Hui.

Ri Yong Son, chairman



A memorial service for Choe Hong Hui takes place at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Sinmi-ri of the DPRK on June 15.

of the International Martial Arts Games Committee who is also president of the ITF, made a memorial address.

Order of DPRK Friendship conferred

KCNA

Order of the DPRK Friendship 2nd Class was conferred respectively on Mario Bogdanov, vice-president of the International Taekwon-Do Federation, and Michael Prewett, president of the European Taekwon-Do Federation.

An award ceremony took place at the Mansudae

Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on June 17.

Present there were Kang Yun Sok, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Kim Myong Gun, chairman of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, officials concerned, Ri Yong Son, president of the ITF, and other executive members of the ITF.

Executive board meeting of IMAGC, executive committee meeting of ITF held

KCNA

The executive board meeting of the International Martial Art Games Committee took place in Pyongyang on June 17.

Present there were Chairman Ri Yong Son, president of the International Taekwon-Do Federation, Vice-Chairman Leong Wai Meng, vice-president of the ITF, and other executive members and representatives of various international martial arts organizations and national martial arts games committees.

The meeting discussed the issues related to the Ninth International Martial Arts Games and the eleventh general meeting of

the International Martial Art Games Committee.

An executive committee meeting of the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) took place in Pyongyang on June 14.

Present there were executive members of the ITF, including President Ri Yong Son, Senior Vice-President Kim Myong Gun and Vice-President Leong Wai Meng.

Invited to it were officials concerned.

The meeting heard a report on the preparations for the "2024 World Cup Taekwon-Do Games" and the 23rd Taekwon-Do World Championships.

Discussed at the meeting were matters related to the ITF's work.

Ceremony of lighting flame for int'l martial arts games held in Pyongyang



A ceremony of lighting the flame for the Ninth International Martial Arts Games is held at the martial arts torch tower in Pyongyang on June 17.

KCNA

A ceremony of lighting the flame for the Ninth International

Martial Arts Games took place in Pyongyang on June 17.

The flame, lighted at the martial arts torch tower

located at Sports Village on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang, will be brought to the flame holder in the venue of the opening ceremony of the Ninth International Martial Arts Games to be held in Tashkent of Uzbekistan in November this year.

Present at the flame-lighting ceremony were Kim Myong Hun, vice-premier of the DPRK Cabinet, Kim Myong Gun, chairman of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, Taekwon-Do instructors and players and working people in Pyongyang.

Also attending it were executive members of the International Martial Art Games Committee and the International Taekwon-Do Federation, martial arts

delegates from different countries and members of the diplomatic corps in the DPRK.

Ri Yong Son, chairman of the International Martial Art Games Committee who is also president of the ITF, made a speech.

The torch to the games was lighted and handed over to Laziz Khasanov, chairman of the Uzbekistan Taekwon-Do Association who is chairman of the organizing committee of the Ninth International Martial Arts Games.

Speeches were made.

Then there were an art performance by art group members of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and a demonstration by Taekwon-Do, wushu and karate players.

All meetings and exchange will bring about positive changes

The *Pyongyang Times* reporter Kim Hak Chol had an interview on June 15 with Sergei Seyranov, president of the Russian Taekwon-Do Federation who came to Pyongyang to participate in the memorial service for Choe Hong Hui, ex-president of the International Taekwon-Do Federation, on the 22nd anniversary of his death.

Would you mind telling me your impression as you take part in the memorial service?

Well, it is my fourth visit to Pyongyang.

Whenever I come to Pyongyang, I see a great many positive changes that have taken place here. Everyone can see that Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, is developing further day after day.

The Russian Taekwon-Do Federation has maintained cooperative relations with the

DPRK and the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee for 35 years regardless of any political change in the world.

We feel warm feelings towards the Korean people, the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, and all martial artists we meet here and, in particular, we express genuine respect for Choe Hong Hui.

We would like to offer our thanks to the Korean people for their warm feelings and hospitality.

As the DPRK-Russia friendly relations have improved unprecedentedly, exchanges in the field of Taekwon-Do will also be boosted in the future, I think.

I think that all meetings and exchanges will bring about positive changes.

In particular, the Russian sports minister visited the DPRK in November last year and during his visit the sports ministries of the two countries reached an agreement on

the plan for exchanges in the sports sector.

Covering the years from 2024 to 2026, the plan includes lots of contents on all sports including Taekwon-Do and Olympic sports events. If the plan is put into effect in the future, the two countries will achieve great success in the sports sector.



Handwritten signature and name of Sergei Seyranov.

We are ready for Ninth International Martial Arts Games

The *Pyongyang Times* reporter Kim Hak Chol interviewed on June 17 Laziz Khasanov, chairman of the Uzbekistan Taekwon-Do Association, who attended the ceremony of lighting the flame for the Ninth International Martial Arts Games.

The ninth games will be held in Uzbekistan in November this year.

Could you tell me about preparations for the Ninth International Martial Arts Games?

We have completed the preparations for the games to be held in Tashkent of Uzbekistan.

The preparatory committee is trying its best to ensure the event at a high level.

In today's ceremony of lighting the flame in Pyongyang, we will take over the torch and bring it to Uzbekistan.

How much popular is Taekwon-Do in your country?

In November, there will be also the national Taekwon-Do contest along with the international games.

Taekwon-Do is very popular among children and young people in Uzbekistan and they all love the martial art.

Taekwon-Do is just their life.



Handwritten signature and name of Laziz Khasanov.

Russia confidently pushes ahead with building of powerful state

KCNA

Building a powerful Russia is a line set forth by President Vladimir Putin.

Its aim is to firmly defend sovereignty and dignity of the country on the basis of its remarkably increased national power and to improve the living of its citizens and build a prosperous and powerful state with its own reliable reserves and means.

To realize this grand plan, Putin aroused patriotism of all the service personnel and the people and channelled big efforts into achieving the unity of the multinational state with love for the country as a spiritual and moral basis.

The Russian government set unity based on patriotism as the foundation for the struggle to build a powerful state and pays due attention to it.

In his recent speech, Putin stated that an important thing for all the Russians is to stand in one rank and that anyone and anything will be impotent before Russia's will, determination and bravery and the power of the united Russian people.

The decree on the goals for the national development of the Russian Federation, which Vladimir Putin signed in May, emphasized that the traditional spiritual and moral

values of Russia and patriotism are the basis of state policies and they play an important role in the development of the country.

The Russian government has recently supported a bill on making it compulsory for all educational institutions to hoist the national flag.

The bill, which was drafted with a view to instilling patriotism in the new generations, calls on all educational institutions, including primary and middle schools, colleges and universities, to constantly hoist the national flag on their buildings and on campuses and educate students to make strenuous efforts, cherishing love for and pride in the country.

Amid the more frenzied moves against Russia and the more undisguised distortion of history by hostile forces, the country makes sure that the rising generations remember the history of war victory and copy the victorious wartime generation's spirit of defending the country on different occasions including war victory day.

Thanks to such efforts of the government, the Russian people are steadily pushing ahead with the building of a powerful Russia while further strengthening socio-political unity despite the West's moves to isolate and stifle the country.

To strengthen its national power,

Russia positively promotes the development of its national defence capability.

Saying that the modernized and capable army guarantees the security and sovereignty of the country and its stable development and future, Putin stressed that Russia would direct primary attention to strengthening its national defence capability.

Russia put forward maintaining nuclear deterrent as one of top tasks, radically upgraded the strategic force with modern long-distance airplanes, submarines and missiles and accelerated the modernization of its armed forces, including distributing new armoured technical equipment in the army.

Today, the proportion of modern weaponry and technical equipment in Russia's strategic nuclear force has already exceeded 95% and the relevant index has nearly reached 100% in its naval strategic nuclear force, one of three nuclear elements.

Relying on the powerful national defence capability, the government firmly defends sovereignty and dignity of the country and its territorial integrity and is pursuing a foreign policy of resolutely tackling the US' and West's moves to isolate and stifle the country.

Putin noted that if anyone is

examining the possibility of invading Russia, they should not forget the fate of those who invaded it and that, today, those who scheme to invade the country will face more tragic consequences.

Now that the US and the West are intensifying comprehensive pressure against Russia to maintain their monopoly position declining day by day across the world, the Russian government is strengthening military cooperation within the scope of the collective security treaty organization and developing partnership with regional integrated bodies, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Russia has enhanced its international prestige and surely acquired its status as a world power while strengthening cooperation with many countries and joining efforts for international justice and peace.

The DPRK government and people are very pleased about the achievements made by the Russian army and people in defending the dignity and interests of their country under the correct leadership of President Vladimir Putin and sincerely wish them sure victory in accomplishing the cause of building a powerful state.

Stepping up economic, cultural construction

KCNA

Russia is striving to build a dynamic economy and a developed culture in the face of hostile forces' sanctions racket and their moves to isolate and stifle it.

President Vladimir Putin issued a decree on the national development goals of the Russian Federation until 2030, and even until 2036.

The building of a "robust and dynamic economy" takes the largest proportion in the May decree specifying seven national goals classified into a total of 82 indices.

The decree, which includes the issue of reducing import and increasing the utilization of domestic products, called for turning Russia into an economy that dynamically develops by dint of technological progress.

As is known, the unprecedentedly harsh economic sanctions imposed by the US and its vassal forces in recent years have caused a great deal of difficulties in the way of economic development of the country.

To cope with the West's sanctions hysteria, Russia is working to build a self-supporting economic structure relying on its domestic production, not importation.

Last year its GDP growth rate was 3.6 percent, or more than twice as much as the average of developed countries.

Its growth rate reached over 10

percent in different fields, especially 25.5% and 32.8% respectively in the transport means production and the computer and its parts production.

Saying that the sanctions imposed by the West have rather brought about reverse results, Putin stated that his country found a good solution to the complicated historical challenges, successfully overcame them and achieved economic development.

Russia is directing great efforts also to the development of all cultural fields such as science, education, health and the arts.

Shortly ago, the government announced a new strategy for developing science and technology.

The strategy defined the goals, major tasks and preferential orientations for the development of national science and technology, and specified the national policies in this field and the measures for their implementation.

According to the strategy, the country will set up infrastructures and create conditions for conducting scientific research and development and establish an effective management system for the scientific, technological and production sectors.

The government has a plan to invest more than 1 500 billion rubles in R&D of the civilian fields in the next three years, while attaching importance to increasing investment in science.

It also took measures to make the Russian science foundation work as

an effective organization to support scientific research projects and scientists.

Measures for developing education are being pushed to train talents who will shoulder sci-tech development.

The President said that education is one of the most important affairs from a historical point of view and referred to the need to accept all the excellent things the educational system of the former Soviet Union had boasted and recover edifying and valuable elements.

By 2030, Russia will establish more than 100 advanced higher educational institutions and sci-tech centres and repair 18 500 school buildings and about 800 dormitories across the country.

It is a major policy of the Russian government to develop public health for protecting the lives and health of the people.

It set the "preservation of population, protection of people's health and improvement of their welfare, and support for families" as one of its major national goals, which clearly shows its policy for the development of public health.

Shortly ago, modern tumour centres were built and started operation in Tomsk, Ufa and Yakutsk. Most of their medical facilities were made in the country.

The government announced a federal programme for the treatment of tumour in 2018 and pushed ahead with it, resulting in the establishment of more than 500 oncology

outpatient assistance centres across the country and the running of many consultation centres.

Russia's policy of eliminating the West's moves to expand vulgar culture and developing national culture is also welcomed by its people.

Russia invested a lot in the development of national culture in the past decade. Not content with this, it is directing big efforts to the development of national culture as it taps additional reserves to render assistance to artists and art organizations and step up the implementation of a plan for the protection of monuments and urban development.

It worked out a plan to build or repair new music schools and conservatories and has buckled down to its implementation. It also pushes ahead with the restoration of time-honoured structures and the modernization of theatres, libraries, exhibition halls and cinemas to enable the people to have a better understanding of the history and culture of the country.

It organizes in various forms such events as concert, folk song performance and music festival to make the arts contribute to the education of the people in patriotism.

Now the Russian people actively support the government policies designed to build a self-supporting economy and bring about development in all fields of society and culture.

Briefly

Russia

President describes US as major threat to Europe

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the US is a major threat to Europe at a meeting with Foreign Ministry officials on June 14.

The assertion of some European countries that Russia is going to attack Europe is a complete lie, he said, adding that the major threat to Europe is not Russia, but its extreme dependence on the US.

Asserting that the US has never given up the attempt to maintain its position as an empire, he said that the US uses the European politicians to serve its interests and exploits European countries.

He derided that the European politicians endure insults, vulgar behaviour and even scandals related to surveillance of them.

China

FM spokesman rejects interference in Hong Kong issue

A spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected the interference in the Hong Kong issue at a press conference on June 14.

According to him, the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, the European Union and others recently defiled the national security safeguarding law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the national security safeguarding rules and meddled in the constitutional government by the region. In connection with this, China expressed strong dissatisfaction with it and opposed it resolutely, he said.

The interference by any outside forces is not allowed since the Hong Kong issue entirely belongs to the internal affairs of China, he said.

Venezuela

US' illegal scheme decried

The Venezuelan government issued a statement on June 17 to censure the US for its illegal and immoral act.

The US administration is scheming to seize and sell Venezuela's state-owned oil company in the US under unreasonable pretexts. The statement branded this as an act of aggression.

Venezuela will take all possible measures to check the US moves, it noted.

Japan

Growing distrust in authorities

The current Japanese Cabinet is incurring widespread mistrust.

According to a recent NHK news report, an opinion poll conducted for three days from June 7 showed that 60 percent of respondents said they don't support Kishida's Cabinet, a 5 percent increase over last month.

As to the reason why they do not support the current authorities, most of the respondents said they could not count on their policies.



League matches go on

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Fierce seesaw battles bring about change in rankings

The second-stage matches of the 2023-2024 DPRK Premier League are growing fiercer with the passage of time and unpredictable results have been recorded, bringing about change in the rankings.

Amid matches between local powers, April 25, Sobaeksu, Amnokgang and Ryomyong teams, being on everyone's lips from the beginning of the second-stage matches, there was a match between Sobaeksu and Ryomyong.

Before the match the two teams took the second and fourth places respectively in the results of the league.

As the league rankings might change according to the results of the match, the players of both teams displayed their technical

and tactical abilities to the maximum.

The two teams tried to create opportunity for scoring with side and half-side breaks by dint of well-knit combination between players and central breakthroughs based on through-passes while strengthening the midfield.

In the 21st and 41st minutes the No. 21 midfielder of Sobaeksu showed scoring scenes by dint of good shots. The coach of the team says that the No. 21 player, who has now scored 6 goals in the league, began to participate in the domestic Premier League from 2017 and is fast in speed, high in the rate of successful pass and good at scoring.

To make up for the loss Ryomyong replaced four players in total at the 44th minute in the first half of the match and at the beginning of the second half. Thus,

the team remarkably got fast in advance to attack and the number of its shootings increased. In the 51st minute of the second half, the team succeeded in scoring by dint of its No. 20 player's shot after a right-side break.

But no more goal was scored and thus Sobaeksu won the match 2-1.

That day, the match between April 25 and Sonbong and that between Amnokgang and Jebi ended in 1-1 and 0-0 draws respectively.

As a result, Sobaeksu has taken the first place in the league rankings.

League indicates likely winners

The second round of the 2024 basketball league began.

Eight teams participated in the youth-level (Group A) men's and women's three-person basketball matches held on a round-robin basis for two days.

Amnokgang and April 25 won matches in the men's and women's events respectively.

At present the first-stage basketball matches take place.

In the competition held in two rounds of league matches Amnokgang and April 25 are regarded as likely winners.

The staff of the male Amnokgang team has weakened but it still maintains its status as a power. It won the second place in the first round of the league but this time it fully displayed its ability from the beginning with a view to winning victory, thus taking the first place in the first stage.

And the female April 25 team has still taken the first place in the wake of the first round. After defeating Pyongyang, Amnokgang and Kigwanha teams by a wide margin, it advances towards victory in high spirits.

Sol Islets in Sea Chilbo

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

Sol Islets in Sea Chilbo are in the waters off Pochon-ri of Myongchon County, North Hamgyong Province.

The islets, a scenic spot in Sea Chilbo of Mt Chilbo, one of the celebrated mountains of Korea, are not far from land.

Originally, they were one

island, but the rift in the rocks gradually widened to form two islets.

Ryong (dragon) Cave is halfway up the islets.

Pine trees grow thick and there are also oak and maple trees on the islets.

The islets have long been known as a beauty spot in Sea Chilbo for the beautiful scenery and queer-looking shape.

