

Kim Jong Il defends Korean-style socialism with Songun

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

The 1990s was a period of grim trials for the DPRK. The difficulties it faced at the time, which is recorded in history as the periods of the Arduous March and forced march, were enormous.

When the whole country was grief-stricken over the death of President Kim Il Sung, the father of the nation, severe natural disasters successively hit it, accompanied by food shortage and economic difficulties.

Availing themselves of this opportunity, the imperialist allied forces rushed in group and tightened the encirclement ring to isolate and stifle the DPRK. With the fall of

socialism in East European countries in succession, they trumpeted about the "collapse" of socialist Korea. The whole world was deeply concerned about the situation in it.

But all their expectations were overturned.

Chairman Kim Jong Il foiled the anti-DPRK moves of the imperialists, safeguarded the socialist system of the country and firmly defended the destiny of the country and nation by administering the original Songun politics.

On the morning of New Year's Day in 1995 the whole nation greeted in bitter tears of sorrow, he visited the Dwarf Pine Post of the Korean People's Army immediately after paying homage to President

Kim Il Sung.

He scientifically analyzed the changed internal and external situations, and drew a firm conclusion that sovereignty and peace are guaranteed by arms. And he administered the original Songun politics with the People's Army as the core and main force.

He always found himself on the long journey of Songun revolutionary leadership until the last moment of his life, visiting the KPA units including frontline army posts at Chol Pass and on Mt Osong, Mt Taedok and Cho Island. Under his guidance, the KPA was built up as the invincible revolutionary ranks and an elite force, which was better prepared politically, ideologically

and in military technique, frustrating the imperialists' sanctions, pressure and blockade moves against the DPRK.

The DPRK also achieved remarkable successes in economic construction on the basis of its strong military muscle.

By taking their cue from the fighting spirit of the KPA service personnel, who were making a breakthrough in economic construction under the slogan "Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!", the flames of a new great revolutionary upsurge were kindled in all sectors and a solid springboard for building a powerful socialist country was provided in

all fields including politics, the economy and culture on the strength of the great army-people unity.

The Arduous March and forced march our people had to experience in the late 20th century do not remain a mere recollection of past history.

Today the Korean people are victoriously advancing the socialist cause with indomitable spirit and will under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un despite any trying ordeals. Along with all the successes made on the way, Chairman Kim Jong Il's exploits for Songun revolutionary leadership will go down in history.

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Fatherly love moves all people to tears

By Pang Un Ju PT

The April 25 Hostel and the base for military parade training in Pyongyang have now become the focus of public attention as touching stories about the warm love of the DPRK leader were unfolded there one after another.

Image of mother

The fact that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, met flood victims who came to Pyongyang on August 15 touched the heartstrings of all people throughout the country again.

He visited the far-off and rough flood-stricken areas several times to see the inconveniences suffered by the flood victims and took crucial measures to bring the elderly, nursing mothers, disabled ex-soldiers, children and students to the capital city of Pyongyang so that they can lead a comfortable life until

an excellent "rural town of culture" would be built on the spot. And he visited the lodging quarters of flood victims from the afflicted areas despite the sultry weather, warmly greeted them and made a welcoming address overflowing with parental affection. Nobody had ever expected it.

Seeing the elderly, women and children in the flood-hit areas waving their hands in buses like the representatives who attend national conferences or events, all the citizens of Pyongyang said that it was the impressive scene they have seen for the first time since they lived in Pyongyang, that they had never imagined such an unusual event that flood victims who lost their homes due to the unexpected natural disaster were received as special guests of honour and that the warm love and affection of the General Secretary beggars description.

He said in his speech that the flood victims were justifiably entitled to such grand welcome

and sincere hospitality, and the WPK and the DPRK government are obliged to take full responsibility for the life and health of all the people within the territory of the country.

That is why the Korean people open their heart as they recollect the impressive scene unfolded along with flood victims, saying:

"The elderly, women and children will probably suffer the most when disasters strike. But in our country they are not miserable, but have come to enjoy the honour and happiness envied by all."

Seeing happy children

Everyone tells about the honour and happiness bestowed on the children in the flood-stricken areas throughout the country.

"When the news about the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's visit to the dining hall of children was reported and when he approached the dining table of the children from

our Uiju County, all the county population watched it with breathless attention," said Ri Ul Song, an official of the Uiju County People's Committee.

All the flood victims shed tears of gratitude.

The following day, Kim Jong Un visited the April 25 Hostel again to learn about the preparations for education for schoolchildren in the flood-hit areas and sent gifts to preschoolers and schoolchildren. The news caused a stir again in the whole country.

Teachers across the country say in unison that they could hardly repress tears welling up in their eyes as they think that the children in the flood-hit areas will study under excellent educational conditions in Pyongyang and that though they live in a small island village near the border of the country, they have become the happiest children well known to the country under the warm care of the fatherly Marshal.



The preschoolers and schoolchildren who came to Pyongyang from the flood-hit areas are happy after receiving gifts sent by the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un.

INSIDE

Outlook on life of Korean youth

By Han Jong Ho PT

Many stories are told day after day about the commendable deeds performed by young people across the country.

The news about two primary school teachers, who devoted their warm love and sincerity to the lame pupils, still greatly impresses the people.

The teachers, who embraced without hesitation the disabled schoolgirls whose medical treatment even their parents had given up, are girls in their 20s.

The news about feats, innovations and virtues of many young men and women are reported every day. Young builders set new standards and records at major construction sites and youth shock brigade members make breakthroughs in coal and other mines across the country. Young people volunteer for difficult and labour-consuming sectors and a lot of young people become "girl mothers" and "bachelor fathers" for orphaned children and spouses of special-class honoured disabled soldiers.

Most recently, hundreds of thousands of young men and women volunteered to work at the reconstruction sites of North Phyongan Province, in hearty response to the appeal of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It is the noble aspirations and outlook on life of the Korean youth to devote their strength and enthusiasm, the greatest treasure of the youth, unsparingly to the prosperity of the country.

Today, the patriotic life of the preceding generations, etched in the glorious annals of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the Fatherland Liberation War and the socialist construction, is continuously carried on.

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Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un receives greetings from president of United Russia Party

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, received a message of greeting from Dmitri Anatoliyevich Medvedev, president of the United Russia Party, on the occasion of the

79th anniversary of Korea's liberation. Medvedev in the message noted that strengthening close cooperation between Russia and the DPRK on the basis

of the tradition of friendship and good-neighbourliness provided by the preceding generations fully conforms to the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Expressing hope that the fruitful mutual cooperation between the United Russia Party and the Workers' Party of Korea would make a great contribution to the

accomplishment of this cause, he wished the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un good health and fresh success and all the citizens of the DPRK prosperity and wellbeing.

Farm villages bustle with house-moving

KCNA
New villages have been built at the Sinsi Farm in Chonma County, a mountainous county, this year after last year. Present at the ceremony for moving into new houses were Kim Chol U, secretary of the North Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials and builders in the county and agricultural workers to move into the houses. Choe Yong Man, chairman of the North Phyongan Provincial People's Committee, made a congratulatory speech and licences for the use of houses were conveyed amid the loud

applause of the participants. The agricultural workers held a dance party, delighted to move into the new houses at the same time, and officials visited the new houses to share joy with their owners. The construction of dwelling houses at the Jasan Farm planned for this year has successfully been completed in Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province of the DPRK. Present at the ceremony for moving into those new houses were Kim Man Jo, secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials of the Party and power organs, builders and agricultural workers in

Phyongsong City. Ri Song Bom, chairman of the South Phyongan Provincial People's Committee, made a congratulatory address. Then licences for the use of new houses were conveyed. People moved into new houses amid the lively peasants' music and cheerful dance. Officials visited the new houses to congratulate their owners. Modern dwelling houses have been built at the Pugo Farm in Chongam District of Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province. Hundreds of low- and single-storied and terraced houses will enable the

regional working people to lead a highly-civilized and worthwhile life. Present at the ceremony were Kim Pong Gil, secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials of Party and power organs, builders and agricultural workers in Chongjin City and Chongam District. Pak Myong Ho, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, made a congratulatory address. Then the licences for using houses were handed over. Amid the playing of peasant music and the display of dance party, agricultural workers began to move into their new houses.



Farmers move into modern dwelling houses at the Pugo Farm in Chongam District of Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province.

NEWS IN BRIEF

KCNA

National sci-tech presentation in educational information field held

A national sci-tech presentation in the field of educational information took place in the DPRK on August 20-21. Attending the presentation, held on the theme of "Advanced teaching forms and methods and creation and introduction of educational technology", were lecturers, researchers and postgraduate students of educational units. At the presentation divided into three panels, various papers won a high appreciation. Certificates were awarded to the participants who presented excellent proposals.

National sci-tech presentation in the field of textile industry held

A national sci-tech presentation in the field of textile industry was held through videoconferencing at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang on August 19-20. The presentation, held on the theme of "Improving the quality of consumer goods", was aimed at widely disseminating and generalizing the scientific and technological successes and experience gained in the production of textile and knitted goods, true to the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee. Present there were scientists, technicians and field officials from more than

20 units.

Certificates were awarded to the papers highly appreciated at the presentation.

National sci-tech presentation in field of pharmaceutical industry held

A national sci-tech presentation in the field of pharmaceutical industry took place at the Sci-Tech Complex on August 20-21 under the sponsorship of the Korean Pharmaceutical Industrial Association of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea. Taking part in it were scientists, technicians, postgraduate students and field officials from dozens of units. Presented to it were more than 80 valuable scientific and technological proposals.

National university students' sports contest opens

The 2024 National University Students Sports Contest opened with due ceremony at the Sariwon Indoor Stadium on August 20. The contest brought together more than 700 players selected from the provincial preliminaries. They will compete in basketball, volleyball, tennis, and track and field events. After the opening ceremony, a women's volleyball match was played between the South and North Hwanghae provincial teams.

Nicaraguan ambassador visits war museum

KCNA
Manuel Modesto Munguia Martinez, Nicaraguan ambassador to the DPRK, visited the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang on August 21 on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

relations between the DPRK and Nicaragua. Being briefed on President Kim Il Sung's undying feats for the war victory and on the heroic struggle of the victorious wartime generation who honourably defended the dignity and sovereignty of the country, the ambassador went round

various halls of the museum. At the end of the visit, he made an entry in the visitor's book. Earlier, he toured the Tower of the Juche Idea, the Monument to Party Founding, the Arch of Triumph and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

Manuel Modesto Munguia Martinez, Nicaraguan ambassador to the DPRK, visits the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum on August 21.



Long journey of patriotic devotion

Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army on August 25 1960.

By Hwang Jong Ryol *PT*

August 25 has great significance in the history of development of the DPRK revolutionary armed forces.

Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army on August 25 1960.

For the Chairman arms were just the revolution, country and people.

In view of the truth of history that if the military capability is weak, a country can neither defend national dignity nor its sovereignty and will be subjected to humiliation and the demands of the reality, he devoted himself to bolstering up the military capability of the country for over half a century.

For the DPRK people, the 1990s

was the hardest period of time.

When President Kim Il Sung passed away unexpectedly and the whole nation was grief-stricken over it, natural disasters hit the country year after year and the economic situation went from bad to worse. The Korean people had to experience extreme difficulties. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the imperialist allied forces tightened the encirclement ring from all directions to stifle socialism of the DPRK forever.

At the crossroads of whether to become an independent people or to be reduced to slaves to imperialism again, the Chairman opted for the road of Songun resolutely to defend the country.

It was the conviction and mettle

of the Chairman that he could turn any adversity into favourable situations and withstand any attack of the formidable enemy if the country has strong military capability.

The banner of Songun he held high was the powerful driving force to bring to naught the imperialists' tyranny and enable the Korean revolution to advance along the road of victory.

The Chairman continued his field inspection tour of the frontline army units to firmly defend Korean-style revolution, a legacy left by President Kim Il Sung.

The snowstorm of the Chol Pass, the high and rough paths of Mts Osong and Taedok, and the sound of the waves of Cho Island still tell many touching stories about

the iron faith and will, energetic devotion and painstaking efforts of the Chairman during his Songun-based leadership.

Thanks to the Songun politics, the DPRK defeated the wicked anti-socialist moves of the hostile forces and emerged as an invincible fortress of socialism and unrivalled military power.

The immortal exploits the Chairman performed for defending the country firmly and strengthening and developing the socialist cause of Juche to fulfil the desire of the people shine brightly along with the advance of the prosperous country under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who is successfully carrying forward the cause of Kim Jong Il.

'I cannot forget the benevolent image of Chairman Kim Jong Il for ever'

I have an unusual memory of the days of service in the Korean People's Army.

I served at a coastal battery of the Persimmon-Tree Company, which is well-known across the country.

Even today, whenever people call me accordionist of the Persimmon-Tree Company, I recollect in deep emotion the days when I met Chairman Kim Jong Il and played the accordion in his presence.

A little over one year after I joined in the army, I met the Chairman.

I never dreamed that the Chairman would visit my company when the sea was raging on his way for inspecting the KPA units.

It was one day in early February 1995 when he visited my company for the first time.

With paternal love, he looked round all places of the company, learning about the military service of the girl soldiers, and saw our artistic performance.

That day, I played the accordion portraying our merry and optimistic life. We could not get asleep the whole night with the feeling of happiness of seeing him.

A few months later as we heard the news that we would stage an artistic performance in his presence again, we were all full of delight.

That day he was all smiles as he saw us, who had grown up as stout soldiers.

When each number of our colourful performance like chorus, narrative, solo and small chorus that were filled with the mettle and optimism of coastal artillerywomen who defend the sea of the country ended, he clapped his hands before others, and said that the level of our performance was very high.

Today, there are photos in my house, which I posed with Chairman Kim Jong Il in the days at the Persimmon-Tree Company. Looking at the photos, I reflect my yearning for him on the melodies of the accordion of those days.

And I renew my resolve to devote all my wisdom and passion to make my country more prosperous as he desired.

Jong Hye Yong, department head of the Central District People's Committee in Pyongyang

Revolutionary anecdote

Following footprints of devotion left on Chol Pass

By Ri Sang Il *PT*

Days, months and years of the Songun revolutionary leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il tell a lot of touching stories about his love and devotion for the soldiers of the Korean People's Army.

Here are some of them.

Chol Pass

Chol Pass is steep and rugged.

It goes up 16 kilometres and down the same distance. It has a steep slope and is slippery when it snows heavily. But Chairman Kim Jong Il often drove his car to climb the pass.

One day in July 2001, when he went over the pass over again, officials tried hard to dissuade him.

At that time, he said that he knew the pass was rough and

dangerous and a little slip on it would make the car fall over the precipice, but he often climbed the pass because his beloved soldiers stood guard along the defence line of the country waiting for him, Supreme Commander of the KPA, over the pass. They are impregnable defending their posts, rain or shine, thinking of their Supreme Commander, he said, adding he could not stay idle without visiting them.

Nothing, even the high and rough Chol Pass, could block his way to his soldiers.

Supreme Commander and soldier

It happened one day in March 1996.

Towards evening, Chairman Kim Jong Il climbed the Chol Pass again.

It was a historic place where President Kim Il Sung met a soldier who was on his duty at the post on the pass and had a photo taken with him on the field guidance tour of a KPA unit one spring day 31 years ago.

The Chairman, who had accompanied the President at the time, recalled that day and told officials to meet a soldier on sentry duty there.

A KPA general ran to the guard house but couldn't bring the sentry with him soon as it was some distance away from the top of the mountain.

The sun set and the wind began to blow more strongly. It was so cold that it was hard to bear the cold on hands and feet. However, Chairman Kim Jong Il stood at the top of the cold mountain for 20 minutes waiting for the sentry.

Finally, the general came back

with a soldier with his gun and in full combat gear.

With a bright smile on his face, the Chairman was delighted to meet the soldier who gave him a smart military salute and warmly asked about his name and birthplace. The soldier courageously answered what his name was and that he was born in Kophung County of Jagang Province. Hearing his answer, the accompanying officials could not but be surprised. The soldier who had a photo taken with the President at the post 31 years ago was also from Kophung County of Jagang Province.

The story about unusual happiness of an ordinary soldier from a mountainous village, who met the Chairman unexpectedly at the remote windy mountain army post, spread across the country.



The Chol Pass tells undying exploits of Chairman Kim Jong Il for the Songun revolution.

Decades resplendent with feats of youth

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

The history of the Korean youth movement is a proud one, in which the revolution has advanced and the dignity and honour of our state have been highly demonstrated thanks to the heroic and devoted efforts of young people.

In the 1950s, just after the Fatherland Liberation War against invaders broke out, in less than two months (June 25-August 15, 1950) over 849 000 young people volunteered to the front and 446 young heroes were produced during the three years of the war.

During one year after war, they reconstructed 915 coal and ore mines and other enterprises and over 10 000 hectares of crop fields,

carried out 317 irrigation projects and planted well over 204 million trees.

True to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea, they finished 80km-long Haeju-Hasong railway construction in only 75 days, and more than 6 000 young people volunteered to the fishing sector from June to November 1959.

In those days, young people finished the large-scale Kiyang irrigation first-stage project two and a half years ahead of schedule.

In the 1960s, greeting the Fifth Congress of the Democratic Youth League, the Kanggye Youth Power Station and the project of electrification of the Pyongyang-Sinuiju railway line were completed, and nearly one hundred

thousand young people volunteered to major construction sites.

From 1961 to 1969, over 1.5 million young people volunteered to work in difficult and labour-consuming sectors of socialist construction and over 2.6 million joined more than 70 000 youth shock brigades.

In the 1970s, 3 600 youth shock brigade members constructed the new Ichon-Sepho railway line.

Young people finished electrification of the Pyongyang-Madong railway line, which had been supposed to take over two years, in less than two months, and rendered distinguished services in the projects of electrifying the Huichon-Koin and Pyongyang-Tokchon railway lines and building

the Chongjin marshalling yard.

In 1978 tens of thousands of senior middle school graduates volunteered to work at farms, forming hundreds of youth sub-workteams, and over 2 000 youth sub-workteams were formed the following year.

In the 1980s, over 25 000 youth shock brigades were formed across the country, and a total of 6.1 million members of the League of Socialist Working Youth joined the shock brigades.

Young people actively contributed to completing the first stage of northern railway line project, the Kwangbok Street, Grand People's Study House, Mangyongdae Fun Fair, Ore-dressing Plant No. 3 of the Komdok Mine, Pyongyang Department Store No.

1, Changgwang Health Complex, Changgwang Street (first stage), location street of the Korean Film Studio and other monumental edifices and factories and enterprises.

In the 1990s-2000s, the most difficult and arduous period for the country, young people built over 40km-long Youth Hero Motorway.

The July 11 youth vanguard death-defying corps in South Hamgyong Province built the Kwangmyongsong Salt Works on Kumya Bay with a yearly production capacity of tens of thousands of tons.

Young people finished the work of laying a 100km-long railway line, building 47 bridges, 14 stations, 13 tunnels, and on April 15, 1997 the line between Wonsan and Mt Kumgang was opened to

traffic.

In the 2010s, after the completion of units 1 and 2 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station in 2015, young people completed Unit 3 in less than half a year in 2016, which they dedicated to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In a single day of August, when the country's situation was escalating to the brink of war, one million young people volunteered to join or rejoin the Korean People's Army, demonstrating their determination to repulse the enemy.

During the 200-day campaign, young people completed scores of construction projects, and equipment and machines numbering over 500 were named Chongnyon (Youth).

Entering the 2020s, until mid-July 2021 after the Eighth Congress of the WPK, nearly 10 000 young people volunteered to work at difficult and challenging sectors and thousands of others joined them after the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK. This year they built a new monument to the youth, Jonwi Street, in the capital city of Pyongyang.



File photos show young people volunteering for labour-consuming sectors and performing miracles and feats on major fronts in every decade of the revolution.



Heroic youth, nutrient of their growth

Still remember the time when Chairman Kim Jong Il entrusted the young people with the heavy yet important task of building a large-scale hydropower station in the Paektu plateau.

It was easier said than done to build a large hydropower station in the Paektu plateau.

It was really an arduous struggle to build a power station there as it had to be done in the biting cold of Mt Paektu which is known to be so severe to freeze and break even a birch tree.

But in the face of all these trials and difficulties, we,

shock brigade members, did not waver even a little.

The Chairman was very proud of us, members of the youth shock brigade, who were devoting their youthful energy and vigour at the foot of Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution, and regarded it as highly commendable, solving all problems arising in the construction of the power station and even flying a special plane to send padded clothes to the shock brigade members.

Like the parents who care more about the children living far away from them,

he showed warm love for the members of the youth shock brigade. Not content with it, he visited the construction site of the power station on May 16, 14 years ago, on his way back from the historic foreign tour.

When officials tried to dissuade him, saying that the path was too rough for him to go, he told them that he would go to see us, young people, even by tank if he could not go by car, and left for the construction site decisively.

And he warmly shook hands with youth shock brigade members and young builders, saying that he heard

they waited for him eagerly and that he also wanted to see them who came a long way to this rough place and were devoting their youthful energy and vigour to the construction of the power station.

With the same parental love shown by Kim Jong Il, the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the power station and put forward the youth of Mt Paektu as the masters of the youth power and heroes of the times.

Saying that he could see the intense loyalty of young people supporting the

Workers' Party of Korea in all parts of the construction site and he felt as if he obtained thousands of troops and horses, Kim Jong Un earnestly asked officials to give his regards without fail to the members of the youth shock brigade who are devoting their precious youth unsparingly to the construction site of the power station.

Indeed, the great trust and ardent love of the peerlessly great men were the roots of miracles and source of the unbounded spiritual strength which enabled us, young people, to create a myth about

the heroic youth admired by the world.

Our young people who have grown up under the great trust and warm love of the peerlessly great men, will build another proud monument to the youth, a new place of happiness to be envied by the world in the afflicted area in response to the call and expectation of the Party and the revolution with an irresistible struggle.

Ri Kum Chol, Labour Hero and director of the August 28 Youth Shock Brigade Management Bureau



Rungna Water Park good shelter from summer heat



By Ri Myong Jun PT

In midsummer, people are lured to the Rungna Water Park in the Rungna People's Recreation Ground on picturesque Rungna Islet in the Taedong River in Pyongyang.

As people see others swimming and splashing about in water, they feel an urge to cool themselves off by jumping into refreshing water.

Many visit the park and especially children and students now on vacation come to it almost every day.

Adults also come there with their children, wearing broad smiles on

their faces.

Parents busy themselves with teaching their children how to swim and other adults have a good time splashing about in water like children.

A water slide is a magnet for visitors at the park.

It looks like rolls of silk when you look at it on the Rungna Bridge crossing the Taedong River.

The slide has four courses and people can slide down with or without a float.

The longest course is more than 120 metres.

Holding yellow two-seat floats, people go up stairs to the starting

point by forming pairs even with strangers.

They slide down from the top of the slide sending up sprays, which is a sight to behold.

They say it is nice to feel the thrill of floating in the air or turning upside down and enjoy the pleasure of plunging into water throwing up sprays after sliding down the course in an instant.

Youth and schoolchildren competitively ride the water slide as if sliding is a demonstration of their bravery.

Young people do not have a monopoly on the water slide.

Elderly persons go up stairs of

People and children have a pleasant time at the Rungna Water Park. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

the slide with long strides, which reminds viewers of the song "We Don't Care for the Passage of Years".

"The water slide is always full as people take one course after another in succession," said keeper Kim Kum Mi.

Another crowd-puller at the multi-functional water park is the top of the building of bathing booths and shower rooms where there are courts of beach volleyball, basketball and volleyball.

"When I jump into the cool water from the springboard after playing a volleyball match, I am relieved of all fatigue and get invigorated," said a resident in Okryu-dong No. 1 in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang.

The Rungna Water Park, which cools people off in summer and makes the elderly become younger in body and mind, adds to the scenery of Taedong riverside overflowing with joy and optimism of life.

Schoolchildren pursue sci-tech dreams

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

The Children's Dream Hall at the Sci-Tech Complex is a favourite haunt of schoolchildren.

"With the start of summer vacation, the number of visitors to the hall has doubled. Some children spend the whole day here," said Jon Hak Min, section chief of the complex.

After entering the dream hall, children go to the places of their interest including the children's reading room, the scientific activities arena, the intellectual development classroom, the garden of science section, the spring of wisdom section and the nature exploration section.

Those who carefully watch the exhibits showing the laws and principles of things and

to board.

"Whenever I visit the Sci-Tech Complex, I always get on the spacecraft. Here, I can see videos showing data giving us general knowledge of the moon, such as the distance from the earth to the moon, the surface of the moon, the process of going into outer space and sampling on the moon.

"On board the spacecraft, I feel as if I have become a conqueror of space. I will study hard to realize my dream," said Han Jong Min, a second-year student of junior class at Segori Senior Middle School in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

In the puzzle hall, pupils put together various shapes of puzzles like aircraft and dwelling houses, unaware of the passage of time, to



Schoolchildren consolidate what they learned at schools theoretically at the children's dream hall of the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang. KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

phenomena in the garden of science look like scientists and researchers exploring the unknown world.

"I can easily understand the principle of electricity production as I closely look at the water-wheel generator running by using water power. I'll become an electrical engineer in the future," said Jong Il Myong, a fifth-year pupil from Pulgunbyol Primary School in Taesong District, Pyongyang.

Those in the nature exploration section resemble explorer in a jungle, while those freely operating simulation amusement facilities in different sections seem to be jet pilots, sports stars and skilful drivers.

According to lecturer Kim Jong Gyong, the spacecraft for travelling the moon is what every schoolchild wants

cultivate imagining and conceiving abilities.

They surprisingly ensure their formative and artistic qualities with remarkable skills.

The lecturer said Choe Kwon Yong, a fourth-year pupil at Kangan Primary School in Songyo District, Pyongyang, who would frequent the Children's Dream Hall, presented a fire-monitoring robot he contrived to the national exhibition of children's science fiction models and inventions-2024, drawing the attention of many.

Jon Un Byol, a resident in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, who often visits the hall with her daughter, said that her girl gets a bigger dream every time they come there, adding that the place is where children have beautiful dreams.

After-school hobby groups actively run during summer vacation



Students cultivate their talents through active extracurricular activities during summer vacation at Munsin Senior Middle School in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Pang Un Ju PT

All the schools throughout the country are conducting activities to make effective use of the ongoing summer vacation.

At Munsin Senior Middle School in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang, many students study or conduct experiments and practical training in subjects they chose according to their nature and aptitude at different extracurricular groups during their vacation, while developing their talents in art, sports and calligraphy groups.

"In a nutshell, every hour during the vacation passes according to the option chosen by students themselves," said Ri Jong Ok, headmistress of the

school.

To this end, teachers in charge made students plan their extracurricular activities during vacation and go to groups they like.

On the basis of comprehensive analysis of the students' usual records, teachers formed study groups according to their levels and abilities to provide them with conditions and environment so that they can study, free from mental stress caused by the gap in their abilities.

The school set up groups for extracurricular activities including mathematics, English, natural sciences, IT, music and sports, and subdivided them into programming, document compilation, animation-making, vocal music, accordion, volleyball and

the like to make students choose what they need and learn on their own initiatives.

The school ensures that instructors guide students impartially in order to make those groups enhance the abilities of every member, instead of improving the ability of any particular member.

According to the headmistress, students have become more enthusiastic for study as extracurricular group activities have been conducted briskly and the number of students belonging to more than two groups to cultivate their talents has drastically increased.

During the vacation, students consolidate knowledge they learned at the groups, enhance their

cultural and emotional attainments and build up strong physical strength.

"I did not like to study because I was weak in maths, but I have become confident that I can also do while seeing my abilities grow under the guidance of my teacher and with the help of group members. I learn volleyball at the volleyball group in the afternoon and it is very interesting," said Ra Chol Hyok, second-year student of junior class.

The students are very pleased with the extracurricular activities arranged by the school in diverse ways according to their aptitudes and hopes during vacation and parents are also happy to see their children make progress in study and skills.

Students positively learn swimming

By Kil Chung Il PT

Students are eager to learn swimming in the water sports months of July and August.

"Our country is bounded by the sea on two sides and has many rivers and streams. So water sports activities are important for students to build their physical strength and foster strong will and courage," said Jong Song Hui, swimming instructor of the Changgwang Health Complex.

At this time of the year students have summer vacation and they come to the swimming pool to learn how to swim. So the swimming pool has a full house every day. She said that three days are enough for even the beginners to learn it.

Rim Yu Jin, student at Segori Senior Middle School in Pothonggang District, said that he was very much afraid of going into water in the past.

He was so bothered by his friends that he learned swimming from the instructor of the Changgwang Health

Complex. He is now able to swim along the course without a float, Yu Jin said, adding he was glad to see himself become brave.

Lots of students who learned swimming at the swimming pool of the Changgwang Health Complex swam the courses neck-and-neck, making viewers feel pleasant.

Swimming lessons are also offered at the indoor and outdoor swimming pools of schools across the country.

Physical education teachers and class teachers teach students how to swim, showing practical movements to help them understand

the basic movements of swimming theoretically, while informing them of the common sense related to water they must know before starting swimming training and the ways to cope with various situations to be encountered in water.

Students are learning swimming movements competently in the clear and blue water of the swimming pools.

Students are also seen engrossed in learning swimming at the wonderfully built indoor swimming pool of Wisong Primary School in Unjong District.

In recent years, the school has demanded

that all teachers enhance swimming skills and explain to the students how to create buoyancy and how to breathe smoothly while swimming so that the students can acquire the basic skills of swimming with confidence.

Kim Jong Hyok, physical education teacher, said that students are all eager to attain the targets for each grade, adding that even parents come to the school to teach their sons and daughters swimming methods.

The hotter the summer season gets, the more eager the students become to learn swimming and the higher the swimming level of students goes up day by day.

Schoolchildren learn swimming at Sanghug Primary School in Sosong District to mark water sports months of July and August. JO RYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Sparklers spark interest of customers

By Jong Chol PT

There is the Changgwang Sparkler Shop on Rimhung Street newly built in the Hwasong area of Pyongyang. Since it opened in May, it has attracted a lot of customers. The goods of the shop especially awakens the curiosity of children who come here with their parents or grandparents.

According to Ra Jong

Mi, a saleswoman of the shop, they sell sparklers like sparkling dragonfly and tops for outdoor use only and sparkling sticks which can be used indoors as well. Dozens of kinds of sparklers, including sparkling fountain, lead the children into the ecstasy and mystery of fireworks, she said.

Customers choose sparklers to buy, seeing videos about various kinds of sparklers on show on

TV in front of the display stand.

As they are convenient to use and safe, sparklers in different forms give a feeling of pleasure to both children and adults.

They come for individual and group uses. And those which send out sparks explosively are in great demand.

A sparkler has its flying object which can fly up to 120-150 metres high when the



A saleswoman is busy selling sparklers to customers at the Changgwang Sparkler Shop on Rimhung Street. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

fuse is ignited and explode in the shape of thrown confetti like fireworks and whose remains are parachuted.

A woman living in

Hwawon-dong

1, Hwasong District, Pyongyang, said proudly that her son is absorbed in playing with sparklers on the balcony

No. of their nice house.

Many people reportedly come to buy various kinds of sparklers at the shop on holidays.



Ri Sun Nyo, secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Dancers Union of Korea.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Ri Sun Nyo is a People's Artist and the secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Dancers Union of Korea.

Whenever she looks back upon her 45-year-long career as a dancer, she says that national dance is everything to her.

With a special aptitude for dance in her childhood, she enrolled at Wonsan Art School at the age of 11 and dreamed of becoming a dancer.

She would play the leading part in different works including dance "A Bumper Harvest of Apple" whenever the school gave a performance.

After graduation, she became a dancer of the then Pyongyang Moranbong Art Troupe.

Her wish was to distinguish herself in the dance circles like Choe Sung Hui and People's Artist Hong Jong Hwa who left indelible marks on the development of Korean dance.

She trained hard both at the training hall and hostel. Once, she was so engrossed in practising dance movements of a new work in the hostel she unwittingly broke the lamp on the ceiling to pieces by hitting it with the janggu (hourglass drum)

National dance as life companion

stick.

As she was such a fiery enthusiast, she could win the Fourth February 16 Art Prize Individual Contest by performing solo "Janggu Dance".

Previous works required doing dance while carrying janggu only. But Ri Sun Nyo performed dance while beating the musical instrument. Everyone was mesmerized by the elegant, charming and beautiful rhythmic movements of Korean dance she performed to the fast and exciting tune of janggu. After that, she rose to fame as a dancer who broke new ground of janggu dance.

Whenever people congratulate her, she attributes her success to the ability and enthusiasm of Om Yong Chun, People's Artist and choreographer who created the work, instead of her talent.

Om had developed the janggu dance favoured by people from a solo to a group dance.

Chairman Kim Jong Il saw

janggu group dance "Moran Hill in Spring" starred by Sun Nyo three times and spoke highly of it.

Sun Nyo always played the leading part in many domestic performances and captivated foreign audiences with the charm of Korean dances in foreign performance tours.

During her stage career, she created more than 30 national dance pieces including mixed group dance "The Pride of Gold Mountain" and sohaegum solo and dance "Long Arirang" and was invited to the dance university of Northeast China for several years to pass on and create national dance.

Having worked as secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Dancers Union of Korea since last year, she devotes her wisdom and enthusiasm to inheriting and developing the tradition of elegant and beautiful Korean dance and ensuring that younger generations carry it on.



A practical consultative meeting is held to improve rhythmic movements of Korean dance. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

'She needs us'

By To Kyong Chol PT

Kim Chong, motivator at the blast furnace workshop of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, is a special-class honoured disabled soldier who had been sentenced to death by the medical world due to paraplegia plus an obstinate disease ten years ago.

To everyone's surprise, she left the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital with her lovely baby girl amid the blessings of many in March this year.

She is admired and loved by all the employees of the complex as she works with strong will to motivate them to boost iron and steel production.

She got married to a young ex-serviceman who had visited her, so attracted by her ennobling mentality. In June last year, or several months after their marriage, Pak Un Sil, chief of the paediatric department of the Songnim City Hospital, shouted for joy after carrying out a medical examination of Kim Chong.

"You are carrying a baby!"

Kim couldn't believe it. She was excited at the thought that she would be able to realize the dream she had thought impossible, a dream she had cherished as she saw her husband taking warm care of her through thick and thin.

Pak Un Sil, who had been taking sincere care of Kim's health and life with parental affection since her demob, prepared tonics with rare herbs for her and bought clothes for her baby to be born.

Then, like a bolt from the blue, Pak passed away all of a sudden.

Later, Kim and her husband Jong Kwang Myong were told that Pak had struggled to look after Kim although she had already developed an incurable disease a long time

ago.

Kim vowed in tears to give birth to a child without fail and become a strong mother as Pak had wished.

Many people happened to know about Kim Chong through an article posted by a medical worker on the Kongang (health) homepage on the national data communication network and offered a helping hand to her.

Yu Sol Hwa, a medical researcher at a unit in Pyongyang, was one of them. She was sleepless all night after reading the news that Kim was enduring a severe pain without taking medicines in fear that they might affect the unborn baby, in defiance of a medical conclusion that an easy delivery would be impossible due to diabetes and severe amyotrophy caused by an obstinate disease.

Thinking Kim Chong needed her now, Yu frequently visited Kim's house with medicines made from natural materials good for skin diseases and diabetes.

Such persons increased in number.

They included medical workers at the Songnim City Hospital, Ko Hye Sun, doctor at the clinic of the Namgu Housing Construction Company, Kim Kwang Guk, doctor at the Chongjin City Koryo Medicine Hospital, and Ko Ok Chon working at the Thaethan County medical supplies management station. They secured rare medicines and materials for restoring her to health to greatly encourage her.

She was brought to Kim Man Yu Hospital in Pyongyang several months before delivery. She finally gave birth to a healthy baby at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

The loud first cry of the baby was a happy event not only to Kim's family but to all those who spared nothing for the special-class honoured disabled soldier.

Functional cosmetics made with songi mushroom extract

By Kil Chung Il PT

The Taehung cosmetics manufactory has developed and produced Chilbosan-brand functional cosmetics by using the extract of songi mushroom.

According to researcher Kim Kang Hun, the extract is valuable as a natural material of cosmetics as it contains amino acids, polysaccharides, trace elements, flavone, alkaloid and others and is highly effective in protecting and whitening skin and dozens of times greater than vitamins C and E in antioxidant function.

Based on the findings of his lengthy research, he made by a bioengineering method the extract in a way that it maintains the activity of the active components of the mushroom and has no side-effects harmful to skin, thereby succeeding in introducing it into cosmetics production.

"We use songi mushroom in Mt Chilbo, a celebrated mountain of our country, in the production of cosmetics. The mushroom from the mountain is also world famous," said Manageress Ri Song Hui.

The manufactory has developed more than 10 kinds of functional cosmetics including skincare, ageing-retarding and whitening cosmetics. The unique substance extracted from the mushroom

is mixed with various kinds of functional materials providing nutrition to skin and active components of natural medicinal materials.

Among them, ageing-retarding lotion and milk are most favoured by customers.

According to developers, as people advance in age, cell growth factors decrease and thereby skin grows old.

The cosmetics ensure skin gloss and elasticity constantly, remove blotches and freckles, eliminate senile plaques and pigmentation and make horny layers smooth to get rid of wrinkles.

A woman said that she was fretful about her blotches that appeared when she was pregnant, but they began to disappear as she applied the products.

The Chilbosan functional cosmetics are also good for whitening skin and blocking ultraviolet rays and remarkably adaptable to skin impaired by imbalance in moisture and dry skin, thereby being well-liked by customers.

"The demand for cosmetics, which are natural, safe and less irritant and have remarkable effects, is on the rise with each passing day. We will increase the variety of our cosmetics and their qualitative level through exchange with different production units," said the manageress.

Black raspberry products grow popular

By To Kyong Chol PT

The Changgwangsan foodstuff production station under the Changgwangsan Trading Corporation developed fermented products with black raspberry as the main raw material.

Black raspberry is a bush belonging to Rubus of Rosaceae. The plant is about 2.5m high and bears clusters of fruits on one stem. A berry weighs around 5.7g and one cluster about 0.5-1kg. Similar to strawberry in shape, it is black in colour and soft and juicy.

"For the nutritive elements of the fruit, different countries are now showing a growing interest in the cultivation of black raspberry," said Kim Mi Gyong, chief of the station.

According to data available, the fruit is rich in anthocyan, polyphenol, vitamins B, C, E and K, selenium, calcium, minerals and other elements essential to the human body. In particular, its antioxidant content is three times higher than that of common blueberries.

Black raspberry has remarkable antioxidant, ageing-retarding, anti-cancer, immunity-boosting, metabolism-promoting, blood pressure-lowering and stress-relieving functions and is highly effective in treating obesity, diabetes and arteriosclerosis and

improving heart functions.

Therefore, it is called a third-generation fruit species and "black life-giving fruit".

The fruit is also cultivated in the DPRK.

The Changgwangsan foodstuff production station turns out fermented black raspberry goods by combining the traditional fermenting method of the Korean nation and modern processing technique.

The products have distinctive flavours and aromas for the high standard of the fermentation process and the full aging in oak barrels.

Packaging of new modality is so refined and conspicuous that it attracts customers.

As the products satisfy the demands of the present-day people, who seek new, wholesome, beautiful and convenient things, they won popularity as soon as they were unveiled and demand for them has been on the rise with the passage of time.

"I began to have this black raspberry drink in December last year," said Kim Chol, researcher at Kim Chaek University of Technology. "For occupational peculiarity, I often suffer from stress. But soon after I have the



Fermented black raspberry liquor.

drink, I feel refreshed and better. And though I easily caught cold when my colleagues contracted the illness, I could spend last winter free from it. And as the drink is so nutritious I don't feel hunger after drinking it. The colour is also pleasing. I love this as it is made domestically."

The fermented black raspberry products were highly appreciated at the light industrial goods exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" held last year.

According to developers, they are going to develop various other black raspberry products.

Children's Favourite

CONSTRUCTION TOY

Planting forests of economic value scientifically guaranteed

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

As the construction of regional-industry factories makes headway in different parts of the country according to the new regional development policy, the building of raw material bases is being pushed in parallel to provide such factories with sufficient materials.

Accordingly, the Academy of Forest Science is pressing on with the work to plant efficient forests of economic value in a scientific and technological way.

It dispatched scientists to cities and counties where aforesaid factories would be built this year to inquire about the progress in the creation of such forests.

On the basis of this, it convened consultative meetings on several occasions to plant oil-bearing and wild fruit trees and trees for paper production in keeping with the regional features of relevant areas.

The consultative meetings seriously discussed scientific and technological plans for satisfactorily solving the

issue of raw materials for regional-industry factories by widely spreading to cities and counties across the country good species of trees of economic value whose cultivating method was established to suit the climatic and soil conditions of the country in the course of research projects.

Among them are such oil-bearing trees as *Evodia daniellii Hemsl.*, *Xanthoceras sorbifolia*, *Acer truncatum* and *Paeonia suffruticosa*, Sangwon poplar and other trees for manufacturing paper and such wild fruit trees as dwarf pine-nut trees, calcium plum and *Ribes nigrum*.

It is said that *Xanthoceras sorbifolia* is more productive than other oil-bearing trees, tasty and good for the treatment of arteriosclerosis and other diseases and is used to make lubricant, soap, paint and others as it is clear and clean. Oil cake left after squeezing for oil is also used as a raw material of various processed foods. The tree is also of great ornamental effect. When white flowers come into bloom and give

off sweet fragrance, it draws the special attention of passersby as the leaf colour is very green though flowers have gone. It is heavily-laden with big fruits on every branch to make travellers stop their steps. In that season, it is really a sight to behold.

Paeonia suffruticosa is very higher in per-hectare fruit and oil yields than other oil-bearing crops, and has great nutritive and decorative value as quality edible oil and is of high medicinal value from root to seed.

While having high capacities of storing water and purifying air, Sangwon poplar is of high utility as a fuel as its heating value is greater than brown coal. It is also effective as pulp wood and in forming windbreak forests.

Those who were dispatched to 20 cities and counties now work to help effectively build forests of economic value and manure and tend trees in collaboration with different scientific research units and scientists and technicians of relevant regions and

generalize the experience gained by them to other areas across the country.

As a result, tens of thousands of hectares of raw material bases were secured nationwide.

Meanwhile the academy also channels great efforts into the dissemination of forest science and technology.

In cooperation with different units, the scientists of the academy finished the making of videos about sci-tech issues related to building forests of economic value in a short time and are accelerating activities for disseminating and generalizing forest science and technology.

They also developed an intelligent tree identification programme containing common knowledge of plants and helpful to correctly identifying species through the leaf images of plants.

Besides, the academy works to lay material and technical foundations for producing improved tree varieties of foundation stock.

Planting large chestnut forests for decades

By Kim Il Jin PT

There is a place called a "large chestnut valley" in Jokhyon-dong, Kangso District of Nampho City.

Large chestnut trees covering the entire valley are the fruit of untiring efforts made by Pak Yong, an old man who was head of a mountain workteam.

Nearly 30 years ago, Pak volunteered to work there after being demobilized as a colonel.

"At first, I could not understand him. He was awarded at least 10 Orders of the National Flag during his military service as an officer. But he came to this place covered with only shrubs," said Ri Tuk Han, Pak's peer, recalling those days.

Ri was also a demobbed officer, who had served at the same unit as Pak's for a long time. When he came back to his home village, he thought only of planting some firewood forests and doing housekeeping while herding goats, Ri said frankly.

Pak Yong began planting large chestnut trees as soon as he came to the place.

He was a beginner in this field, but he sorted out stones and dug drainage ditches with members of the mountain workteam, while planting large chestnut trees and grafting them onto native species of chestnut trees. But their efforts were to no avail.

Eight years passed that way. One day a heavy rainstorm raged all night, breaking large chestnut grafts and leaving no burrs on the surviving grafts. They had to wait one year again to graft.

Some workteam members complained about the situation, asking him why he insisted on growing large chestnut trees as they were not sure whether they would benefit from it and advising him to plant acacia and

other trees which grow well without much effort.

Looking round the discouraged workteam members, he told them why he wanted to do it.

He said that he first saw this bald valley when he came to the place after completing his demobbing procedure.

He felt his heart broken as the empty valley, once a lush forest to be called a chestnut tree valley before the Arduous March, came to his mind in contrast to the green foliage of the precincts of his unit covered with useful trees.

"This land is also part of our country and someone should cultivate it, I thought. After repeated thinking, I made up my mind to do the work. And then I decided to plant large chestnut trees from which people can enjoy long-term benefits," he said.

His intention really impressed the members of his mountain workteam.

From the following day they spent most of their time in the mountain with their workteam leader.

They went to work early in the morning and came back home late at night.

Pak and his wife and their last daughter Pak Song Wol's family lived together in a single-storey house. And soon their vegetable garden turned into a small tree nursery and experimental plot.

Their strenuous efforts finally brought their own reward: a large chestnut tree they grafted several years ago produced the first fruits in 2006, 12 burrs in total.

The day when their nearly 10-year hard work bore fruit, Pak was so happy that he turned round and round the tree with tears in his eyes.

Native species of chestnut trees were gradually changed by large chestnut trees, and those newly planted every year grew tall with the passage of time.

Forestry management station increases production of saplings

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

The Ryongsong District Forestry Management Station is a unit taking the lead in forest restoration in Pyongyang.

The station provided solid material and technical foundations for sapling production including the parent tree nursery and plastic panel greenhouse covering several hectares.

Relying on a well-regulated sapling production system, it is conducting seed treatment, germination and sowing and time selection in

a scientific way.

The introduction of rooting stimulants, synthetic plant vitamins and indigenous microorganism-based fermentation fertilizer has promoted the growth of saplings and improved their resistance to diseases so as to increase their rooting rate.

"In particular, the synthetic plant vitamins supply enough nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients to make every leaf green and lustrous," said an official of the station.

The products are reliably

ensuring the double cultivation of tree saplings in the greenhouse. The station is channelling great efforts into the environmental management of the tree nursery and making it automated.

Besides, it is directing efforts to the manufacture and introduction of powerless water lifting pump, universal planter and other equipment.

Meanwhile, it is effectively operating the sci-tech learning space in order to make all employees have a wide range of

knowledge on afforestation and protection.

In particular, Jo Kwang Ryol, a sci-tech disseminator who is called "our teacher", explains in a plain language the questions of manuring and tending saplings raised by forest rangers and tree nurses.

Thanks to the efforts of its employees, saplings of good tree species are growing healthily at the parent and other tree nurseries built at every branch station, and mountains in Ryongsong District are getting greener with each passing day.

Achievements conducive to establishing Juche-based iron production system

By Chae Myong Rim PT

Notable successes have been made to contribute to establishing the Juche-based iron production system in the leading iron producers in the metallurgical industry sector.

Juche-based iron is produced by an iron-making method that suits the actual

condition of the country without relying on the fuel of other countries.

After finishing the construction of energy-saving oxygen blast furnace in a short time, the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex earnestly pushes ahead with the preparations for its total test run. A project for installing a 15 000 cubic metres per hour oxygen plant

is also being stepped up.

The Ministry of Metallurgical Industry and the complex organized a project commanding team with competent technicians, held dozens of on-site consultative meetings on the design and construction, installation and assembly of steel structures and test run of each system, and solved problems arising in

the construction of energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and the installation project of oxygen plant.

The construction of a vertical oxidizing roasting pellet furnace has entered a final stage at the Posan Iron Works.

The iron works finished the construction of several production buildings including the comprehensive

control room in a few months after the start of the construction and wound up the construction of vertical oxidizing roasting pellet furnace in the main by pushing the making and assembly of diverse steel structures and equipment and devices, before entering a no-load trial run of each system in succession.

While sharing the past

construction experience and techniques, the Chongjin Metal Construction Complex built a furnace body in a short time by introducing rational assembly methods. Technicians of the Metal Construction Company carried out the assembly of dust collection facilities and conveyor belts and installation of a huge pipeline network.

Historic event to go down in history of DPRK-Russia friendly relations

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Chairman Kim Jong Il paid an unofficial visit to Russia's Siberian and Far Eastern regions from August 20 to 25 in 2011 at the invitation of Russian President Dmitri Anatolievich Medvedev.

The Russian government and people in the relevant regions warmly welcomed the DPRK leader and offered him sincere hospitality as he was visiting their country to further consolidate and develop traditional friendly relations between the two countries.

Kim Jong Il and Medvedev met in Ulan-Ude, capital of the Republic of Buryatia, on August 24 and had talks in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

At the talks the leaders of the two countries unanimously emphasized that further consolidating and developing bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation with a

long history and tradition not only conformed to the aspirations and fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries but also was of great importance in developing Northeast Asian region and defending global peace and security.

The talks stressed the need to expand and develop friendship, equality and cooperation for mutual benefit between the two countries on the basis of the spirit of the DPRK-Russia Joint Declaration adopted in Pyongyang in 2000 and DPRK-Russia Moscow Declaration in 2001 and the Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighbourliness and Cooperation between the DPRK and the Russian Federation.

That evening President Medvedev gave a grand banquet at the presidential guesthouse in Ulan-Ude to welcome the DPRK leader to his country.

Kim Jong Il visited several cities

and many units in Siberian and Far Eastern regions for six days.

He expressed thanks to Medvedev, Russian leading officials, several regional governments and people for warmly welcoming him in visiting places and offering him sincere hospitality during his visit.

Kim Jong Il's 6 000-kilometre-long journey to Russia's Siberian and Far Eastern regions was of great significance in consolidating and developing the traditional DPRK-Russia friendship to a higher stage.

As in the past, the DPRK will exert sincere efforts to develop friendship between the two countries, and strive to achieve international justice and establish a new international order hand in hand with Russian government and people on the principle of respecting each other's sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit.

'We will demonstrate heroic spirit of Korean youth again'



Ri Kwang Hyok

Vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League

The Socialist Patriotic Youth League is a vanguard unit that the Workers' Party of Korea trusts and puts forward in socialist construction.

The trust and affection of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un are the motive force that accelerates the revolutionary advance of our young people to the fronts of socialist construction and encourages them to perform heroic feats in the proud march.

The speech he made at the recent departing ceremony of the

Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade for the rehabilitation sites in North Phyongan Province is an encouraging banner, which ran through with his great trust in and affection for the patriotic youth who have turned out in the worthwhile struggle to remove the aftermath of the disaster and build cradles of a happy life for the people

He said that after a decision was made by the Party and the subsequent appeal by the Central Committee of the youth league, nearly 300 000 young people

volunteered to go to the areas of recovery from flood damage, and that such explosive volunteering enthusiasm can never be found in any other countries. He added that he would like to speak to the world proudly that our country has such great young people.

There are so many things that we young people have to do in the flood-hit areas and difficulties and challenges facing us.

But we have a precious and honourable title *special detachment* given by the WPK.

We will conduct a valiant struggle, staking the dignity and honour of the Korean youth, and thus demonstrate to the world what miracle we young people work in the areas where nature wreaked havoc.

BYWORD

Legend of heroic youth

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said in his speech at the inaugural ceremony of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station in October 2015 that young people carried out the huge task equivalent to the work done for ten years in a little over 120 days to complete the dam

of unit 1 of the power station by fighting a fierce 24-7 battle with the courage and valour of Paektu youth given by the Workers' Party of Korea, and that it was a legend of heroic youth that can be created only by the Korean youth.

Enjoying his trust, the Korean young people continue to create legendary tales.

This year, they built the wonderful Jonwi Street in the capital city of Pyongyang by their own efforts.

At present, young

people, who volunteered to join in the restoration of the flood-hit areas in North Phyongan Province, devote their sweats and passion to create a miracle of turning adversity into favourable conditions, new legendary tales of heroic youth.

For the development of Non-Aligned Movement

By Yun Ki Song PT

On August 25 1975, the DPRK joined the Non-Aligned Movement with a noble desire for global peace and independent development.

It was the clear manifestation of the absolute support for and solidarity with the DPRK of the non-aligned countries and the world peace-loving forces for having advanced undauntedly under the banner of independence against imperialism and the brilliant fruition of its independent and peace-loving foreign policy.

Since it joined the Non-Aligned Movement, the DPRK has fought against the aggression, war, high-handed and arbitrary practices of the imperialists and dominationist forces, holding higher the banner of independence, and made positive efforts to develop fair international relations and promote friendship, cooperation and unity between non-aligned countries.

With scientific insight into the law governing the development of the times and history, the urgent requirements of the Non-Aligned Movement and the common aspirations and desires of progressive mankind, President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il made a great contribution to the struggle for strengthening the unity of the Non-Aligned Movement and achieving global independence.

High-handed and arbitrary practices by specific forces get more rampant and power politics prevails in the international arena now, making the international relations more complicated with each passing day.

The sovereignty of many countries including non-aligned countries has been trampled down and interference, threat and aggression against them continue.

The present situation requires the NAM member nations to resolutely defend the UN Charter and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement whose key points are the respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries and peaceful settlement of disputes and frustrate the high-handed and arbitrary practices of the specific forces by their united efforts.

It is the invariable fighting goal of the DPRK government to build a peaceful world in which the independence of the countries is fully ensured.

The 19th NAM summit was held in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, in January. The head of the DPRK delegation said in his speech at the meeting that Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, noted that it is important for non-aligned countries to frustrate the imperialists' moves to maintain and strengthen the aggressive military blocs, fight against all forms of aggression, interference, subjugation and inequality and counter the imperialists' moves for aggression and war with concerted action. He added that the struggle of the DPRK government and people who work hard to defend peace on the Korean peninsula and build a powerful socialist country will make a great contribution to ensuring global peace and security and realizing the just cause of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Only when the progressive mankind loving independence, justice and peace fights vigorously in close unity, can they build a world independent and peaceful, free from high-handed and arbitrary practices and war moves.

The DPRK will as ever strive to develop the friendly and cooperative relations with non-aligned countries under the ideal of its foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship, promote the Non-Aligned Movement and defend peace and security in the region and the rest of the world.

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Press statement of Institute for American Studies of DPRK Foreign Ministry

KCNA

The Institute for American Studies of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea released the following press statement "To bolster up self-defensive power for defending security environment of Korean peninsula and region is urgent requirement of times" on August 18:

The US and the ROK are going to stage Ulji Freedom Shield, large-scale provocative joint military exercises, from August 19 to 29.

Even vassal countries affiliated to the "UN Command" will reportedly take part in the exercises involving 48 rounds of various field manoeuvres such as live firing and landing drills on the ground and sea and in the sky.

Thus, Ulji Freedom Shield fully betrays its dangerous colours as the biggest military manoeuvres in the Asia-Pacific region and attack-oriented multinational muscle-flexing involving even NATO member states.

The Institute for American Studies of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK makes public this press statement to disclose the rash confrontational moves of the US and the ROK escalating regional military confrontation and contradiction by kicking off such aggressive large-scale joint military exercises despite strong internal and external opposition.

Is Ulji Freedom Shield "defensive" and "transparent"?

A spokesperson for the US Department of State recently termed the US-ROK joint military exercises "regular" and "defensive", touting their "transparency."

This is no more than rhetoric to cover up the dangerous and grave nature of their joint military drills and evade international community's criticism.

It is clearly recorded in the world history of wars that in preparation for a war, aggressor states followed a series of procedures, including adoption of war policy and military operation plan for its execution, advance deployment of forces, ceaseless simulated and actual war drills and war provocation.

The current US administration

has more openly pursued the policy of using nuclear weapons against the DPRK by specifying the "end of regime" of the latter as a goal in its "nuclear posture review" made public after its inauguration. It has put into practice its nuclear confrontation policy against the DPRK by releasing the "Washington Declaration", establishing a new US-ROK "nuclear consultative group" and cooking up the "guidelines on nuclear strategic plan and its operation."

According to them, nuclear-powered submarines of the US frequented the waters near the Korean peninsula in 2023, seven times as much as in 2022, and the number of flights of its fighters and bombers in the sky above it has quadrupled. Against this backdrop, nuclear carrier strike groups are being deployed there one after another along with massive introduction of latest US war hardware such as F-35 stealth fighters and SM-6 ship-to-air interceptor missiles.

Worse still, the number of field manoeuvres, staged as part of Ulji Freedom Shield, increased to 38 in 2023 and 48 in 2024, and they have turned into provocative special warfare ones in content such as special war training aimed at "occupation of Pyongyang" and "beheading operation."

Notably, the current exercises, including a drill simulating a nuclear confrontation with the DPRK, bring to light clearer the provocative nature of Ulji Freedom Shield as a prelude to a nuclear war.

"Transparency" of the joint military drills touted by the US is no more than trickery to deceive the international community.

Most of the countries, which are to "observe" whether the US-ROK joint military exercises are staged in conformity with the requirements of the Korean Armistice Agreement, are member states of the "UN Command" or NATO member states under the control of the US. So it is clearly evident that it is utterly impossible to expect any neutrality or impartiality from them.

All facts prove that Ulji Freedom Shield is neither "defensive" nor "transparent" but the most offensive and provocative war drills for aggression in the world.

What impact do the US-led joint military exercises have on international peace and stability?

It is the typical method of the US to pursue its unilateral and absolute security by infringing upon other countries' security and interests.

It is clearly evidenced by the fact that the US and its vassal countries have staged more than 200 joint military drills in the world annually and they have become more threatening in their nature.

As for RIMPAC kicked off in 1971 against the former Soviet Union, the joint military manoeuvres didn't disappear despite the end of the Soviet-US Cold War but have developed into the world's biggest multinational maritime joint military drills under the pretext of "defeating" new "virtual enemy."

From late June to early August this year, RIMPAC was staged on the largest scale ever, involving 40 warships, three submarines, 150-odd aircraft and 25 000 troops from 29 countries.

International security experts unanimously commented that the forms and contents of RIMPAC clearly prove that they are aimed at laying siege to and deter China.

US-led joint military drills are being staged frequently also in the European region, distressed by the world's worst-ever security crisis brought by the Ukrainian incident, to spark off great concern of the international community.

The US-led joint military exercises Steadfast Defender were staged on the largest scale ever since the end of the Cold War near the border of Russia from January to May this year with the involvement of more than 90 000-strong forces, at least 50 warships including aircraft carriers, 80-odd fighter jets, over 1 100 combat vehicles.

The exercises, aimed at restoring the ever-dampening atmosphere of supporting Ukraine among European countries and inducing them to increase military expenditure, fully show the hostile intention of the US to militarily deter Russia and seize the military hegemony in the region.

It is the fact never to be concealed and denied that the US-led joint military drills are the grave root cause of escalating military confrontation and causing sustained instability across the world.

What is the best way to ensure peace and stability?

Shortly ago, the US secretaries of State and Defense and the national security adviser of the White House, in an article they jointly contribute to the press, betrayed the sinister intention to seize military hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region by inveigling not only regional vassal countries including Japan and the ROK but also countries outside the region.

This shows that the US-led joint military drills have nothing to do with "preserving regional security" touted by it and its allied forces but serve as a political and military means to take more countries on the confrontation chariot driven by it to realize its hegemony.

Actually, major NATO members are taking part in the US-ROK joint military exercises recently under the signboard of member states of the "UN Command" and the military nexus between Japan, the ROK and NATO is getting further tightened.

The US, which included in its defense budgets the "Pacific deterrence plan" of drastically reinforcing its military presence in the Indo-Pacific region in recently years, has annually increased the allotment for carrying it out. This predicts that the US and its vassal countries would more openly engage in military intervention in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity.

The prevailing situation requires the independent and sovereign states to constantly maintain the balance of power for preventing a war by stockpiling the greatest deterrent for guaranteeing their sovereignty, security and interests in every way in the current and future uncertain security environment.

The more frequently the US and its vassal countries commit collective military provocations, the stronger the deterrent of justice for neutralizing the threat from them and ensuring regional and global peace and stability will become.

We will continue to make crucial efforts to build up strong defence capabilities for creditably defending our state sovereignty, security, interests and territorial integrity and change the security environment of the Korean peninsula and the region in our favour.

Briefly

Belarus

Immediate countermeasures to be taken against invaders, President says

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said in a recent interview with the Russian 1TV that if the enemy invade the border, it will immediately respond to it.

Belarus has no intention to use tactical nuclear weapons in its territory as far as the enemy does not cross the border, he said, noting that the border means the boundary line of the union of Russia and Belarus.

It does not want the escalation of tension nor a war against the whole of NATO, he said. But when the West goes to war, there is no other way and there will be no red line except the border, and if they invade the border, it will take immediate countermeasures, he added.

Russia

FM censures West for supporting terrorism

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Russia's 24TV on August 16 that the West would not evade the responsibility for supporting the terrorist crimes of the Kiev authorities.

The Kiev authorities, a den of terrorism in the hands of the West, have killed and blackmailed peaceful civilians by employing various tactics and attacked civilian infrastructure, she said, denouncing it as a terrorist act.

The West will never evade the responsibility for it, because such a crime cannot be separated from Western politicians and NATO clan, she noted.

Lebanon

Hezbollah attacks Jewish settlement in Israel

Hezbollah, an organization of the Lebanese patriotic forces, carried out drone and missile attacks on a Jewish settlement in the northern area of Israel on August 17.

It was reportedly a counterattack against Israeli air raid on Lebanon.

Earlier at dawn of that day, Israeli warplanes made an air raid on the dwelling houses in the industrial zone in southern Lebanon, killing 10 and injuring five others.

Palestine

Israeli troops continue to massacre civilians

Despite the strong denunciation and protest of the international community, Israeli troops are hell-bent on massacre against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Regional public health authorities said on August 17 that 69 Palestinians were killed and 136 others wounded by the Israeli army in the past 48 hours.

As a result, the number of Palestinians killed has increased to 40 074 and wounded personnel to 92 537 since the Israeli troops started military operations in October last year.

Persisting heat, increasing damage

By Song Jong Ho PT

On August 8, the Copernican Climate Change Service, the meteorological information agency of the European Union, said that the average global temperature stood at 16.91°C in July this year, the second highest in the history of observation since 1940.

On the other hand, the mean 12-month temperature till July this year was 1.64°C higher than before the Industrial Revolution, which far exceeded the goal of the Paris Agreement to keep the average global temperature from rising by more than 1.5°C over the one before the Industrial Revolution.

The sultry weather is persisting this month, too.

Shortly ago, the temperature rose to above 40°C in most areas of Spain. Saying that the heat wave will last in the future, too, the Spanish meteorological bureau warned that extremely high temperatures unprecedented in the last 30-odd years would be observed this summer. According to a public health institute, 608 people died of high temperatures for the first week of August, or nearly double the death toll of the week before.

With extremely high temperatures and drought going on in Italy, an increasing number of regional governments declare a state of

emergency.

According to meteorological data, the temperature reached 43°C in some southern areas and islands of this country.

The worsening heat wave due to low precipitation led to a serious shortage of water, bringing harm to many residents and businesses.

The supply of water has been cut in some areas of Sicily for several weeks. An olive oil producer said that the output of olive oil for this year will be reduced by 95%. A high-temperature warning has already been issued in 20 out of 27 large cities in this country including Rome.

A heatstroke alert has also been issued in 37 regions of Japan as heat

wave persists in the country.

The meteorological authorities said that high temperature of over 35°C is going on in the vast eastern and western areas of the country due to the severe heat wave. Especially, Nagoya City has registered 37°C successively for 11 days. The temperature is high not only in daytime but also at night, exerting a serious impact on the people's health.

Experts are of the opinion that ever-worsening high temperatures increase this year and it is directly related to global warming caused by carbon dioxide emission, adding that the global temperature will set a record high this year, too, after last year.



Mt Myohyang is a celebrated mountain of the DPRK well known to the world. It stands in the northwestern part of the country, or in the middle part of the Myohyang Mountains.

Four teams advance to semi-finals for Hwaeppl Cup

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Amid the fierce competition of the men's group league matches for the Hwaeppl Cup soccer tournament, the match between Amnokgang and Hwaeppl teams ended to decide four teams for the semi-finals.

The match between Amnokgang and Hwaeppl was fierce as Ryomyong, Kigwancha and April 25 teams qualified to advance to the semi-finals.

The Amnokgang pressed against the opponent with a strong attack from the beginning, whereas the Hwaeppl tried to score a goal on the strength of fast break based on

strong defence.

In the 12th minute, Amnokgang's No. 24 Ra Myong Song scored the goal by heading the corner kick.

A freshman who began to play at the first-division matches on the domestic front in 2021, Ra is drawing the attention of experts as he is a quick and good header.

He has so far scored five goals in this season.

After winning the first goal, the Amnokgang continued to attack its opponent without slackening speed.

In the 29th minute, it shot the ball with the help of well-organized attack, but finally in vain due to the Hwaeppl's goalkeeper.

The Amnokgang, which was

staging continued attacks, broke through the midfield in the 60th minute and netted another goal by a single breakthrough. The seesaw battle continued with the score of 2-0.

The Hwaeppl, which had been trying to turn the tables while changing players, retrieved one goal by shooting the ball right into the net from the right side in the 67th minute.

However, the Amnokgang succeeded in scoring the third goal by dint of two-men combination in the 89th minute.

Finally, the match ended 3-1 in favour of the Amnokgang and the team qualified for the semi-finals as the winner of its group.



Scenes of the men's group preliminaries in the Hwaeppl Cup soccer tournament.

Octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda in Pohyon Temple

By Choe Yong Nam PT

There stands an octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda in front of the Tacung Hall at the Pohyon Temple in Mt Myohyang.

The pagoda was built with trimmed granite pieces.

It consists of a pedestal with three layers of platforms, tower body and head.

Going upward, the height and width of each storey get narrow, stressing the feeling of its height as well as stability.

The corners of the body are thin, and a frame girdles the face of each part, giving an elegant feeling. The eaves of roofs are curved upward in parallel, and a wind bell hangs

on each eave.

The pagoda is preserved as a precious national relic, showcasing the excellent masonry in the medieval period of Korea.

