

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 27 (3 063) weekly <http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp> e-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp Sat, July 6, Juche 108(2019)

Chairman Kim Jong Un meets with US President Donald Trump at Panmunjom

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK met with Donald Trump, president of the United States of America, at Panmunjom on the afternoon of June 30 at the suggestion of the US President.

Chairman Kim Jong Un accepted the proposal of President Trump for meeting him in the Demilitarized Zone on the Korean peninsula during his June 29-30 visit to south Korea and went to the south side portion of Panmunjom to have a surprise meeting with him.

In a little over a day, from the moment when the suggestion was known to the public till the dramatic event happened, all eyes and ears

of the world were on the Korean peninsula again and the entire global village was full of excitement and joy, kindling great interest in and

expectations for the news of the DPRK-US summit at Panmunjom.

Kim Jong Un came out of the Panmun House on the afternoon

north side portion of Panmunjom and held their hands again, recording

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of June 30 and had a historic meeting with Donald Trump just before the demarcation line at Panmunjom, grabbing the worldwide attention.

In 66 years after the Armistice Agreement was signed in 1953 such an amazing event took place that the top leaders of the DPRK and the US held each other's hands and had historic handshakes at Panmunjom, the symbol of Korea's division.

Kim Jong Un gladly exchanged greetings with Trump for meeting him again after some 120 days and guided him toward the north side portion of Panmunjom.

The two leaders came up just in front of the Panmun House in the





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a historic moment when a sitting US President crosses the Military Demarcation Line and sets foot in the DPRK for the first time in history.

Having a pleasant chat, they headed for the Freedom House in the south side portion of Panmunjom, the venue of the talks.

Kim Jong Un was greeted by south Korean President Moon Jae In in front of the Freedom House.

He exchanged warm greetings with Moon Jae In.

The historic scenes of the top leaders of the north and south of Korea and the US freely crossing the demarcation line and meeting each other in the DMZ along the Military Demarcation Line, the product of hostility and confrontation, made a

great impact on the world, showing that a new history of reconciliation and peace has begun at Panmunjom, a testimony to the long-standing mistrust and misunderstanding, discord and antagonism.

Then there were a one-on-one chat and talks between the leaders of the DPRK and the US.

They explained the ways to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula, end the unsavoury relations between the two countries and make a dramatic turn in them and mutual fears which would be an obstacle to solving problem and issues of their concern, and expressed full understanding of and sympathy with them.

They agreed to keep in close contact in the future, too, and resume and push forward with productive dialogues

for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and bilateral relations.

Kim Jong Un said that it was the good rapport with President Trump that made such a dramatic meeting as of today possible at just twenty-four hours's notice, noting that the bond between him and Trump would continue to produce good results beyond others' expectations in the future, too, and work as a mysterious force to overcome manifold difficulties and obstacles they would face.

Present at the talks from the DPRK side was Ri Yong Ho, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and foreign minister, and from the US side

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The leaders of the two countries expressed great satisfaction with the results of the talks.

After the talks Kim Jong Un exchanged farewell with Trump.

Trump and Moon Jae In came up to the demarcation line at Panmunjom and gave him a warm send-off.

The bold decision of the leaders of the two countries, who achieved an epoch-making historic meeting by flinging wide open the door of division at Panmunjom which has long been tightly locked as the symbol of DPRK-US confrontation and feud, was a surprising event that created unprecedented confidence between the two countries steeped in discord and antagonism as old foes.

Compiled from KCNA



REMEMBRANCE

Kim Il Sung lives on in the hearts of humankind

The respect and reverence of the world's people for President Kim Il Sung are growing more on the occasion of his death anniversary.

This year, committees for remembering the President were formed in many countries over the world to mark the anniversary, and political and cultural events are held in the period of remembrance to extol his revolutionary career and exploits.

A remembrance committee of Switzerland was formed last May for the first time in the world to mark the 25th anniversary of the demise of the President under the joint name of the Swiss Organizing Committee of the International Festival in Praise of the Great Persons of Mt Paektu, the Switzerland-Korea Committee and the Swiss Group for the Study of the Juche Idea, followed by Russia, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Spain, Syria, Belarus, Sweden and other countries.

At the inaugural ceremony of the committee of the Democratic Republic of Congo for remembering the President, which was attended by local personages of all social standings, its chairman said that Kim Il Sung was a great thinker and theoretician and statesman who had embarked on the road of revolution in his teens, created the immortal Juche idea and applied it to revolutionary practice, thus liberating the country and developing the DPRK into a powerful socialist

state which is independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in defence. Regarding "The people are my God" as his lifelong motto, the President devoted his all to the people and made immortal contributions to accomplishing the cause of global independence, the chairman noted. The progressive mankind highly praise him as the pathfinder of the independent era and uncommon veteran statesman, he said.

In messages and letters sent to mark the anniversary personages of various countries lauded the revolutionary exploits of the peerlessly great man.

The chairman of the Mongolia-democratic Korea friendship bridge association, said that President Kim Il Sung was a great man who was extremely modest, benign and common, adding even though he passed away, his noble image is deeply cherished in the minds of all people.

Seminars, remembrance meetings, reading sessions, film shows and book and photo exhibitions took place in many countries, through which the world's progressives keenly realize again the noble career and undying exploits of him who made an example of an independent state building and performed exploits for the accomplishment of the cause of global independence.

Hwang Tu Yong,
department director of the
Korean Committee for Cultural
Relations with Foreign
Countries

VISIT

DPRK, Russian military officials hold talks

A delegation of the Ministry of Defence of Russia led by Vice-Minister Alexandr Fomin visited the DPRK between July 2 and 4.

The delegation presented a gift to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The head of the delegation handed the gift over to Army General No Kwang Chol, minister of the People's Armed Forces.

The delegation laid a basket of flowers at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill and made a bow to them.

Talks were held between members of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces and the visiting Russian Defence Ministry delegation.

Present at the talks from the

DPRK side were Army Colonel General Kim Hyong Ryong, vice-minister of the People's Armed Forces, and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army and from the Russian side the delegation of the Ministry of Defence of Russia led by Vice-Minister Alexandr Fomin and members of the office of the military attache of the Russian embassy in Pyongyang.

At the talks both sides discussed the issues of developing friendly and cooperative relations between the armies of the two countries onto a higher stage.

Army General No Kwang Chol met and had a talk with the delegation who paid a courtesy call on him.

The delegation laid a wreath at the Liberation Tower in

LEAD

'The people are my God' President's maxim



The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

As the proverb says, "Times change and we change with them".

But still strong are respect, reverence and yearning of the Korean people for President Kim Il Sung even after 25 years.

For them the President was their father and outstanding leader whom they had entrusted their life and future to and faithfully followed.

Seeing revolution as the struggle for realizing independence of the masses of the people, he maintained "The people are my God" as his maxim all his life and worked hard to put it into practice.

He wrote in his reminiscences *With the Century* as follows:

"Revolutionaries, believe in the people and rely on them at all times and you shall always emerge victorious; if you are forsaken by them, you will always fail. Let this be your maxim in your life and struggle."

From the early period of his revolutionary activities the President overcame a multitude of difficulties by relying on the people and performed miracles

of history.

During his early revolutionary activities under the close surveillance and harsh repression by the enemy and the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle to defeat the Japanese imperialists armed to the teeth and liberate the country, he depended on the people and they helped him even at the cost of their lives.

Among them were a woman in a rural village in Jiaohe in Northeast China who saved him from the enemy chase at a crucial moment and an old man who helped the President escape from the waist-deep heavy snow in a remote mountain area and enemy pursuit from all sides.

As he cherished it as his philosophy that the revolutionaries have no one but the people to depend on in the life-and-death struggle, he applied politics based on his lifelong maxim to the building of Korea into a socialist country which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in defence.

The core of his "The people are my God" politics is that politics

should take responsible care of the destiny of the people.

Therefore, politics of putting forward the people as masters of the state and society and politics in which the state provides them with equal and affluent economic life and all conditions for sound and rich cultural life have been in force in the DPRK.

In the course of it, the people's desire and demand were enshrined in the constitution and policies of the country, socialist industrialization was completed in a matter of 14 years on the strength of the inexhaustible strength of the people and people-centred socialist society was established in which the people are masters of everything and everything serves them.

To this end he travelled more than 578 000 kilometres to give field guidance and visited over 20 600 units.

As he was always among the people, he still lives on in the hearts of the people as "our leader" though decades have passed since he passed away.

Pak Son I

the name of the Russian Defence Ministry, visited the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, the KPA Military Hardware Museum and other places and saw the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Land of the People*.

The Ministry of the People's Armed Forces hosted a reception in honour of the visiting Russian Defence Ministry delegation.

Compiled from KCNA



Talks are held in Pyongyang between members of the DPRK Ministry of the People's Armed Forces and the Russian Defence Ministry delegation.

ARCHITECTURE

Research centre for architectural environment

Green architecture is the main trend in the development of modern architecture.

It helps save such resources as energy, land and water, minimize effect on environment and provide good living space for human health and activities.

It is the green building-material inspection and certification system which evaluates the quality of indoor environment corresponding to green building materials and green buildings, which are essential to ensuring green architecture, and helps consumers correctly select and use them.

The environmental hygienic office at the Paektusan Institute of Architecture performs such a function in the DPRK.

It is staffed with scores of experts on chemistry, physics, biology, electronics and automation and hygiene and furnished with sophisticated analysing and testing appliances. According to the certification standard set by the state, it carries on the survey and certification of structures and building materials and issues certificates of relevant grades. It also undertakes research into physical, chemical and biological environment for architecture.

“We carried out the assessment of green architecture for major construction projects, especially Ryomyong Street which was splendidly built as the standard

of the new century. And now we are engaged in the inspection and assessment of green architectural indexes including indoor air and water quality for such construction projects as the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone and the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, hygienic testing indexes of building materials and radioactivity of building sites,” said Ryom Chang Min, chief of the office.

The office also develops and produces green building materials and other products for improving indoor environment with different efficiency on the basis of their research.

It has so far developed various green building materials and other products including air purifier, water disinfectant, water filter, water softening apparatus,

room deodorant, harmful earth waves sheltering bed and cement-free mineral block for partition wall which are winning favour among consumers. Its minute filter, which can generate germ-free water, took the first place at the 34th National Festival of Science and Technology, while wall, portable and other types of air purifiers won high appraisal.

“We will further deepen research and development of green architecture and building materials in line with the trend of modern architectural environment science, and bolster up cooperation and exchange with partners in many countries to contribute to the building of socialist civilization,” said Ryom.

By Ri Sang Il PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Researchers make an examination of building materials at the environmental hygiene office of the Paektusan Institute of Architecture.

TRANSPORT

Bureau centralizes railway traffic control to boost transport

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau overfulfilled its first half-yearly freight transport plan by 4 percent as of June 21.

According to Jang Man Chol, chief of an office at the bureau, it scrupulously organizes and controls the transport of freight for thermal power stations, so as not to hold up power generation, and building materials and other cargoes for major projects.

All units under the bureau have taken practical measures to ease the strain on transport by increasing their transport and traffic capacity.

Under the unified traffic control system, train dispatchers control traffic in a mobile way in close contact with relevant sectors and make the most of existing capacity and potentialities, thus carrying over tens of thousands of tons of more freight every day than planned.

Railway branches and

locomotive corps of the bureau conduct work in a planned way to consolidate their material and technical foundations while ensuring the transport of materials. In particular, they concentrated on coal transport for thermal power stations to carry tens of thousands of tons of more coal than the same period of last year.

The West Pyongyang Locomotive Corps ensured the timely repair and maintenance of engines by completing a wheel press and succeeding in its load test. The Pyongyang Locomotive Corps facilitated the formation and reception of trains to transport materials for major construction projects, while the Haeju Locomotive Corps built up a close connection with stations to markedly reduce the stoppage time of freight cars and improve traffic capacity, thereby carrying out its daily plan more than 1.4 times.

Several service brigades of

passenger and freight trains cut down the round-trip time of trains for centralized transport by carrying on the check and repair of trains in a scientific and technological way.

Units in charge of rails carried on the technical management of rails in a responsible manner and timely produced and supplied materials needed for railway repair in order to further increase the intensity of rails.

In particular, they ensured the trial production of turnout sleepers based on non-bolt binding device after years of efforts to free from the dependence on wood.

“We will play our part as a traction engine which injects vitality in the country seething with a campaign to create the Mallima speed by focusing all energies on building up transport and traffic capacity,” said Jang Man Chol.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

PRODUCTION

Factory makes the most of domestic materials

The Kangso Footwear Factory increases the utility rate of domestic raw materials in production.

It developed a technology of vulcanizing soles with sulphur, water glass, quicklime and salt by intensifying research to substitute for imported materials while recycling waste rubber.

According to key developer Choe Kwang Chol, chief of the technology section, the application of waste rubber to rubber processing helps save crude rubber and lower the costs of rubber products.

Technicians cut production costs by replacing the imported additives and accelerant.

They designed and made various facilities including the devulcanizer for recycling waste rubber and pushed ahead with production.

The factory is also directing great efforts to diversifying

products in terms of kind, shape and colour and lightening them.

A variety of light and quality shoes produced by the factory, especially footwear for children, are very popular as they vary in kind and are decorated with various colours of numbers and animal pictures.

Choe said that thousands of pairs of shoes in over 60 kinds were highly appreciated at the spring national footwear exhibition-2019 last March and a gold medal was awarded to the factory's tennis shoes.

“We will make redoubled efforts to increase production through the technical innovation drive for boosting production based on local raw and other materials and improving the quality of products,” said Kim Chol Hwan, manager of the factory.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

INSPECTION

Premier visits various units

Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected various units including the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine and the Kumpho Mine.

Making the rounds of the workplaces of Pit No. 9 of the coal mine, Kim Jae Ryong referred to the need to positively introduce new technical innovation plans and build up its own repair and maintenance base as an integrated production system has been set up and production and management have been put on an IT-basis at a high level.

At the Kumpho Mine he called upon its officials and employees to bear in mind the importance of the mine's duty

in putting the metal industry on a Juche basis and repair the equipment at stopes and dressing plants regularly. He said that relevant units should take proper measures to provide conditions for its production including electric power.

Field consultative meetings discussed problems that arise in optimizing the economic management on the basis of scientific calculation and integrating science and technology with production so as to demonstrate the existing production capacity.

The Premier also inspected the State Academy of Sciences, the Suncheon Coal-mining Machine Factory and the preparations for building a major power station in Haeju Bay.

Compiled from KCNA



Premier Kim Jae Ryong (third from left) visits the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine.

EDUCATION

'I take great pride in my job'

There is a village called Changju when one travels for a while by ship from Songnyon-ri of Pyoktong County in North Phyongan Province.

Though it is a small village with a few houses, it has a school for some ten students.

It is Changju Branch School under Songnyon Senior Middle School.

Villagers and students call the branch "our school" and have profound respect for Kim Kyong Su and his wife Kim Jong Ok who have devoted their whole lives to education at the school.

The government awarded the title of Labour Hero to Kim Kyong Su in recognition of his decades-long devotion to students in a remote mountain village.

"Thanks to the devotion of the teacher couple, my children could go to a university and become an agricultural engineer. That is why we respect them very much," said villager Kim U Sik.

They are now old and whenever they see graduates off and take on responsibility for new students, they think about young teachers who will take over their baton.

With the new school year just ahead in April last year, two young people volunteered to teach at the branch school.

They were Kim Son Nam, the son of the old couple, and his fiancée Kang Yong Sim.

"I came to realize what the pride of my parents is, those who have devoted their all to mountain village students and villagers. I wanted to live like them," Kim Son Nam recalled.

They were welcomed by all villagers as well as Son Nam's parents.

Their deed was widely known throughout the principal school and county, and many people visited the branch school to donate facilities and materials for education and sent letters of congratulation and encouragement.

"Frankly speaking, when I embarked on a career as a teacher, I regarded it as self-sacrifice to follow in my parents' footsteps. But I changed my view as I saw my school and county officials and other well-wishers who regarded our deed as that of great worth and are mindful of the branch school. I take great pride in teaching," said Son Nam.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

PERFORMANCE

Extravaganza starts with a bang

The grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Land of the People* is given to a full house every day at May Day Stadium.

It is a few hours before it begins, but roads leading to the stadium are full of spectators on their way to it by bus or on foot.

Among them are many foreign tourists.

The production team is a group of veteran creators and artistes who produced the Kim Il Sung Prize-winner grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang* which was inscribed as a world cultural heritage element on the Guinness World Records in August 2007.

With several acts including "Sunrise on Mt Paektu" and "Our Socialist Homeland" and over a dozen scenes, the performance shows in a magnificent and impressive epic the history of socialist Korea—the genuine country of the people, which was built by the people and serves them—from the foundation to date.

The three-colour national flag pulsating with the soul and spirit of the DPRK and

boasting its history replete with victories and glories is raised sky high amid the playing of solemn music of the national anthem, and well over a hundred drones fly over the stadium in the national flag-shaped formation and change positions to make the title of the performance illumined against the nocturnal sky, with enthusiastic cheers of the audience.

The giant background made up of over 17 000 flash cards changes in unison and entertainers perform beautiful dances in the arena, constantly drawing the spectators into the state of ecstasy.



Scenes from the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Land of the People*.

PROFILE

Triplets volunteer to work in northern highlands

Many stories have been told about young people who perform laudable deeds of merit and show virtues in hearty response to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea and the country, rather than seeking their own personal comfort.

Among them are triplet sisters, Jang Un Hye, Jang Chung Sil and Jang Po Dap, who left Pyongyang and volunteered to work in Samjiyon County in the northern highlands.

In April, 26 years ago, they were born as the 153rd group of triplets at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

They received gold rings, clothes and foodstuff as gifts from the government after birth and grew healthily under its care.

Their parents named them Un Hye, Chung Sil and Po Dap in the hope that they would work hard and faithfully repay the favour shown by the government.

Officials of the Mangyongdae District Party Committee paid special attention to their growth and visited them on holidays every year. Their neighbours often visited their home showing deep concern with their life and their friends warmly congratulated them on their birthday with presents. All of them were deeply engraved on their mind as part of their homeland, making them realize how grateful and previous their country was.

"After graduation from the



JO KYONG CHOL / RODONG SINMUN

Triplet girls grow Kimjongilias with great care at the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia greenhouse in Samjiyon County.

senior middle school, we decided to work at the construction site of a power station in the area of Mt Paektu. We thought it was the only way to repay the love and care shown for us," said Jang Un Hye.

But it was not easy for them to work in the power station construction site, but they overcame all difficulties, repeatedly recalling what their names meant.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the power station to attend its inaugural ceremony and had a photo taken with young builders including the triplet girls, highly appreciating their deeds of merits.

Later, they took part in various major construction projects including the rehabilitation campaign in the northern areas of North Hamgyong Province and the reconstruction of

Samjiyon County. And they were honoured with high state commendations and Jang Chung Sil was awarded Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize.

After the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia greenhouse was built in Samjiyon County, they volunteered to work at it.

As he inspected the reconstruction project of Samjiyon County in April, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un heard the report on their virtue and visited their home.

He took warm care of their life, highly praising them for their wonderful performance in several construction projects including that of Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station. And he told them to write a letter to him when they are married.

By Pang Un Ju PT

The performance elicits tremendous admiration from the audience as it proudly represents the democratic reforms enforced in the country after liberation including the agrarian reform, nationalization of major industries and sex equality, the heroic struggle of the army and people of the two-year-old DPRK who defeated the aggressors in the war for defending their homeland and the building of a socialist country that is independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in defence from the ravages of war.

It also shows the historic

period of the 1990s when the DPRK defended socialism which is the destiny and the base of life of the people and laid foundations for prosperity, frustrating the unprecedented anti-socialist campaign. The mass game climaxes with the scenes depicting the proud looks of the DPRK and happy laughter of the people brought about by the outstanding political acumen, leadership ability and infinite devotion of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to the people, and the epoch-making successes achieved in inter-Korean relations, national reunification and the cause of making the whole world

independent.

The unity in movement of tens of thousands of performers, their refined artistic skills, well-designed encapsulation and vivid expression of the watersheds in the 70-odd-year-long history of the country, perfect combination of modern characters and national identity and the unique Korean style running all through the performance—all these features make *The Land of the People* another original masterpiece in the world as well as a box-office hit.

It will go on till October.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



PHOTOS BY RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

FACILITY

Hall makes life easier for young people

The Central Youth Hall on the bank of the Taedong River is a leisure centre frequented by young people.

With a total floor space of over 51 000 square metres, it has a large multifunctional hall on the first floor.

With a stage for artistic performances the hall can accommodate more than a thousand dancers at a time. Commemorative events and sports, cultural and amusement activities often take place in it.

Some senior employees still have pleasant memories of the colourful events which took place at the hall as part of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in 1989.

At ordinary times youngsters play sports and amusement games in the multifunctional hall.

Kang Chol Song, student at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education living in Taedonggang District, said that he comes to the hall to play badminton and table tennis in his leisure hours.

Along the corridors on the

second floor are seen young people playing Korean chess and *paduk* (go), a contest of wits.

"We don't sweat, but it is also a game. It is exhilarating to prevail over the opponent with clever moves," said Cha Ji Hye, worker at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and a regular visitor to the hall.

Spectacular is the performance given by the central youth artistic motivational team at the 2 000- or 600-seat concert halls.

The halls always have a full house for the performance as it has a colourful programme including song, dance and witty talk and is full of youthful vigour in content and style.

The hall runs hobby groups for computer, electronics, driving, accordion, guitar, singing, dancing, fine art and Taekwon-Do.

Young people, be they workers or university or middle school students, can freely enroll on these courses, which are 6 to 12 months long.

"I did not sing well as I had

a poor ear. But I've improved my singing at the hobby group. I would like to join other hobby groups one by one," said Pak Kum Hyok, student at Changgwang Senior Middle School in Central District and member of the singing hobby group.

The hall holds theoretical, scientific, literary and other lectures regularly and sometimes invites renowned professors and PhDs to give the lectures.

Numerous meetings and events including Youth Day celebrations, artistic performances, get-togethers and forums were held in the hall over the past 30 years.

Many foreigners visited the hall and admired the large and magnificent structure for young people, according to Choe Min Chol, manager of the hall.

The Central Youth Hall was inaugurated on May 18 1989 with President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in attendance.

By Jong Chol PT

VIEW

Measures taken to develop general education

A great deal of energies have been directed to general education in recent years.

When education is the basis for the development of science and technology, general education can be claimed to be the cornerstone of education.

Many countries reorganize the system of general education to meet their specific conditions and improve teaching forms and education methods.

The DPRK has also made steady efforts to update the education system, content and methods in line with the trend of development of modern education and as required by pedagogy while taking innovative measures in recent years.

A typical example is the establishment of technical senior middle schools according to students' aptitudes and talents and the economic and geographical features of regions.

More than 100 technical schools in nine fields including IT, agriculture and sports are now in operation throughout the country to give technical education. The former universal 11-year compulsory education system has been turned to the 12-year one and stages of education set afresh to meet the development of psychology according to ages.

Activities are conducted in real earnest to improve the teaching programme in line with the requirements of the new education system.

A project is now underway to make teaching forms and content practicable, comprehensive and up-to-the-minute and create efficient, superior teaching methods to which modern science and technology are applied.

The Korean-style STEM education, in particular, is widely encouraged as it is very conducive to training students into proactive learners and seekers after knowledge, as well as innovative talents who continue to aspire after and create new things irrespective of old ones.

ones as it planned a new special programme.

In the programme Pae Yon Ju, student at Kim Won Gyun University of Music, played piano solo *Ode to Comrade Kim Jong Il* in the third division (17-22 age group).

She interpreted the song with her teacher Yun Jin Bok. Their rendition in tears was so impressive that journalists followed Pae to cover her. "It is snowing in Moscow. Looking at the falling snow flakes, I thought of Chairman Kim Jong Il and tears welled



According to the government's policy of attaching importance to education, advantageous education policies are enforced, investment in education is increased systematically and the public zeal for supporting the education sector is on the rise as the days go by.

In recent years many schools have improved teaching conditions and environment by refurbishing buildings in a modern style and equipping themselves with advanced teaching tools and other means, and traffic safety education parks for children have been built in provinces, cities and counties.

These achievements are the proud fruition brought about by the policy of attaching importance to science and education of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government which strive to develop the country into a power of science and technology and talents under the slogan of "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!".

We will make redoubled efforts to put our country's education on a par with the world's advanced nations by consolidating successes and experience, speeding up modernization and solidifying material and technical foundations of the education sector.

Kim Yong Sim, deputy department director of the Education Commission

up in my eyes," Pae told them.

Highly praising the Korean students for their high playing skills, the general director and jury foreman of the contest said they were very impressed by the sincere loyalty to their leader as they saw them playing songs in praise of their leader on the stage where everyone wants to perform typical songs of their countries.

Pae won the special performance award at the contest.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

HONOUR

Teenagers play in tune in Moscow contest

Recently the Third Moscow Krainev International Piano Contest took place amid great interest of many music experts and fans.

In the contest, which drew promising young pianists from across the world, the Korean teenagers won international contest winner and special performance awards.

The Korean students fascinated the audience and participants with beautiful and elegant Korean music pieces. Choe Jang Hung, student at Pyongyang Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music, performed Korean folksong *Arirang* first in the contest.

"Jury members and contest organizers admired his performance, describing it as fantastic. Alexander Romonovski, foreman of the jury, praised him as the pride of the Kraniev contest and the world music circle, saying more world-renowned musicians like Choe would be produced in the DPRK," said Kim Jae Sil, teacher at Pyongyang Music School No.1.

Kim Ji Won, student at the same school, also attracted the attention of jury members and audience in the second division (12-16 age group).

A debutant in international contest, Kim performed piano solo *Three-thousand*

ri of Taehongdan as his first music in the semifinals. The cheerful music was one of his compulsory pieces and he made a deep impression on the jury members with wonderful performance of the music in the regional preliminaries in December last year.

"As I faced the keyboard of piano and music, I wanted to show to the world the proud reality in the country which advances by leaps and bounds full of youthful vigour," said Kim.

Referring to the enthusiastic applause of the audience at the time, his teacher Kwon Song Gum said: "As he finished piano solo, a resounding applause burst out in the auditorium. Everyone lavished praise on his performance, saying Korean folksong is really wonderful and fascinating."

He, who flawlessly interpreted world famous songs with refined skills and elaborate musical sense, took to the stage for the final with a renowned Russian orchestra.

Winning unsparing acclaim of the audience for his refined and skilled performance of a famous music piece, Kim Ji Won obtained the international contest winner award.

The recent contest was more attractive than the previous



Korean schoolchildren pose for a photograph after winning diplomas.

ANNIVERSARY

Monument tells President's effort for national reunification

President Kim Il Sung put his last signature to a document related to national reunification on July 7 1994.

In his New Year Address delivered in 1994, the last year of his life, he pointed to the need to accomplish the cause of national reunification so as to fulfil the unanimous desire of the whole nation and hand down the reunified country to posterity, saying national reunification is the most important task for the Korean people that brooks no further delay.

The President, who had attached great importance to the top-level talks and put his heart and soul into its opening from the beginning of the dialogue between the north and south of Korea, held fast to this stand even after the advent of the "civilian government" in south Korea.

He devoted his all to the preparations for the north-south summit talks with firm belief that the south Korean chief executive would never reject the proposal for national reunification if he had national spirit even a bit.

As a result, the top-level talks were to be held in July 1994 in Pyongyang for the first time in the history of Korea's division spanning 49 years.

At the time south Koreans from all walks of life and media outlets said with great joy that reunification would be achieved if the image of President Kim Il Sung making a speech in Seoul was televised for only 30 minutes.

The world media devoted broad coverage to the news that the top-level talks were to be held in Pyongyang thanks to his courageous decision and



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The monument at Panmunjom is dedicated to President Kim Il Sung's last signature.

outstanding leadership ability.

His decision was not merely a political and technical one for the summit, but an important conclusion of national significance which heralded the fact that reunification is being achieved.

He spent busy times for the successful talks to be held amid the great expectations and deep interest of all the fellow countrymen and the world.

Between June 20 and July 5 1994 he gave dozens of instructions over the reunification issue.

On July 7 1994, he checked a reunification-related document without finding time even to relieve his extreme fatigue. He carefully read the document mirroring a great plan for putting an end to the tragedy of national division and making an epochal turning point in national reunification before writing "Kim Il Sung July 7, 1994" on the top portion of the document's first page.

But no one thought that it would be the last document signed in his own handwriting.

The following day he passed away unexpectedly in his office room.

The undying exploits he performed for national reconciliation, unity and reunification will shine forever along with the era of national independence and reunification.

The autograph reflecting his reunification will and faith, great devotion and pains was carried on by Chairman Kim Jong Il who put his signature to the June 15 Joint Declaration. Today, their autographs are in the limelight along with the Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un signed last year with warm love for the nation, firm reunification will, broad magnanimity and bold decision.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

EDITORIAL

Another historic step toward improved DPRK-US relations

In June, a year after the Singapore DPRK-US summit meeting and talks, the world has witnessed another momentous event.

DPRK Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un met with US President Trump, who was on a two-day visit to south Korea in late June, in the southern area of Panmunjom.

All eyes and ears of the entire global village were on the Korean peninsula again, where the top leaders of the two countries shook hands with each other in front of the demarcation line at Panmunjom, the symbol of confrontation and hostility.

The recent meeting was only some 120 days after the second DPRK-US summit in Hanoi. It was an epoch-making event as the leaders of the two countries met at the place, where the armistice agreement was signed, for the first time in history 66 years after the 1953 Armistice Agreement.

At the invitation of the Supreme Leader, President Trump crossed the demarcation line at Panmunjom, only to become the first sitting US President who set foot in the DPRK territory.

The whole world was really excited to see the leaders of the north and south of Korea and the US freely meet in the DMZ along the Military Demarcation Line, the product of hostility and confrontation.

As Chairman Kim Jong Un said, the handshake for peace of the two countries which have been hostile to each other for a long time at Panmunjom, a sharp reminder of the unsavoury past, was something that expresses today which has changed from yesterday and shows that bilateral relations can take a turn for the better.

The leaders of the two

countries seriously discussed the issues on activating communication, contact and exchange of visits with each other in order to further develop bilateral relations.

They also explained the ways to diffuse the tension on the Korean peninsula, put an end to the unsavoury relationship between the two countries and bring about a drastic turn in it and the mutual fears which would be an obstacle to solving the problem and matters of their concern, and expressed their full understanding of and sympathy with them.

Both sides shared the opinion on building mutual understanding and positively working towards improving relations to meet the expectations and wishes of the peoples of the two countries. They also agreed to keep in close contact with each other in the future, too, and resume and push forward with productive dialogues for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and DPRK-US relations.

The recent third DPRK-US summit meeting and talks clearly showed once again that however high the barrier of antagonism and confrontation which had been put up over 70-odd years of hostility may stand and whatever the unavoidable difficulties and twists and turns may occur on the journey of improving bilateral relations, they can readily improve bilateral relations if the two countries closely work together and show wisdom and patience.

The DPRK-US relations will surely be improved overcoming all challenges and obstacles, backed by the steadfast will and broad magnanimity of the top leaders of the two countries.

IOC

Bid to ensure gender equality

The International Olympic Committee is working to realize the gender equality in sports.

In retrospect, sexual discrimination stained the history of the Olympics in their incipency.

For instance, not a single woman took part in the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.

With the matter of sexual equality coming to the fore worldwide, 22 women athletes attended the 1900 Second Olympic Games in Paris for the first time to compete in several events including tennis, sailing and golf.

With an eye on sexual equality at international games, the IOC decided in 1991 that all the Olympic sports should



48.8%

Ratio of women expected to attend the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

include events for both men and women.

The 2012 London Olympic Games were the first international event in which at least one female player from every participating country competed, while the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics were recorded as the first to have women players in every sporting event

for men.

The IOC's bid has brought about a conspicuous rise in women's participation in the Olympics.

The proportion of women at the 2016 Olympics accounted for 45.2 percent and the ratio of men and women was fifty-fifty for the first time in the history of the Youth Olympic Games held last year.

Recently, the IOC has reportedly revised its plans for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

According to them, the ratio of women players will be raised to 48.8 percent and the number of mixed events will double as compared with that of the 2016 event.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Root cause

The situation in the Middle East is worsening to arouse widespread concern.

In the fortnight since the national army stationed in eastern Libya launched a military attack on the capital city of Tripoli last April, many people were dead or wounded and sought refuge.

In fact, the unstable situation in the country can be said to have stemmed from the military action taken by the NATO in 2011. At the time Western countries incited the local dissidents to stage a "colour revolution" before making a military intervention to overthrow the Gaddafi government. Ever since, the country has failed to settle the chaotic situation.

After all, Libya became another victim of the West's "anti-terror war" and "spread of democracy".

The political turmoil in the Middle East has not been generated in a day or two, but is the outcome of the work of some countries that violate the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and of respect for their state system.

It is needed to consider the consequences of such violation.

The Mideast situation will never return to normalcy unless interference in the affairs of sovereign states and arbitrary actions are stopped.

By Min Chol PT

SOCCER

Premier League passes halfway point

The 2018-2019 DPRK Premier League heats up in July.

All teams have played 12-14 matches so far, more than halfway up the season.

There are some changes in the league table, but the first placer remains unchanged.

April 25, the defending champion of the national first-division soccer tournaments for several consecutive years, won all but one, a scoreless draw with Pyongyang.

It also leads others in score with 37 goals, allowing the least of 8.

It is superior to others in the performance of midfielders, response to high balls and cooperation through short passes.

"Team spirit is the definite and the biggest advantage to April 25, which has put it in such an unwavering position," said April 25 fan Kang Hyon Song.

The domestic power is also playing the 2019 AFC Cup tournament. It topped the team rankings in the group preliminaries with five wins and one loss to advance to the knock-out stage.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Rimyongsu's No. 12 Kim Kwon stabs the ball home against Sonbong in the 12th minute.

Meanwhile, there is a seesaw battle between several clubs to take the second and third places in the table.

Sobaeksu, among others, is the focus of attention of many football fans as it has recently advanced by leaps and bounds to become a hopeful.

It is now placed second with 24 points in total, but third-placers Ryomyong and Kigwancha are following close at its heels with 23 points.

Referring to the fact that Sobaeksu has brought in some new forwards before the start of the season, fans say that it would become an odds-on favourite to

win the contest in a few years.

The second leg between Rimyongsu and Sonbong took place on July 1 at Kim Il Sung Stadium.

Rimyongsu's striker Kim Kwon opened the scoring in a melee in the 12th minute and scored another goal with a long-distance shot in the first half stoppage time.

In the second half, Sonbong made several attempts to attack but could not make up for the loss until the final whistle.

In their first leg Sonbong beat Rimyongsu 1-0.

By Jong Tang Song PT

BOWLING

Confident bowlers set their sights higher

The DPRK has a short history of bowling.

The DPRK Bowling Association was inaugurated in March 1993 and the Pyongyang Bowling Sports Club was organized in June the following year.

"History can't be ignored in all work, but it is not an invariable formula," said Sin Ju Hyon, chairman of the association and head of the club.

Coaches and players of the club registered good results in international tournaments held in the country and other games sponsored by the FIQ.

In the East Asian Tenpin Bowling Championship-2018, which was held in Jiangsu Province of China, Sol Kum Song drew the attention of spectators as he reached the quarterfinals. At the time, a Swedish journalist who watched Sol's matches covered the training and life of Korean players with great interest.

The Pyongyang Bowling Sports Club is based at the Pyongyang Gold Lane.

It is provided with all conditions for the training and life of bowlers.

"As it is a sport demanding

a clear head, good sense and mental quality, rather than constitutional conditions, bowling requires a strict selection of players and intensive training," said coach Kim Yong Ho.

For the characteristic features of the sport, all bowlers have their own target marks.

The target marks which are set according to experience, skills and records are as good as an unseen competition chart.

Everyone wants a perfect game in ten frames, but its probability is a 90 000th in real matches.

"Even those who don't know how to play bowling can easily understand the difficulty of perfect game when they calculate its probability. But I think it is not an unconquerable goal. I want to prove it in practice," said Sol Kum Song.

According to the coach, the key to a perfect game is the sensitive grasping of track conditions and the ensuring of appropriate throwing incidence.

Bowlers of the club work hard to be triumphant in international games.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A coach corrects the posture of a player at the Pyongyang Bowling Sports Club.

HERITAGE

Korean silk maintains national flavour and fame

Korean silk has long been known to the world.

The earthenware objects depicting silkworms that were unearthed in the archaeological sites from Neolithic and Bronze ages including the one in Jithapri in Pongsan County, North Hwanghae Province, show that silk was produced in the closing years of the primitive civilization.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms between the 3rd century BC and AD 10th century, the silk-weaving technique

of Korea was disseminated to Japan.

A Japanese history book attributes silk production in Japan to Korean silk weavers who crossed over the sea into the country from the 4th century to the 7th century and taught the Japanese the technique.

In the period of Koryo dynasty (918-1392), the silk-making technique further developed and the cloth increased in variety. High-quality silk was exported as far as to the Middle and Near East

and became widely known to the world as "Koryo silk".

During the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910), silk production bases were established in every area with quality water and mulberries were planted on a large scale.

Most famous varieties of the fabric are Yaksan and Kuryong silks.

Yaksan silk which has azalea blossom patterns was named after Yaksandongdae, a scenic spot in Nyongbyon, while Kuryong silk takes its name from the Kuryong River flowing beneath the scenic spot as the pattern of the cloth looks like the placid river.

These cloths are produced at the Nyongbyon Silk Mill.

Equipped with modern facilities, the factory makes from silk and rayon yarn a wide variety of fabrics such as polychromatic silk, damask, brocade and satin as well as Yaksan and Kuryong silks.

Korean silk is much sought-after at home and abroad.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



A variety of Korean silk quilts.

New spa resources found in Mt Paektu area

Mt Paektu is 2 750 metres above sea level.

Through a field survey, geophysical exploration and boring in the area around the Paektusan Secret Camp, researchers found out that there are spa resources at a depth of 950 metres underground.

They confirmed the distribution and amount of spa resources and the stratigraphic productivity at borings.

They also shed light on the medicinal effects of the spa through the analysis of water

sample.

"We drilled three holes in the area and ascertained the productivity, temperature, water quality and medicinal content of the spa water through a pumping test and sample analysis," said Han Chol Ho, a member of the research team. "The temperature of the acid sodium carbonate-type spa is 44.5 degrees Celsius and the daily gush of the spa is about 400 cubic metres."

By Jong Sun Bok PT

