

Leader hailed as prominent statesman steering international situation

By Ri Kwang Ho

Over the past decade, the DPRK underwent a complete change, further consolidated political and ideological might and remarkably raised its international position.

In particular, the world admires the independent diplomacy of the DPRK which has made remarkable progress in foreign relations.

Once, a foreign website reported in an article entitled "Research into the DPRK's diplomacy" that resolute decision and in-depth analysing power, profound knowledge, frank view, grit and quick wit, humorous sense, courtesy making the other side relax and other unique diplomatic skills of General Secretary Kim Jong Un catch the interest of all people. And it praised that the remarkable successes which the DPRK achieved in foreign relations are the fruition of his outstanding diplomacy, describing the diplomacy of the DPRK as "Kim Jong Un's

diplomacy".

Kim Jong Un performed distinguished services for peace and prosperity of the Korean peninsula and rest of the world through his energetic diplomatic activities including the three rounds of the DPRK-China summit talks and a round of the DPRK-US summit talks he held in less than three months in 2018.

Witnessing the diplomatic activities of the DPRK leader who was not only strong, soft and dignified but also polite and reaped substantial profits while fulfilling his specified duty, the world deeply admired his extraordinary political acumen and diplomacy.

Reporting his diplomatic activities as an "event unprecedented in the world history of foreign policy" and the "most typical example of Kim Jong Un-style diplomacy", the world media outlets highly praised him as the great master of independent diplomacy in the 21st century.

Particularly, they highly praised his inducing of

the summit meeting with the US, which had been in fierce confrontation with the DPRK for a long time, on the strength of outstanding political diplomacy as an epochal event.

Expressing their surprise at the remarks of the then US president who described Kim Jong Un, president of the DPRK State Affairs, as a good negotiator with a great personality and said he has a variety of talents and loves his country very much, the world media outlets commented that the US president who was unpredictable gave the DPRK leader the highest treatment, which showed that he firmly recognized him as the leader of a strategic state leading world politics.

And Kim Jong Un sublimated friendly relations with China, Cuba, Russia, Vietnam and some other countries to a new high stage by dint of his energetic and strategic top-level diplomacy. His mode of speedy diplomatic activities that is not bound

by established practices and the influence of him who is boundlessly free and easy and infinitely frank and attracts all the people commanded the respect and admiration of the world people.

Attracted by him, irrespective of difference in idea and doctrine, region and social system, the world media unanimously praised him as a "strategist who won the greatest interest in the shortest period of time and brought about the most wonderful diastrophism" and a "great, wise, powerful and marvellous leader that may appear once in a few centuries".

Today the international community highly lauds him as "the most prominent political leader in the present age", a "statesman steering the international political situation with confidence" and a "man of extraordinary decision".

It is the unanimous appraisal of the international community that Kim Jong Un shapes the course of development of the Korean peninsula and the world.

Direct sales of sundry goods make customers' life easier

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Direct sales shops stand in every district and county across the DPRK.

Having 30-odd years of history, they play an important role which is indispensable for the people's daily life as important commercial service units connecting consumers with factories and enterprises.

Though factories and enterprises diversify products in terms of shape and colour, it is not easy to produce and supply consumer goods as required by the tastes and likings of individual consumers.

Therefore, they have organized branches, workshops and workteams to produce different kinds of consumer goods with cuttings and by-products from major production for implementing national economic plans and the goods produced there are on sale at direct sales shops in every district.

The shops do not only sell the products.

They inform daily necessities workshops or workteams of factories and enterprises of feedback by synthesizing the opinions and orders of consumers and

they are winning popularity since they serve ordered commodities to consumers.

"We market nearly 100 000 goods in some 2 000 kinds," said O Un Ok, manageress of the Phyongchon District direct sales shop.

Workteams producing goods using various materials available and dong housewives' workteams under the district housewives' workteam management station take a large share in providing commodities, she added.

Housewives or aged persons who worked as skilled workers at factories and enterprises take part in their production activities and many of them have unusual skills.

They purchase materials lying idle in families and make ready-made clothes, belts, shoes, bags, wooden products and sundry goods to send them to direct sales shops. Their quality and prices are hailed by consumers.

"I feel pride as a service worker whenever customers are pleased after receiving sundry goods or products they ordered," said saleswoman Ri Jong Sil.

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Economic sectors register steady upturn

KCNA

Light-industry factories are working to increase the production of consumer goods by taking domestic production of materials and equipment and recycling as an important link.

The Pyonggyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill established a production

line based on recycling technology and is pushing the introduction of it into all textile mills.

The Sinuiju Textile Mill, Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and other units in textile and shoe-making industry sectors are pushing projects for steadily improving the quality of homemade raw and other

materials, and the Pyonggyang Cosmetics Factory researched and fixed the rational mixing ratio of a new additive and materials.

Major factories and enterprises are pushing ahead with projects to update equipment in order to increase the production of daily necessities and improve their quality.

Different units in the machine-building industry sector produced and supplied on a preferential basis materials and parts needed for harvesting and threshing.

The Pyonggyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 introduced research proposals for improving the performance and capacity of equipment to increase their productivity after further completing the recycling process.

The Huichon Precision

Machine Factory hastened the production of tractor parts including high-pressure fuel pump, gear pump, distributor and nozzle, and the Pyonggyang and Ryangchaek bearing factories wound up the production of goods to be sent to the agricultural sector before the time set.

Projects are underway to bring about a decisive turn in land administration.

Provinces, cities and counties are working to check and amend the overall designing standards of rivers, roads and coast protection structures and expand and reinforce technical forces.

Songchon County in South Phyongan Province carried out over 40 000m² of stone covering over the river banks with high risk in an effort to protect the township area from flood.



A heavy-duty excavator loads ore on to tipper trucks at the Musan Mining Complex.

City of Samjiyon

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Premier Kim inspects agricultural, light industry sectors



Premier Kim Tok Hun (second from left) inspects the Sambong Cooperative Farm in Phyongan County, South Phyongan Province.

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Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, inspected the agricultural and light industry sectors. Making the rounds of different farms in South Phyongan and North and South Hwanghae provinces including those in Sukchon,

Phyongwon, Hwangju, Jaeryong and Yonan counties and Sariwon City, Kim gave pep talks to the agricultural workers who are working hard to thoroughly implement the decisions of the Third Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK which called for wrapping up this year's farming. As he learned about the

production at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, the Pyongyang Daily Necessities Factory, the Pothonggang Footwear Factory and the Pyongyang Rayon Yarn Factory, he underscored the need to lay firm foundations for boosting the production by regarding it as the main direction to promote domestic production of raw materials and recycling,

and to decisively increase the production of consumer goods. Field consultative meetings stressed the need to scrupulously organize operations and command for properly finishing this year's farming in the field of agriculture and discussed measures to introduce advanced technologies and properly supply materials in the field of light industry.

Still too early to declare termination of war, says DPRK deputy foreign minister

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Ri Thae Song, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, issued the following press statement on September 23: The issue of the declaration of the termination of war on the Korean peninsula has emerged again at the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly. It holds a symbolic meaning in that it is a political declaration of the termination of the long-term ceasefire that the Korean peninsula has been in so far. And it is clear that to declare the termination of war is what has to be dealt with for the establishment of peace-keeping mechanism on the peninsula in the future. Nothing is more desirable than that peace comes to the Korean peninsula just by relevant parties holding a ceremony while having photos taken with the declaration document on the termination of war with no legal binding force. But the current reality proves that the adoption of the declaration of the termination of war is something premature. The whole world knows

that the Minuteman-3 ICBM test-launches in Vandenberg air force base in California in the US mainland in February and August this year, the hasty declaration of the termination of the US-south Korea missile guidelines in May this year and the US approval for the sale of billions of dollars worth military hardware to Japan and south Korea are all targeted at the DPRK. We are also following with alert the US recent decision to transfer a nuclear-powered submarine building technology to Australia. No one can vouch for it that the mere declaration of the termination of war would lead to the withdrawal of the policy of hostility to the DPRK under the present situation on the peninsula inching close to a touch-and-go situation. It is by no means accidental that some view that starting discussion about it seems difficult at the moment, given differing interests and methods of calculation of relevant parties over the declaration of the termination of war. Underlying all the issues cropping up on the Korean peninsula is, without exception, the US policy of

hostility toward the DPRK. The US forces and a huge number of its latest war assets which have already been deployed in or are moving to the Korean peninsula and its vicinity, including the ground, waters, air and underwater, and war drills annually held under various codenames all point to the US policy of hostility to the DPRK getting more vicious day by day. The DPRK's just measures to bolster up its defence capability to cope with the US military threat to bring us down by force are described as "provocations" while the arms buildup escalated by the US and its vassal forces to threaten the DPRK is justified as "deterrent building". Such American-style double-dealing attitude is also a product of the policy of hostility to the DPRK. Even though the termination of war is declared hundreds of times, nothing will change as long as the political circumstances around the DPRK remain unchanged and unless the US abandons its hostile policy. On the contrary, the declaration will entail disastrous consequences of upsetting the strategic

balance in the region and plunging the north and the south of Korea into an unending arms race, with the US-south Korea alliance growing stronger. What's clear is that as long as there remains the US policy of hostility to the DPRK, the biggest stumbling block to ending the war, the termination of war will merely be nominal even if it is declared. All facts prove that it is still too early to declare the termination of war. It should be clearly understood that the declaration of the termination of war is of no help at all in stabilizing the situation of the Korean peninsula at the moment, but can rather be misused as a smokescreen to cover up the US policy of hostility. We have already clarified our official stand that the declaration of the termination of war is not a "gift" and it might become a mere scrap of paper in a moment according to changes in situation. The US withdrawal of double standards and policy of hostility is top priority in stabilizing the situation of the Korean peninsula and ensuring peace on it.

DPRK founding anniversary celebrated abroad

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Internet photo and book exhibitions and film shows took place in China, Russia, Mongolia, Iran, India, Indonesia, Syria, Singapore, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Serbia, Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Tunisia, and by the Asian Regional Institute of the Juche Idea and the African Regional Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea on the occasion of the 73rd founding anniversary of the DPRK. Websites posted photos showing the immortal revolutionary feats performed by President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un for the development of the DPRK. They included the Chinese Huan Qiu network, Russian

websites Patrioti Moskva and Friends of Korea, Iran's IRNA, Indian internet news Voice of Millions, Syrian newspaper Al Baath, websites of the Association for the Study of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism in the Far Eastern Region of Russia, the Hungarian Workers' Party, the Paektusan Czech-Korean Friendship Association, the Czech Group for the Study and Materialization of the Juche Idea, the New Yugoslav Communist Party, the Serbian National Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea, the Mexican Committee for Supporting Peaceful Reunification of Korea, the Mexican Institute for the Study of the Juche Idea, the Brazilian Center for the Study of Songun Politics, the Asian Regional Institute of the Juche Idea and the African Regional Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea.

HOME NEWS

KCNA

Jagang Hydropower generation boosted
Hydropower stations in Jagang Province increase electricity production by maintaining and reinforcing generating facilities and consolidating material and technical foundations. The Huichon Power Station carries out its production plan at over 120 percent every day by carefully conserving water based on the integrated manufacturing system. Medium and small power stations in the province increase electric-power generation by introducing various original ideas.



Ryanggang Potato harvest in full swing
With farms in Ryanggang Province concentrating on potato harvest, the City of Samjiyon is gathering potatoes in large areas every day. The city has also taken appropriate measures to transport potatoes to the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory in time. Farms in Tachongdan, Paegam and other counties of the province have concentrated manpower and machinery on potato harvest

to expand the harvested areas day after day. Academy Institute establishes technology for cultivating new variety of blueberry
The Forest and Plant Engineering Institute under the Academy of Forest Science has established a technology for cultivating a new variety of blueberry. The researchers of the institute buckled down to developing the technology over 10 years ago to widely spread the new variety, which is tasty and nutritious. South Phyongan Stations increase fish in Lake Yonphung
Stocking fishery stations of Pyongyang, South Phyongan and North Hwanghae provinces, Nampho and other areas have stocked Lake Yonphung with millions of fries. Such a station of Kaechon City is striving to increase the production of mandarin fish and catfish fries. GFSTK Presentation of hypotheses and conceptions held
The 12th national presentation of hypotheses and conceptions was held between September 13 and 17 under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea in the form of video-conference. Over 190 proposals were submitted to the presentation.

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS spur economic development

Researchers of the State Academy of Sciences study a portable fetal phonocardiograph.



By Yun Kyong Il PT

The DPRK State Academy of Sciences is throwing itself into producing scientific research findings badly needed for the country's economic development. It set well over a hundred scientific research goals while attaching importance to the consolidation of independence of the economy this year, the first year of the new five-year plan for national economic development. Scientists at the pure metal research institute developed and introduced several kinds of efficient hard alloy cutting tools with less manufacturing costs.

A joint research group of the mechanical engineering institute established a flood control prediction method and developed the flood damage management information system that can predict the water-level change and water quantity of reservoirs and waterways according to the raining situation in the basin of reservoirs. Bioengineers made good successes in breeding and introducing a rice variety that is highly resistant to cold and ensuring the domestic production of major reagents used in the tanning industry. Research projects are also being pushed in the sectors of physics, natural energy and green architecture. The automation institute developed the boiler combustion automatic control system and improved combustion effectiveness to save much coal and heavy oil. The global environment

information institute and hydraulic engineering institute established a flood control prediction method and developed the flood damage management information system that can predict the water-level change and water quantity of reservoirs and waterways according to the raining situation in the basin of reservoirs. Bioengineers made good successes in breeding and introducing a rice variety that is highly resistant to cold and ensuring the domestic production of major reagents used in the tanning industry. Research projects are also being pushed in the sectors of physics, natural energy and green architecture. The electricity research institute developed an excitation control device for synchronous generator. The device maintains the terminal voltage of generator at a certain rate, evenly

distributes reactive power to generators in parallel operation and keeps up the synchronous operation state of generators in times of trouble with the electrical system. "Our research team analysed the defects of the previous excitation control device, developed a new one and introduced it to several power stations," said Jo Chol Jin, section chief of the institute. According to him, the previous device was greatly affected by frequency variation and failed to sensitively respond to the change in the operation state of various electrical systems. Another defect was that at thermal power plants using high frequency subexciters, the reactive power fluctuated as synchronizing signal measurement error of the subexciters became greater along with the increase

in excitation current and subsequently the operation of controlled rectifiers got unsteady. The research team developed a digitalized and intelligent excitation control device and program for thermal and hydroelectric power stations. The device helps enhance the stability of operation and manoeuvrability of generator in various ranges of variation in voltage and frequency. And the team has duplexed the excitation control system and improved the reliability of operation of generator and the stability of electrical system with various troubleshooting and excitation limiting functions. "In particular, we studied and introduced a methodology for overcoming the effect of the phase short circuit caused by the rise in the inductance of line and load current, which was

one of knotty problems in checking and measuring the synchronizing signal of thermal generators using high-frequency subexciters, and for compensating phase lag of control angle and ascertained the effectiveness of the methodology," said researcher Ri Kwang Jin. The new excitation control device costs 25 percent less than the previous one and can more than double the control precision and reduce the overshoot to less than 10 percent. "Our complex introduced the new excitation control device for synchronous generator this year and thus increased the lifespan of generating facilities and saved much labour and fund for repairing equipment," said Ri Myong Sop, senior engineer of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex. "To establish an automatic nutritive solution supply



Researchers work on an excitation control device for synchronous generator at the electricity research institute.



Electronics engineers try to improve the performance of an automatic nutritive solution supply system.

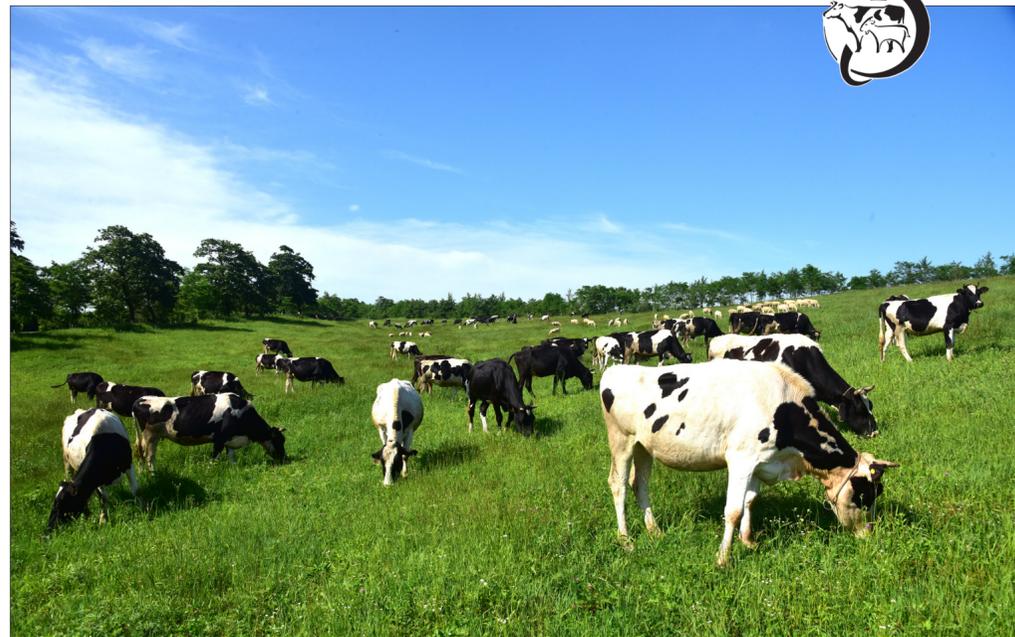


A researcher conducts an experiment in culture for the production of liquid fuel at the natural energy institute.

PHOTOS BY RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Livestock farming gets a boost across the country

There is 50 000-odd-hectare grassland at livestock farming base in Sepho area.



A herd of cows graze peacefully in the fields in the Sepho plateau which covers parts of Sepho, Phyonggang and Ichon counties in Kangwon Province.

Sepho area livestock farming base

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The DPRK's leading livestock farming base in the Sepho area is located on the Sepho plateau covering vast areas of Sepho, Phyonggang and Ichon counties in Kangwon Province.

According to Hwang Min, chairman of the Sepho area animal husbandry economy committee, the area was so barren that it had been forlorn since time immemorial and the name of Sepho derives from the fact that the area has heavy rain and snow and strong wind.

The Korean people including service personnel turned out to carry out the government's plan to make them well off by transforming the wasteland into a livestock farm.

The reclamation of the plateau which was thought to take 50 years by the existing formula required a fierce fight with nature.

The reclaimers broke the ground in late 2012 when the area had the bitterest cold in 40 years. They applied rational land improvement methods, selected the right soil according to feed grass and created windbreaks with the tree species which suit the features of the area and weather, thus unfolding the 50 000-odd-hectare grassland

in less than five years.

They created artificial grass fields at places with the gradients of below 12 along the extensive mountain ranges and natural grassland at places with steeper gradients and built an over 2 000-kilometre-long grazing road. The thoroughfare extending for a total of dozens of kilometres across hillsides is lined with low- and single-storey houses, schools, public service amenities, several livestock farms, an animal husbandry institute and anti-epizootic centre.

Grass fields are well protected from strong wind and heavy rain by hundreds hectares of windbreaks, over 12 600 hectares of forests and drainage. And in the fields grow highly nutritious and high-yielding feed crops including Aeguk grass, orchard grass and alfalfa.

There are over 10 reservoirs which store every drop of rain and snow water and can fully ensure the breeding of domestic animals and the irrigation of grass fields in any severe drought.

At present the Sepho area animal husbandry economy committee works to increase livestock production in a sustainable way. Through the general production control room it monitors and controls in real time the manuring and cultivation of grass fields, the prediction of harmful insects and the domestic animal breeding and anti-epizootic system.

It established the breeding stock production system for breeding more good breeds of domestic animals and introduced the embryo transplantation, artificial fertilization and other techniques to increase the number of such domestic animals as cattle, sheep and goat.

It applies grass field manuring and cultivation methods that suit the Sepho area in order to produce large quantities of food grass every year and develops dozens of kinds of veterinary medicines for the prevention and treatment of domestic animal diseases with local herbs, thereby lowering their death rate.

Wind generators have been installed in different places of the mountainous area, electricity and fuel are supplied by producing methane gas with the excrement of domestic animals and a production cycle has been established to ensure grassland irrigation, hydroponic cultivation in vegetable greenhouses and mushroom, fish and livestock farming all together using methane fermentation liquid and vinasse.

The number of technicians and skilled workers is on the increase thanks to the study-while-you-work system.

The meat and milk produced at the livestock farming base are processed into tasty food at the Phyonggang meat processing factory to be supplied to people across the country.

The locals now say that the original meaning of Sepho has completely changed into grass, meat and milk.

Unjong Stockbreeding Cooperative Farm

The Unjong Stockbreeding Cooperative Farm in Pongsan County, North Hwanghae Province, is one of units that supply dairy products to kindergartens and nurseries in Sariwon City.

The farm has favourable conditions for goats' grazing for its location in a hilly area and proper temperature and sunshine.

In particular, it is quite suitable for producing milk and meat as it is free from pollution.

Every year, the period from May to September is the busiest time for the farm.

In this period, such work as grazing, milk processing and breeding are conducted all at once.

The farm has created tens of hectares of artificial and natural pasture for cyclic pasturage and is increasing the weight of goats by producing protein-rich assorted feed.

It also makes efforts to acclimatize a new superior strain of goat so as to build up its production foundation.

Milk production per a head

of goat is 1.5 to 2 kg per day on average and 3 kg to the maximum.

The goat milk produced at branch farms is processed at a processing factory to be supplied to relevant areas.

The farm is now promoting the work of completing the milk powder production process in order to supply high-quality dairy products to children even in winter, and introducing the enlarged milking method for increasing milk production while maintaining the internal nutrition of goat even in the breeding period.

Jo Chol Song, chairman of the management board of the farm, said:

"It was an established formula that it is impossible to increase milk production in the breeding period. The pleasure of creating something is greater than that of enjoying it. We will boost production, true to the state policy for supplying more dairy products to children".

Across the country

Stockbreeding bases in different parts of the country are making vigorous efforts to increase dairy products.

South Hwanghae Province took measures to boost the production of dairy goods in Kyenam and other livestock farms and transport them

in time to the nurseries and kindergartens in Haeju City.

The Samhun Livestock Farm in Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, completed new processes for sterilization, inoculation and refining and is turning out large amounts of butter, cheese and other dairy products by introducing lactic bacteria with high activity.

North Phyongan Province is vigorously promoting the work to build up the capacity of such large livestock farms as the Sinuiju Youth Goat Farm and stockbreeding bases of cooperative farms in cities and counties. To this end, it directs efforts to increasing the number of milch cows and goats and expanding pastures and overhauling and updating the milk processing equipment.

The Hamhung City Youth Goat Farm and the Hamju County Phyongphungdok Goat Farm in South Hamgyong Province are creating natural pasture in a far-sighted way as suited to their region features, and the Chongjin Goat Farm in North Hamgyong Province is pushing ahead with the work to put feed production on an industrial basis.

The Chollima Steel Complex, Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326, Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, Unnyul Mine and other factories, enterprises, and coal and ore mines laid full material and technical foundations for increasing dairy products.

Online delivery set to become daily life for all



Smartphone users order goods through app.

JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

An online delivery system is becoming increasingly popular in Pyongyang.

According to developer Jang Ki Song, section chief of the Pyongyang Jangwon Technology Company, the delivery service system is accessible through a downloadable phone app and enables users to have

goods delivered to agencies or individuals.

When a user sends input data required for delivery such as the phone numbers of the sender and recipient, the name of the article and the delivery time and place through the app, the company accepts the request and organizes a quick delivery in collaboration with relevant units.

The online delivery

system not only provides great convenience to customers and saves their time but is also very helpful to revitalizing commodity circulation.

"The delivery system relieves housewives of much burden. I used to spend much time shopping, but now I don't need to go out much," said Ri Hye Sim living in Okryu-dong No. 3, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang.

The system includes some perks, especially for honoured disabled soldiers and handicapped people to whom the delivery service is totally free.

While gaining public credit with its accuracy, rapidity, cost-effectiveness and convenience of transportation, the online delivery system is being constantly upgraded and expanding its range of application.

IT helps institute improve forest design

By Kim Il Jin PT

The central forest design technology institute is stepping up the effort for making innovations in forest design.

"It is necessary to put forest design on a scientific basis in order to wage the forest restoration campaign while planting economic, reserved and scenic forests in a rational way," said Ho Man Sok, director of the institute.

At present, the institute is directing efforts to the application of such technologies as geographical information system (GIS) and decision support system (DSS).

"The preceding step of forest design is the survey of forest resources, and the correct selection of tree species is important to ensure the scientific accuracy and rapidity of the survey. To this end, we developed a true-colour e-album of trees which can be loaded on a smartphone," said Son Jong Chol, section chief of the institute.

The album contains information about hundreds of tree species. When the phone camera lingers on a tree leaf, the album app

quickly searches for its properties like type, size and shape and displays in photos the tree's taxonomic location, bionomic features, uses and distribution areas.

According to Son, researchers of the institute made field surveys of every part of the country during the past over ten years and took 200 to 300 photos for each tree leaf to build a comprehensive database.

"Trees have to be selected and planted in the forests in accordance with geographical and biological characteristics. We developed the right-tree-on-right-soil forestation support system by making connections between ecological conditions like geographical features, climate and soil condition in all forest management units across the country and biological features of tree species," said Jong Se Hak, section chief of the institute.

This system is designed to suggest the most suitable tree species when an area is selected on the map. Relying on this system, the institute simulates the growth of trees after 5, 10 or 20 years and draws up tree-planting specifications to ensure economic effectiveness.

Taedonggang Beer
FAMOUS BEVERAGE OF KOREA

Taedonggang Beer made of barley and hop produced in the DPRK and by applying advanced brewing techniques is much favoured for its refreshing taste and flavour.

As it contains vitamins, proteins and minerals, it is helpful to health promotion.

Consumer goods are on the increase, satisfying growing needs

Department store appeals to consumers

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Now Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 sells thousands of kinds of goods, attracting lots of customers every day.

According to Ri Song Suk, a staffer at the commercial department of the department store, most of the goods on sale there are domestic products.

The first counter in the department store is always packed with satisfied women customers who have come to buy cosmetics, sanitary goods, Cosmos hairpins and others.

Cosmos hairpins have already become a favourite article of local women and Pomhyanggi- and Unhasu-brand cosmetics maintain the high purchasing power, favoured by women customers.

The foodstuff section occupies the largest area in the department store, attracting the largest number of customers as well.

Ri said that foodstuffs filling the counters of the department are all products

of local factories and enterprises.

"I like foodstuffs, sweets and cakes made at our foodstuff factories as they suit our tastes and are safe," said So Myong Sun living in Ryugyong-dong No. 2 of Pothonggang District, Pyongyang. "As they are proper in sugar content and do not have strong flavour compared to imported ones, my children like them very much."

The shoes department takes the next largest area in the foodstuff section.

On sale there are footwear from many shoes production units including such leading shoes producers as the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, Wonsan and Pyongyang leather shoes factories and Sinuju Footwear Factory, said Ri.

"Shoes have been diversified in kind and shape," said Ri Kyong Hui, a saleswoman who has worked in the shoes department for several years.

The department with satchels and bags in various styles and shapes produced

by the Pyongyang Bag Factory and the hosiery counter with Choljuk-brand socks and stockings attract the interest of visitors.

More alluring is the section of silk products most often visited by parents who want to buy silk blankets and quilts produced at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill and Pakchon Silk Mill for their children at marriageable age.

A T-shirt with the blue and red national flag emblazoned on it is very popular these days at the ready-made clothes section.

On display at the department of the August 3 consumer goods on the fourth floor are various goods produced by applying recycling technologies.

"The development of science and technology and the widely encouraged recycling efforts have resulted in a marked increase in the kinds of August 3 consumer goods and their volume of sale for their quality, convenience and low prices," said Ri Song Suk.



Consumers choose sweets and cakes at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.

PHOTOS BY RA PHYONG RYOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 serves various kinds of goods including national flag decorated clothes, bedclothes and foodstuffs.



Domestic products enjoy rising demand

By Pang Un Ju PT

Presently, there is a high demand for peptide confectionery among local customers.

"Snacks made from peptide are a favourite of children," said Jo In Sun living in Central District, Pyongyang. "Children like them and they are said to have marked effects on the growth of children and also help relieve fatigue, boost mobility and ensure metabolic balance, which makes them the first choice of parents."

It is a worldwide trend to maintain health by taking various micronutrients, essential amino acids and proteins needed in the body through proper foods rather than medicines, which is exemplified by the ever-growing demand for such delicious and healthy foods as fermented soybean, or natto, bean-curd preserved in soy, natto nutritive paste and natto paste seasoned with garlic, ginger, red pepper and salt.

Steam-cell cosmetics are enjoying a burgeoning demand among women.

According to research findings, the cosmetics

which contain various cell regeneration agents extracted from steam cells of human skin have remarkable effects on skin care with no harmful side effects.

They can nourish and smoothen inelastic, wrinkled, dry and darkened skins and remove freckles and blotches, especially among women in their twenties and older.

The "Narae" brand reminds many of the Narae Ceramic Factory.

Flowerpots produced by the factory are winning favour with professional gardeners and fans alike as they not only adds beauty to the flowers growing in them but also accentuate the cultural level of the people who cultivate them.

The factory also turns out much sought-after sanitary ware.

In order to satisfy the ever-developing taste in and growing demand for shoes, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory improved the shapes and quality of its "Maebongsan"-brand shoes and also made them light and comfortable.



A mother and daughter are interested in national costume for children.

PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

What they say



Choe Hyang Sim, resident of Tungsang-dong No. 2, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang

I often go to the Mangyongdae District Direct Sales Shop, which is always crowded with shoppers. Its windows and shelves are choke-full of a variety of attractive and handy consumer goods ranging from small nails to coat hangers, school things, textile goods, house furnishings and sundry goods.

It is surprising that all these are made at daily necessity workshops of factories and enterprises, light labour workshops and housewives' workteams within the district.

As compared to a few years ago, the goods on sale have been increased in kind and become much more serviceable since their quality has further been raised.

It is really amazing that such quality goods are made from idle materials. So I decided to take an active part in the recycling effort.

I buy consumer goods at the direct sales store and other shops in our district. Recent years have witnessed an increase in the kinds of commodities and improvement in quality.

A few days ago, I bought new bags together with my married daughter. There were so many kinds of bags with different types, shapes and decorations at the bag booth that I toiled for a long time to choose my favourite. I really wanted to buy all of them.

Most of these bags, which are smart-looking and convenient to use, are said to have been produced at housewives' workteams from the byproducts of factories and enterprises.

I'm very happy since they meet the mind and taste of consumers.



Won Ok Ran, resident of Kaeson-dong, Moranbong District, Pyongyang

Educator family takes pride in photo albums



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kim Hyo Song (centre) speaks to his family about his pride-worthy students, seeing photos.



...I harden my resolve to work as a faithful teacher all my life as my father has done."

Kim Un Yong, daughter of Kim Hyo Song, headmaster of Wonam Senior Middle School

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Kim Hyo Song is the headmaster of Wonam Senior Middle School in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, and all his family members are teachers.

His wife, Kim Won Hwa, has been teaching at the same school for nearly 30 years and their only daughter, Kim Un Yong, became a teacher at Tudan Primary School in the same district a few years ago after graduating from Pyongyang Teachers Training College with flying colours.

The educators' family keeps many photo albums. "The life of our family

is closely associated with school. We have lots of photo albums not because I and my wife like to have photos taken but because we have many such occasions, including when students enter or finish school, go to camps or visit scenic spots and other places. Although we have many pictures, there are a very small number of family photos," said Kim Hyo Song.

Actually, most of their photos show them among their students including those they posed for at their young ages and present advanced ages. The beaming images of the couple in the pictures are a reminder of their decades-long devotion to the growth

of students, rather than the joy of family life.

Among the pictures are those the couple posed for with students of the classes in their charge after winning academic contests, those of students who left for posts for national defence, grand socialist construction sites and schools of higher grade and those they posed for after being highly appraised at district and city teaching contests for the new teaching methods they developed through constant quests and efforts.

"He had to plan and push ahead with lots of work in order to provide better teaching environment in keeping with the development

of the times," said his wife.

The photos of their daughter as a teacher have also increased considerably in the family albums.

"As I turn over the pages of the albums, I recollect the past decades of my parents who have worked at school diligently and honestly. My father had the honour of having a photograph taken with the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un as a participant in the 14th National Conference of Teachers.

We keep the framed picture hanging on the wall as our family heirloom. Seeing the photo, I harden my resolve to work as a faithful teacher all my life as my father has done," said Un Yong.



A modern city in forests

By Han Kwi Hun PT

The City of Samjiyon is in Ryanggang Province in the northern tip of the DPRK.

The city is associated with the undying exploits performed by President Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and there is Mt Paektu where Chairman Kim Jong Il was born.

It is blessed with spectacular natural scenery peculiar to the area including a large stretch of primitive forests in Mt Paektu, Lake Samji in them, waterfalls rising from Lake Chon, alpine flower fields and the unique ecosystem of the forest line.

The city preserves special features in the formation of city block and architecture.

Structures are laid out harmoniously centring on the thoroughfare in front of the statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il by combining the national identity, modernity and characteristics of the mountainous area.

Districts of dwelling houses, commercial service networks and others are clearly divided and the finishings to the exteriors of structures go very well with the natural forests of Mt Paektu.

Low- and multi-storey buildings are in perfect harmony and the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetics is thoroughly

embodied in the construction of houses and public buildings.

The form and layout of structures embody plastic arts and diversity while being based on the national character and therefore the whole architectural group looks like a large artistic work.

And the characteristic traits of the mountainous city are kept alive in all elements ranging from the formation of the city to the construction of every structure, road equipment, visual information aids and decorative illuminations, and landscaping has been done to suit the northern highlands.

The city has local industry factories which produce various consumer

goods with special local raw and other materials, including the Samjiyon Blueberry Drink Factory and the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory, and such service facilities as hotels and ski slopes where visitors can enjoy the sentiments peculiar to mountainous areas.

There are also the modern Samjiyon City People's Hospital, the library, hall of culture and gymnasium, which contribute to the citizens' health through comprehensive medical service and their cultural and leisure activities.

In the city there are low- and multi-storey houses for over 4 000 families and more than 380 buildings of public and industrial facilities.



With amazing knack for math education



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ri Hye Sim, teacher at Ponghak Senior Middle School, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

By Kil Chung Il PT

Mathematics is not an easy subject for middle school students. Because the content of its lessons is explained theoretically through formulae and problem solving. I try to explain its theories in life and combine them with amusements, said Ri Hye Sim, a teacher at Ponghak Senior Middle School in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

In order for students to have satisfactory math lessons dealing with figures and formulas, they should have rich logical recognition and representation capacity. But those in the period of senior middle school are limited in such capacity.

For this reason, many teaching aids, multimedia presentations and others are applied to lessons, but most

effective is the application of what they experience in everyday life, especially the computer games they enjoy. This is the conclusion Hye Sim has drawn while giving mathematics lessons for over a dozen years.

As a result, she employed a billiard computer game in the lesson on tangent line of a curve of secondary degree and introduced a tank computer game into the lesson on the equation of straight line.

If you make the billiard board in the form of an oval, not a square one, and put the centre of the oval in one line with the ball and strike it, the ball is driven to the hole without fail. With childish delight, students acquire a basic quality of the tangent line of the curve of secondary degree. And in the computer tank game in which they should calculate the trajectory of the flying shell by using

the equation of straight line they easily understand the equation with great interest and competition.

When she gives a lesson on 3D models, she encourages students to make them by themselves to have a better understanding of them.

"When it came to cone or pyramid, students had a clear idea of them soon. But when I explained the correlation between various elements including the centre of a model and straight line, they found it difficult to understand them at first. But as they made the models by themselves, they were very quick in understanding and never forgot them easily," said Hye Sim.

She put much effort into every lesson.

The greatest problem for her who majored in mathematics is the lack of knowledge about the adjacent disciplines, she

says.

The principles of various sciences including physics, chemistry and biology are closely intertwined in all matters and phenomena as well as in life. It required her a great deal of energies to delve deeper into each of them, find out mathematical principles and combine them with the content of lessons.

However, she spared no time and effort to teach students practical knowledge. In the course of it, she obtained over a dozen certificates of registration of new teaching methods and inventions of experimental devices and teaching aids and was honoured with the title of October 8 model educator.

She continues to spend considerable time and effort developing new ideas in order to make mathematics an interesting and amusing subject for all students.



Iconic buildings in the City of Samjiyon. They harmonize with forests, adding to its features as a model city.

PHOTOS BY HONG KWANG NAM / PICTORIAL KOREA

US double-dealing main stumbling block to settlement of Korean peninsula issue

By Kim Myong Chol

The US is making much ado these days, describing the recent activities the DPRK conducted for self-defence as “threats to international peace and security”.

Terming them “armed provocations” timed to a certain occasion and aiming at a specific target, it faulted those measures which belong to our right to self-defence. This arrogant and self-righteous response is a concentrated expression of the American-style double-dealing attitude.

The US is still engrossed in the anachronistic concept that the world must obey its rule.

Today its high-handed practices have gone beyond the limit.

It actively shields some countries whether they violate international law or escalate regional tension. But it is hostile to those countries

standing for independence against the US, faulting them over every matter.

Its double-dealing attitude can also be found in calling demonstrators at home who protested against racism “rioters”, while eulogizing the “independent forces” and rioters in other countries as “heroes and fighters”.

The Korean peninsula is where the US double-dealing attitude finds most vivid manifestation.

Over the coincidental launches made on the Korean peninsula on September 15, the US said “north Korea’s act is a threat to the US and the international community”, while keeping mum about south Korea’s action.

The US double-dealing act based on its deep-seated repugnance at the DPRK constitutes a stumbling block to the settlement of the Korean peninsula issue and a catalyst for exacerbating tension.

This is the real cause of the

stalemate in the DPRK-US talks.

We are aware of the fact that the new US administration has for months been sending a signal wishing for our return to talks, and we also know well that it is misleading the public to convince the world that the DPRK is to blame for the failed resumption of the DPRK-US talks.

We have never opposed the dialogue itself.

Now that the US is wielding the double-dealing yardstick, it is self-evident that it is hard to expect talks at which respect for the dialogue partner, impartiality and equality are guaranteed.

Even though contacts are made and dialogues open now, it is certain that the US would raise the double-dealing yardstick by which it would call our acts for self-defence “threats” to the world peace and its allies.

Sitting for talks with the US would not bring any progress but only earn the

US more time as it resorts to double standards in dealing with all the issues related to the DPRK.

What can be talked and negotiated when the US policy of hostility remains unchanged and cannot be changed?

Dialogue is never compatible with pressure. Unless the US vouches for the withdrawal of its policy of hostility to the DPRK, the word denuclearization can never be put on the table.

The US should have a proper basic attitude in viewing and approaching the DPRK and abandon the customary attitude of doggedly faulting and antagonizing the latter.

The international community should see through the danger and absurdity of the US double standards worsening the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The author is international affairs commentator

OPINION

Who needs a war?

By Ko Hyok

In September 2001, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted at its 55th session a resolution designating September 21 as International Day of Peace and appealed to all countries of the world to cooperate with UN to put an end to wars worldwide.

However, the past history proves positive that the general awareness-building against war and appeal can no way put an end to the war that threatens the very existence of humanity, and peace can be brought about only when the root cause of war is eliminated.

Then who is the main culprit of war driving the entire world into destruction?

It is none other than the US and Western countries who seriously threaten and disturb world peace and security, regarding interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states and war of aggression as their major means of realizing dominationism and as their mode of existence.

Seeking monopolistic high profits, large-scale export of its capital and overseas expansion – these constitute economic strategy indispensable to the US and the Western countries that are operated and sustained by big monopolies. And the victims of such a strategy are developing countries with inexhaustible supply of manpower and natural resources.

The US and Western countries disturb peace making it their business to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign countries and perpetrate armed invasion. No other purpose lies in it than to establish their politico-military domination system. It seeks to escape, at the same time, from their inherent economic crisis and stagnation by satisfying the hunger for money of big monopolies.

The sales market for mammoth munitions

monopolies, the mainstream monopolies, is none other than the battlefield.

A few days ago, Brown University of the US made public its research data to the effect that the US has waged wars squandering US\$ 8 trillion in more than 80 countries under the pretext of “counter-terrorism” since September 11 incident of 2001. This is a clear example which

awoke the world once again to the extent of profit the US munitions monopolies earned at the cost of the bloodshed of numerous people.

BBC and many other Western media unanimously commented that the explosive increase of military expenditure by the UK, France and other Western countries is a measure to ensure business activity of numerous defense industries and an attempt at saving large enterprises and small and medium subcontractors from crisis.

Herein lies the true nature of the US and the West who can batten on and exist only through wars.

Seeking solely to sustain their lifeline and to satisfy their limitless greed, the US and the West ruthlessly trample on sovereignty and dignity of sovereign states. The thing of grave concern is that such acts of military aggression throw many countries around the world into ruins unable to be restored even after decades and into dark areas suffering unending famine and poverty, all of which causing an endless vicious circle of humanitarian crisis.

All countries aspiring to independence and peace should, in firm unity, resolutely reject the acts of aggression and interference by the US and the West which are committed under the signboard of “democracy” and “counter-terrorism”, and actively struggle to safeguard peace and security of the world.

The author is researcher at the Society for International Politics Study

HISTORY DISTORTION REVEALS REVANCHIST AMBITION



Choe Yong Nam
Columnist for Japanese affairs

According to foreign media reports, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology approved the deletion and correction of the expressions of “comfort women for the Japanese army” and “forced drafting” in textbooks on the grounds of the “written answer” decided at a cabinet ministers’ meeting.

To be exact, it would delete “for the Japanese army” from the expression of “comfort women for the Japanese army” and amend “forced drafting” to “drafting”.

These are not a simple correction of words, but a wicked history distortion designed to deny the direct involvement of the former

Japanese army in the crime and brand the victims of its sex slavery crime as “prostitutes”.

Japan has long made every attempt to shirk its responsibility for the sex slavery crime.

A concentrated expression is the desperate attempt at completely deleting the expressions of “comfort women for the Japanese army” and “forced drafting” from textbooks.

History textbooks embellishing and justifying the past crimes of aggression are now rife in the country, shocking the public.

Those which dealt with the crimes Japan had committed in the past objectively to some extent are shoved aside under the pressure of the ultra-rightist forces

and companies publishing such textbooks go bankrupt.

Referring to the ministry’s approval for the correction of expressions in textbooks, the chief of the Cabinet Secretariat said it is very important in the meaning that the children receive “proper education”.

His reckless remarks have a thread of connection with those of the successive ultra-rightist politicians that the sex slavery was needed at the time for maintaining discipline in the army.

Unparalleled impudence and shamelessness are characteristic of the moral baseness of this country.

Why then has Japan so obstinately insisted on history distortion even by invoking state power, while evading state responsibility for the history of bloody crimes in every way?

Underlying its desperate attempt is the wild ambition of

revanchism to repeat the past history of aggression and crimes by disciplining all its public as well as the younger generations.

The crime Japan had committed in the past century by mobilizing the government and military power to draft many women from different countries, including 200 000 Korean women, into the battlefields, and force sex slavery on them, can by no means be covered up. And its history distortion will only trigger stronger denunciation, criticism and political and diplomatic isolation from the international community.

To deny history is as good as shooting itself in the foot. Clear is the future of Japan which is on a headlong rush towards military resurgence full of the wild revanchist ambition.

Japan is advised to bear in mind the bloody lesson of the past century.

Imperialist domination system is sure to collapse

By Ri Song Gun

The Afghan war launched by the US as a prelude to “anti-terrorism war” in 2001, the first war in the 21st century, has ended with the US troops scurrying home in disarray after 20 years.

The US committed a total of over 800 000 troops to and spent more than US\$2 trillion on the war, and sustained the loss of some 2 600 troops while over 20 000 others were wounded.

The “longest war in American history” spawned increasing acts of terrorism, escalating religious conflicts, widespread refugee crisis, regional instability and other horrendous disasters, far from helping it achieve its goal of “eradication of terrorism” and “establishment of democracy” in Afghanistan.

The number of local terrorist groups, which was single digit early in the war, has now risen to over 20, and more than 100 000 innocent civilians lost their lives and over 10 million people were displaced by reckless military operations.

The catastrophic situation in Afghanistan plunged the US into the abyss of the endless war, leaving it with no other choice but to dare an “emergency exit” to stop the excessive consumption of its resources and the “bleeding” of its economy.

The US troops’ shameful act of fleeing Afghanistan with no heed to its much-touted rhetoric of “spread of liberal democracy” and the responsibility for the “restoration of a ruined country” was a self-confession of its failed

policy on Afghanistan.

This has brought to light the status quo of the “only superpower” that is now on the decline with no qualifications for international policing.

Notably, Taliban the US forces said they had “annihilated” just two months after the start of the war has emerged as a more powerful force after 20 years to seize power

and pressurize the US troop withdrawal, a meaningful sign signifying the US defeat and the collapse of its predominant position.

The Afghan incident has shattered the illusions about the US and crumbled the alliance based on master-servant relationship between the US and capitalist countries.

The US selfish and perfidious acts of unhesitatingly deserting the Kabul regime that it had looked after for decades and of withdrawing without any agreement with NATO allies with whom it had engaged in the “bloody war” have amplified the mistrust in and frustration of its allies and satellite nations at the US security commitment.

These countries have realized

that their “most important ally” is not so strong and cooperative as they have thought and expected and are now racking their brains to draw up again their own strategies for security and existence.

The EU now discusses the issue of creating about 5 000-strong rapid response force, claiming that the situation in Afghanistan must be a turning point in boosting

Europe’s strategic independence and that it has to possess capabilities to defend its interests.

Major Western media now churn out comments that “the Western liberal order has been defeated”, “the US downfall has reached a zenith”, “the US is withdrawing though it says countries.”

It is the mentality of the US’ allies and partners to form an independent pole rather than following the waning US.

The collective security system touted by the US is nothing but a tool for meeting its own interests and the blind following of the US will only bring disgrace and destruction. This is a lesson drawn

from the Afghan crisis.

After all, the situation in Afghanistan has become a critical occasion for speeding up the self-destruction of the unipolar domination structure and the old international order created by the US after the Second World War.

No country and nation in the world want to live under others’ pressure and domination and it is the independent right and common aspiration of all countries and nations to build up their own strength and develop their own way.

The US domination system restricting independent development of other countries and nations and enforcing the Yankee-style values and orders on them has further been endangered by the struggle of the peoples of different countries to champion their cultures, traditions and development modes and the advance of newly emerging powers.

Imperialism whose attributes are aggression, interference, avarice and plunder is doomed as the refuse of history.

It is the law governing historical development that imperialism wanes and humankind heads towards socialism, and history advances by the struggle of the people standing for independence and justice in the 21st century, as it did in the 20th century.

The collapse of the imperialist domination system is the inevitability of history.

The author is fellow at the Institute of International Studies of the DPRK

More attention needed on Alzheimer’s patients



An Kwang Gwon
Deputy director for internal medicine of the Kim Man Yu Hospital

Now that the global population is aging at an increasingly fast rate, Alzheimer’s disease has become one of the most serious health challenges both in medical and socio-economic senses.

Founded in 1984, the international Alzheimer’s organization designated September 21 as World Alzheimer’s Day and urges all countries to be aware of the seriousness of the disease

and its social aftermath and take measures to prevent it.

In particular, since dementia has become prevalent among relatively young people in their 40s and 50s in recent years, it set September as World Alzheimer’s Month some years ago and conducts intensive awareness-raising activities in those periods to prevent dementia which has so far been regarded as an unavoidable, natural disease for the aged.

In this September, World Alzheimer’s Month, various activities are conducted globally to warn people about dementia and not to forget those who are suffering or died from it.

In the DPRK, efforts are directed into attracting public attention to Alzheimer’s patients so as to overcome their social isolation and enable them to do some worthwhile jobs.

While working to solve

health problems arising in connection with the aging of population, researchers in this field are intensifying research into diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease and methods of estimating the psychic functions of old people.

Local mass media are trying to provide people with a correct understanding of dementia and useful information related to the treatment of dementia patients.

Meanwhile, training in rudiments of dementia is given to not just neurologists but also other medical workers so that they can detect and manage it in early stage.

The author is researcher at the Society for International Politics Study

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The author is researcher at the Society for International Politics Study

BYWORD

New standards, new records

At present the struggle to carry out the national economic plan for the first year of the new five-year plan is being waged vigorously all across the DPRK, with the result that production plans are overfulfilled and amazing construction speeds and new standards and records are

created in succession.

New standards and records are being created every day at the construction sites of the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District and 10 000 flats in Pyongyang and thereby ideal streets for the people have revealed their

magnificent appearance in a matter of some months.

An increasing number of workers of the textile industry have carried out their yearly economic plans and local industry factories are also overfulfilling their production plans by directing efforts into the development

of new products.

It is the creative spirit and fighting mettle of the Korean people to speed up the building of a powerful socialist country through the creation of new standards and records in the face of shortages of everything and hardship.

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National custom for Chusok



Pictures depicting ssirum and handweaving contests on Chusok show that the day was one of the biggest holidays of year.

Traditional foods for Chusok holiday

Among popular Korean traditional dishes on Chusok (Harvest Moon Day) are chestnut dumpling and taro soup as well as half-moon-shaped, glutinous, steamed and sweet fried rice cakes made with new grain of the year.

Special dishes for the holiday differ from place to place: nochi, or sweet fried rice cake, in Pyongyang, glutinous rice cake in the Yonan and Paecheon areas which are granaries of the country, and taro soup and dumpling in Kaesong.

Songphyon (half-moon-shaped rice cake) is called an indispensable food on Chusok.



Glutinous rice-cake and half-moon-shaped rice cake.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Pictures show that Chusok (the 15th day of the eighth month by the lunar calendar) in Korea was a big traditional holiday of the nation.

On the day the Korean people showed their sincerity for late forefathers after having a bumper harvest.

There was a custom of visiting their forefathers'

graves on the day of Chusok.

And a reception was arranged and music was played at the royal palace that day and there were martial arts games of government officials. Horses or cloths were awarded to excellent players as prize.

There is also a story that Chusok was related with a handweaving contest in the period of the Three

Kingdoms.

Women were divided into two teams in the royal palace during the Three Kingdoms and the teams each of which was led by a royal princess had a handweaving game from early morning to late at night every day from July 16 to August 15 by the lunar calendar.

At that time, the defeated side prepared foods to serve the winning side and they

played merrily dancing and singing songs. It was called *kabe*.

Kabe was later called *Kawi* or *Hangawi*, and *Kawi* means the middle of autumn and *Hangawi* indicates a big holiday of autumn.

Chusok was fixed as a big traditional holiday of the Korean nation in the long historical course passing through the periods of Palhae (698-926), Koryo

(918-1392) and the feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910).

On Chusok, they also played various folk games. Folk games included women's swinging and men's wrestling (ssirum). The swinging and wrestling games were organized on a large scale with town or village as a unit for prize of ox or other things.

On the evening of Chusok,

the moon is unusually bright.

People used to spread straw mats in the hills at the back of their houses or in their courtyards to recite poems and sing songs reflecting their dreams while looking at the moon or forecast their crop yields.

The custom of Chusok is being carried on even today.

School works to train promising football players

By Sin Pyol PT

Although it has been only three years since the establishment of provincial football schools specializing in the training of football player reserves, many promising reserves are now growing at the schools, said Yu Yong Chol, deputy principal of the football school of North Hwanghae Province.

According to him, the school graduated dozens of students for the past two terms and they play an active role as football players in different sports clubs in Pyongyang and provinces.

North Hwanghae provincial football school teaches football theories and practical techniques to students from

the fourth year of primary school to third year of senior middle schools.

The school strictly selects boys and girls with good brains, physical fitness and suitable physical constitution in other schools in the province.

All the living conditions are provided to selected students by the state.

Yu Yong Chol said that the school checks on students every spring and autumn to dismiss those with low records and continues to admit new students. When they finish the school, they become promising football player reserves.

The school strengthens technical study for improving the qualifications of instructors and holds

an experience-sharing meeting and presentation of experience in teaching and training in a planned manner.

While improving the efficiency of teaching and training by actively inventing and applying scientific teaching and training methods and means, it gets instructors to map out and conduct the teaching and training plan for students according to their ages, mental qualities and physical abilities.

Meanwhile, it scientifically conducts the basic technical training for improving the running posture in combination with ball sensing, kicking and dribbling ability of students, speed developing training and flexibility training.



Students listen to their instructor about game tactics at the football school in North Hwanghae Province.

CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

