

Memorial service held for Kim Jong Il to mark tenth anniversary of his death



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Deep yearning and reverence of all the people across the country for Chairman Kim Jong Il, the eternal leader of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people and great sage of the revolution, pervaded the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche, on the greatest national memorial day.

The whole life of Kim Jong Il who followed an untrodden thorny path with the iron will and superhuman energy,

holding aloft the red flag of Juche from the first days of his great revolutionary leadership to the last moment of his life, shines as the noble revolutionary life of an outstanding leader and peerless patriot who dedicated his all to the eternal prosperity of socialist Korea, happiness of the people and accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Over the last ten years in which the holy history of the cause of perpetuating the memory of the leader has been given a steady continuity, the Korean people

have confidently advanced the socialist cause of Juche while creating epoch-making changes to be specially recorded in the 5 000-year national history under the guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, cherishing the august name of the Sun of Kim Jong Il as the banner of invincibility and regarding his behests as the lifeline.

A national memorial service for Chairman Kim Jong Il took place at the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in a solemn atmosphere on December 17,

the 10th anniversary of his demise.

Attending the service were officials of the Party and power organs, working people's organizations, ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs, service personnel of the Korean People's Army and the Public Security Forces, officials and working people in Pyongyang.

A solemn atmosphere prevailed in the venue of the service where the portrait of smiling Kim Jong Il was displayed.

Kim Jong Un visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun with senior Party, government officials



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of the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on December 17, the greatest national memorial day.

All the people in the DPRK greatly missing Chairman Kim Jong Il, the venerable image of socialist Korea, look back upon his life with the deepest reverence for him on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his demise.

The first decade after his demise witnessed their sacred struggle for realizing his desire for building a powerful nation under the wise guidance of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which opened up a new chapter of the leader's immortality. In the period they keenly realized the greatness of the revolutionary exploits performed by the peerlessly great man for the country, the nation and humankind and hardened their belief that the history of the Sun will go on forever.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president

Party and the government and leading officials of ministries and national agencies.

Leading officials of the armed forces organs were also present there.

The most solemn atmosphere pervaded the palace where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, the eternal leaders of the dignified Party, state and people of the DPRK and the great sages of the revolution, are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

A basket of flowers was placed at the statues of the great leaders in the name of Kim Jong Un.

Flower baskets were also laid in the name of the WPK Central Committee, and the State Affairs Commission, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

The General Secretary, together with participants, paid utmost respect to the

great leaders before their statues.

At the hall where Kim Jong Il lies in state, he bowed to him as a token of his best wishes for the immortality of the Chairman who laid a solid foundation for the dignity and prosperity of all generations to come as he dedicated his all to the sacred cause for the country and people by holding aloft the red flag of Juche throughout his life.

Senior Party and government officials renewed their pledge to fulfil the honourable mission and duty entrusted to them by the times and the revolution in the ongoing grand struggle for powerfully propelling the comprehensive development of socialist construction by further boosting the strength with which they pioneered the era of our-state-first principle under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, cherishing deep in their hearts the beaming image of the Chairman.

FROM PAGE 1

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, took the platform of honour.

Present there were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, and Pak Jong Chon, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK.

Taking the platform were also officials of the armed forces organs including Kwon Yong Jin and Ri Yong Gil.

Ri Il Hwan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, declared the national memorial service open.

Seen on the platform were Ri Il Hwan,

Jong Sang Hak, O Su Yong, Thac Hyong Chol, Kim Jac Ryong, O Il Jong, Kim Yong Chol, Jong Kyong Thack, Kim Yo Jong, Kim Song Nam, Ho Chol Man, Pak Thae Dok, Kim Hyong Sik, Yu Jin, Pak Myong Sun, Ri Chol Man, Jon Hyon Chol, Pak Jong Gun, Yang Sung Ho, Ju Chol Gyu, Ri Son Gwon, U Sang Chol and Kim Yong Hwan who are senior officials of the Party and the government, Pak Yong Il, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, and officials and persons of distinguished services who set examples in carrying out the behests of Chairman Kim Jong Il and the tasks for the first year of the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

The speaker said that after starting his unusual life in Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution, Kim Jong Il set it as his lifelong cause to build a powerful and prosperous people's country on this land and devoted all his life to the struggle for realizing it.

He highly praised the immortal revolutionary feats of Kim Jong Il who firmly defended the country, the nation and socialism of Juche with his firm faith in independence and iron pluck throughout the period of his revolutionary leadership and created epochal miracles in building a powerful country to put the DPRK on the position of a dignified power.

"Kim Jong Il is always with us and

the powerful socialist country wished for by him will surely be built as there is the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un. This is a revolutionary faith kept deep by our people through the past decade-long struggle," the speaker stressed.

He called on all the Party members, other people and service personnel of the People's Army to hold Kim Jong Il in high esteem as the eternal Sun of Juche and vigorously struggle for a new brilliant victory of socialism and for steady advance of the Juche revolution under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

The memorial service ended with the playing of song *The General Is Immortal as the Sun*.

A gun volley for the dead was fired in memory of Kim Jong Il.

All the participants paid a silent tribute to the memory of Kim Jong Il filled with the firm faith and will to add eternal lustre to his noble revolutionary career and undying revolutionary exploits for all ages.

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'Chairman Kim Jong Il will always be with our people'

Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, delivers memorial address at national memorial service



the position of a dignified powerful country by covering the tough untrdden path of history.

Kim Jong Il is the eternal Sun of the people who will always live in the hearts of the people for his sacred revolutionary life dedicated to the country and the nation, the times and humankind and his great revolutionary exploits, the speaker noted, and went on:

It is one of the immortal feats performed by him before the history that he firmly defended the socialist country of Juche founded and glorified by President Kim Il Sung.

He turned the DPRK into a dignified power by performing epoch-making miracles in building a thriving nation.

The august name of Kim Jong Il is deeply carved, together with the immortal august name of Kim Il Sung, on the course of brilliant victories of the DPRK which has defended its rights and interests as a sovereign state and the dignity of socialism, smashing all the arbitrary practices, interference and aggression moves of big powers.

There were many famous statesmen and strategists in the world, but Kim Jong Il is the only great man of the century and legendary hero as he saved the country, nation and socialism, frustrating the unprecedented pressure and blockade in the fight against the imperialist allied forces whose territories, populations and economic and military capabilities are

incomparably greater. He created a history of victory of war in the one and only country on the planet that has been exposed to the unprecedent political and military pressure and economic sanctions for over half a century and honourably defended the DPRK, the socialist homeland of Juche. His personality as a peerlessly great man is shining brilliantly in the hearts of the Korean people as a national hero and a symbol of the victory of socialism.

He formulated the revolutionary ideas of President Kim Il Sung as Kimilsungism and set the idea of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism as the WPK's supreme programme. This was a turning point in building an invincible party united with one thought and purpose and in opening up a new age of single-minded unity.

The single-mindedly united

strength thanks to Chairman Kim Jong Il.

He was an iron-willed brilliant commander who steered the trend of history while holding the formidable enemies at bay amid the upheavals of the times. He was also a tender-hearted man who was thoughtful of the people's pains and shed lots of tears and a benevolent father who loved young people and children of the country very much.

Another of his undying historic feats is that he consolidated the potentials for the accomplishment of the cause of independence for humankind.

Always cherishing the noble intention and strong will of the President who held high the banner of self-reliance in the earliest period of nation-building and on the ruins after the war, he considerably raising the international prestige and influence of the DPRK and making a great contribution to the accomplishment of the cause of independence for humankind.

His sacred revolutionary career the Korean people more deeply keep in their hearts with the passage of the time is an immortal biography of the greatest leader and the greatest man in human history and a precious textbook of life and struggle to be always read by anyone who wants to be guided by justice, truth and patriotism.

Setting it as the supreme task of the nation to reunify Korea, he made crucial decisions in succession to put an end to the tragedy of national division, thus continuously inspiring the enthusiasm for national reunification. He also smashed all challenges and obstructive moves by anti-reunification forces and opened up a new era of independent reunification advancing with the ideal of By Our Nation Itself under

Chairman, the biggest loss to the nation, the Korean people bade their last farewell to him, grieving over his death in tears, but they have never thought that he is not with them over the past decade.

Our nation and state are as ever the great Kim Il Sung's nation and Kim Jong Il's Korea and all of us are the descendants of Kim Il Sung and soldiers and disciples of Kim Jong Il.

No matter how much water may flow under the bridge and how frequently a generation may be replaced by another, we should always keep in our hearts the beaming images of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and remain faithful to the revolutionary cause of the great leaders to the end.

The cause of building a powerful socialist country, the revolutionary cause of Juche associated with the whole life of Kim Jong Il, will certainly be accomplished as the valuable revolutionary legacy bequeathed by him shines as the eternal treasure and there is the tested guidance of the WPK.

Choe Ryong Hae called on all the Korean people to wage a dynamic struggle for a brilliant new victory of socialism and steady advance of the Juche revolution under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, holding Kim Jong Il in high esteem as the eternal Sun of Juche.

After the demise of the

Chairman, the biggest loss to the nation, the Korean people bade their last farewell to him, grieving over his death in tears, but they have never thought that he is not with them over the past decade.

Chairman Kim Jong Il lives in the hearts of people

Laying foundation for building powerful socialist nation

By Pang Un Ju PT

It has been ten years since Chairman Kim Jong Il, father of the nation, passed away.

At this moment, when all the Korean people's yearning for Chairman Kim Jong Il across the country is getting intense, they look back upon the patriotic devotion of him, who provided an eternal cornerstone for building a powerful socialist country and opened up a bright future of Juche Korea.

The Chairman was a great thinker and theoretician who provided the ideological and theoretical asset for the eternal victory of the DPRK by dint of his outstanding wisdom and scientific insight.

He enriched the Juche idea, the revolutionary idea of President Kim Il Sung, into the sole guiding ideology of the Workers' Party of Korea through his energetic ideological and theoretical activities and, on the basis of it, gave perfect answers to theoretical and practical issues arising in all fields of building the Party, the state, revolutionary armed forces, the economy and culture.

He also correctly clarified the people's aspirations and the requirements of the developing revolution in his original ideas and theories such as the theory of a powerful socialist nation building, the line of economic construction in the Songun era, and elsewhere.



Chairman Kim Jong Il, great leader of the Korean people.



Chairman Kim Jong Il inspects the Songjin Steel Complex in December 2009.



Seeing new types of CNC machine tools in December 2010.

December a permanent memorial to great father who dedicated his all to people

Ri Kyong Rim

Ten years have passed since the day in December 2011 when all the nation cried in bitter grief over the death of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the father of the nation.

December has become the month of remembrance over the past 10 years.

The footprint of his on-the-spot guidance was also left on many monumental structures, industrial establishments and cultural and pleasure grounds, including such hydropower stations as the Anbyon Youth Power Station, Pyongyang-Hyungsan tourist motorway and Youth Hero Motorway, the Kwangmyongsong Salt Works, gravity-fed waterways, the settling reservoir for water supply of the February 8 Vinalon Complex, the branch factory of the Ryongsong Machine Complex, Hamhung Knitwear Factory, Hungnam Leather Shoes Factory, Mts Kuwol and Chilbo and Ryongmun Cavern which had been developed into cultural recreation grounds for the people.

As they sing, the Chairman adopted "The people are my God" as his lifelong maxim and continued his long journey for the people.

If there is anything that is omnipotent, it is not God, but the people and there can be the country and homeland as there are the people—this was his view on the people and creed of patriotism.

To provide the people with plentiful and cultured life, he visited everywhere they worked and lived even on holidays, rest days and birthdays, taking some naps and balls of rice during the whole period of his revolution leadership.

He visited the Amusement Park of Kaeson Youth Park in the biting cold of December in 2011 and said he was happy to hear that the people enjoyed riding its facilities. And on his visit to the Kwangbok Area Supermarket in the last days of his life he said he felt warm even in cold winter to see it

full of commodities, he was most delighted when he had done something for the people and he found his happiness and pleasure in those of the people.

"When I faced the novel I had completed with great efforts again, I felt guilty, rather than pleasure, of having failed to depict the great personality traits of the Chairman more impressively and it weighed on me," said writer Pack Nam Ryong,

author of popular novel "Field Train" of the cycle of novels "Immortal Guidance" on the theme of the untiring efforts of the Chairman who continued forced march on train of his field inspection tour to meet the people, in his notes for story writing.

The history of his love for the people is being carried forward by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un today.

The Korean people enjoy tangible benefits of his policies of love and trust, the policies of making devoted, selfless efforts for the good of the people, paying primary attention to their life and taking warm care of all people everywhere at all times and under any conditions and environment, and under his loving care they redouble their efforts to fulfil the desire of the Chairman to build a powerful country.



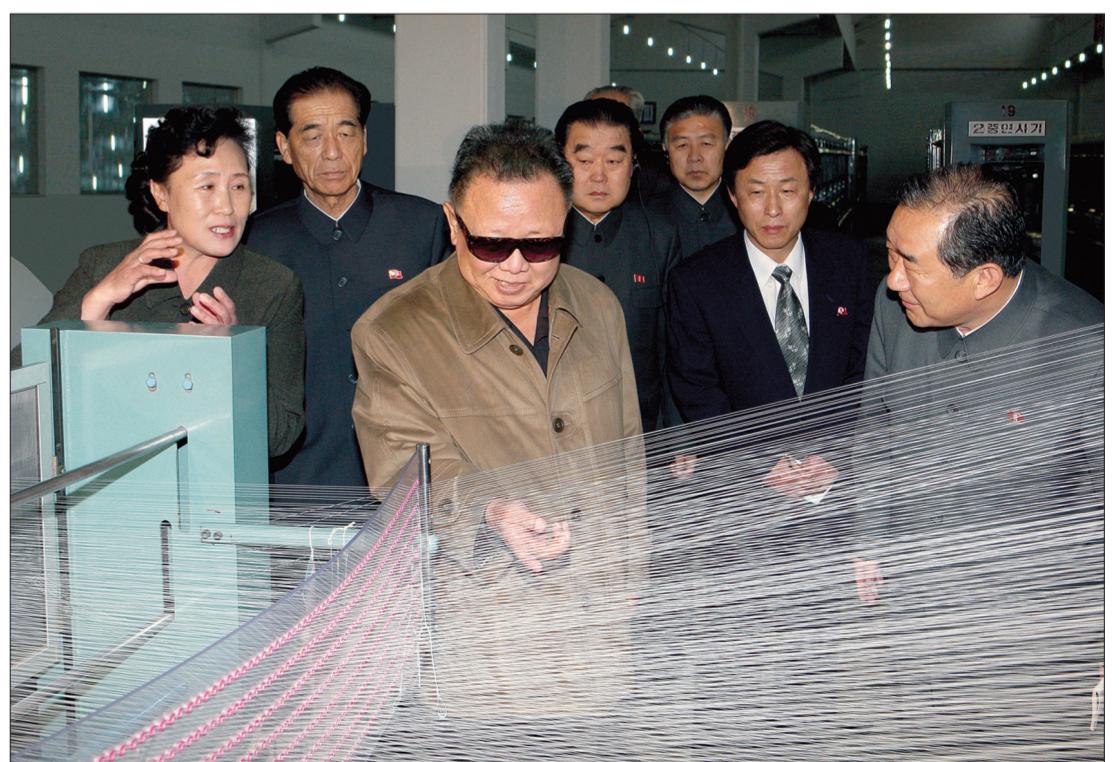
Examining vinalon cotton at the February 8 Vinalon Complex in January 2011.



On a visit to the Jongbangsan General Foodstuff Factory in January 2011.



On the Township Cooperative Farm in Janggang County in September 1999.



Inspecting the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill in May 2011.



Kim Jong Il looks round the light industry goods exhibition in August 1984.



On a visit to a discharged soldier couple who moved into a new house in January 2009.



At the Hamhung Knitwear Factory in December 2011.



Looking round the commodity exhibition at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 in July 2011.

Peerlessly great man defends country's destiny under banner of Songun

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Songun makes people recollect Chairman Kim Jong Il with deep emotion.

Because the word epitomizes the undying exploits performed by the Chairman for the country and people.

The periods of the Arduous March and forced march, when the DPRK experienced the severest trials in the 1990s, were the toughest and hardest for the country and people and the days of life-and-death struggle.

In retrospect, since he inspected the Dwarf Pine Post in January 1995, he had always toured the frontline of the revolution, the forward command posts covered with camouflage nets, barracks of units of the People's Army and posts on windy heights.

A writer wrote in his article in the period of the Arduous March and forced march as follows:

"...Before writing a work I have climbed one forward command post on the western front ...Our military car ran giddily to the summit of a steep height along the road stretching upwards almost in a straight line. The slope was so steep that my body leaned backward severely and my apprehensions grew gradually as if the car slipped to fall down to giddy cliff...I was really indignant at the front commanding officers who had the Chairman on this rugged road."

So many tearful stories were engraved in the Chairman's arduous journey to the front.

Stories about his climbing the steep cliffs of Mt Osong by pushing his car to meet his beloved soldiers and visiting Cho Island through

giant waves are part of many stories which came into being on his journey of Songun.

Saying that he felt at ease and better than living in luxury when he sweated and made a forced march for his soldiers and good people, Kim Jong Il endlessly made the long journey of Songun. His every step on his inspection tours served as nutrients in training service personnel to be brave warriors and cornerstones supporting the invincible military power.

Indeed, Chairman Kim Jong Il defended the socialism of Juche with honour overcoming hardships and trials and brought about a brilliant victory holding aloft the banner of Songun. These are the immortal feats that will go down in history forever.

A day of great devotion

February 16 1999 was the 57th birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il and also lunar New Year's Day.

That day the Chairman sat at the dinner table together with officials when it was dark.

They were surprised to see such a plain dinner table on which there were only a few potato dishes.

As if he read their mind, he laughed heartily, saying that he spent with soldiers that day, too, and that the day spent for soldiers and the people was just his holiday.

He then suggested them to discuss the ways to bring about a revolution in potato farming and improve the people's dietary life while tasting the potato foods.

As a result, that day's evening meal became an occasion to discuss the people's dietary life.

To provide the people with good quality noodles

On a March day in 1965, a waitress at the Okryu Restaurant was surprised to see Kim Jong Il entering the restaurant in modest attire.

He said smilingly that he was observed by her, though he tried to come in unnoticed.

He then went into a general dining hall and sat in a corner. Handing a ticket he bought at the ticket window over to the young waitress, he said he was going to have noodles with other diners.

She was at a loss, standing there anxiously, but brought him the same noodles as those served to ordinary diners.

After confirming that his pasta was the same as those of his neighbours, he told the waitress that was good enough and he felt relieved and asked her to ensure the quality of noodles at that level all the time. And then he left there.

Korean people pay silent tribute to memory of Chairman Kim Jong Il

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The feeling of yearning and respect for Chairman Kim Jong Il, father of the nation, has fully been expressed in all parts of the country on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his demise.

The national flag was hung at half-mast at all units.

An endless stream of people flowed to the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill in the capital city of Pyongyang and the statues of the great leaders, mosaics portraying their smiling images, towers dedicated to the immortality of the great leaders, revolutionary battle sites, revolutionary battle sites, monuments to the field guidance by the great leaders.

At noon on December 17, sirens blared all at once.

Vehicles and locomotives stopped to blow horns and the sound of sirens were heard in all cities and villages and workplaces at all units.

All people and service personnel simultaneously paid a silent tribute towards the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun for three minutes.



The Korean people observe three minutes' silence in memory of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Memorial services take place in all parts of the country in memory of Kim Jong Il

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mosaics picturing their smiling images in different parts of the country.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of the Chairman.

Memorial addresses were given at the services.

Speakers expressed the highest respects to Kim Jong Il with deep yearning and intense loyalty, saying they were looking back upon the sacred revolutionary career and immortal revolutionary exploits of the Chairman.

Working people's organizations across the country held such events as a meeting for hearing stories about greatness and virtue, poem-recital and singing meeting.

Memorial services for Chairman Kim Jong Il took place in every province, city (district) and county of the DPRK on December 17.

They were attended by officials of local Party and government organs, working people's organizations, industrial establishments, farms and universities, working people of all social

strata, youth and students.

The whole nation cherished the memory of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the eternal image of socialist Korea and great sage of the revolution, in the deepest reverence for him on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his demise.

They watched documentaries showing the Chairman's long journey of patriotic devotion and immortal revolutionary feats.

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December 15.

The meeting took place before the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill.

It was attended by Ri Tu Song, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, Hong Chol Jin, secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK, officials of the GFTUK and workers and GFTUK members in Pyongyang.

Before the meeting, the participants laid a flower basket and bouquets at the statues of the great leaders and paid high tribute to them.

Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, delivered a keynote speech at the meeting, to be followed by speeches.

The speakers noted that his revolutionary life is a noble history of attaching importance to and loving

youth in which he dedicated his loving care to bringing up young people properly to shoulder the destiny of the country and the nation.

A letter of pledge was read out at the meeting.

A national art exhibition opened on the same occasion.

An opening ceremony took place at the Korean National Art Museum on December 15.

It was attended by Jo Kyong Jun, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned and working people in Pyongyang.

Sung Jong Gyu, minister of Culture, gave an opening address.

After the opening ceremony was over, the participant looked round the venue of the exhibition.



Different events are held to mark the anniversary of the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

18th Plenary Meeting of the 14th Standing Committee of the DPRK SPA held

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The 18th Plenary Meeting of the 14th Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on December 14.

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

It was attended by vice-chairmen Kang Yun Sok and Pak Yong Il, Secretary General Ko Ki Son and members of the SPA Standing Committee.

Attending there as observers were officials concerned of the SPA Standing Committee, the Cabinet Secretariat, ministries and national agencies.

Put on the agenda were the issues on the convening of a session of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the adoption of laws on coastal and river transport, construction design and property enforcement.

First, a decision of the SPA Standing Committee on convening the Sixth Session



The 18th Plenary Meeting of the 14th Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK is held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.

of the 14th SPA of the DPRK was adopted with unanimous approval.

A report was delivered on the main content of DPRK laws on coastal and river transport, construction design and property enforcement.

The law on coastal and river transport lays down a set of principled matters and provides the people with convenience in traffic including the modernization, informatization and scientific management of shipping, construction of wharfs and control of waterways and

intensified guidance and control over them.

The law on construction design reflects the legal requirements for ensuring that construction designs are developed, deliberated on and approved properly in line with the state construction policy and for raising the scientific level of designs.

The property enforcement law details how to defend the civil rights and interests of institutions, enterprises, organizations and citizens by establishing a strict system and order in judgment,

decision, arbitration and enforcement of decision on property and the matters related to the application for property enforcement, procedure and method of issuance of execution clause and legal responsibility.

The meeting studied and deliberated on the submitted draft laws and adopted the DPRK law on coastal and river transport, the DPRK law on construction design and the DPRK law on property enforcement as a decree of the SPA Standing Committee.

Decision of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly

No. 144

December 14 Juche 110(2021)

On convening DPRK SPA session

The Standing Committee of the DPRK SPA makes the following decision:

The Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK shall be convened in Pyongyang on February 6 Juche 111(2022).

The Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly
Pyongyang

Official notice on convening of DPRK SPA session

The Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly notifies deputies to the SPA that the Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly is to be held in Pyongyang on February 6 Juche 111(2022).

The Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly will discuss issues concerning the review of the work of the Cabinet in Juche 110(2021) and its tasks for Juche 111(2022), the settlement of accounts for the fulfilment of the state budget for Juche 110(2021) and the state budget for Juche 111(2022) and the adoption of the laws on childcare and the protection of the rights and interests of overseas Koreans.

Deputies to the SPA will be registered on February 5 Juche 111(2022).

The Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly
December 14 Juche 110(2021)

Pyongyang

Premier Kim inspects major industrial establishments

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Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected factories and enterprises in major fields of the national economy.

He stressed the need to hit the iron production target by scrupulously improving the technical management of production processes to shorten the melting time and expanding the production capacity in a far-sighted way.

At the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex he called for achieving a stable and steady increase in the production of fertilizer. And

encouraged the officials and workers who are working hard to bring about an upsurge in production.

The field consultative meetings discussed the issues of firmly cementing material and technical foundations for increasing iron and steel production, producing and supplying enough fertilizer needed for next year's farming, improving the quality of insulating materials and increasing the ranks of technicians and skilled workers and expanding the production capacity.

Yonthan County finished the repair of the road leading to the Simwon Temple in short period and restored Jabiryon Fort to its original state, while Sangwon County rehabilitated the Komunmoru Site and other relics on the principle of fidelity to historical truth.

The Sariwon History Museum preserves and manages relics scrupulously as it displays them on the principle of historicism.



Premier Kim Tok Hun (first from right) looks round the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

HOME NEWS

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video conferencing under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea from December 8 to 10.

The presentation, held at the provincial science and technology library on December 10.

Factories and enterprises of the light industry sector and daily necessities production units in the province have displayed over 75 000 consumer goods in more than 570 kinds.

Local power station fulfils yearly plan

Kumyagang Power Station Unit 2 overfulfilled its annual production plan.

The power station boosted power generation by introducing several technical innovation plans.

On display were thousands of articles of consumer goods and processed foodstuffs in over 70 kinds made by reutilization production workteams belonging to city and county commercial agencies with locally available raw and other

materials.

South Hamgyong Consumer goods exhibition

A consumer goods exhibition of South Hamgyong Province began at the provincial science and technology library on December 10.

Factories and enterprises of the light industry sector and daily necessities production units in the province have displayed over 75 000 consumer goods in more than 570 kinds.

Jagang Exhibition of products in commercial sector

An exhibition of products made with various materials available in the commercial sector took place in Kanggye, Jagang Province.

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North Hwanghae Province Protection of national heritage conducted on mass scale

North Hwanghae Province has restored historical relics and remains and improved ecological environment of scenic spots as it pushes the protection and management of national cultural heritage on a mass scale.

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GFSTK Presentation on achievements in soybean farming

A presentation on achievements in soybean farming was held through

the provincial science and technology library on December 10.

Many foodstuff factories and light industry factories produced new consumer goods preserving their characters by relying on domestic raw and other materials and raised the

quality of products a step higher.

These goods are winning great favour with users.

Those, who have tasted

Pommaji-brand products of

the Pyongyang Condiments

Factory, say that they can

feel the mood of spring at the

mere mention of the brand

name.

The factory producing various kinds of condiments including soy sauce, oil and

seasonings is well-known among the people. Ri Kun Il, manager of the factory, said that it was the result of the efforts to increase the varieties of products and improve their quality upholding the decisions of the second and third plenary meetings of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

A chinhache brand foodstuff of the Songyong

Foodstuff Factory, which was awarded diplomas and medals in several exhibitions, developed light and convenient trainers that suit the likings of customers this

year by putting shoe designs and designing methods on a scientific basis.

Among trainers, some of them received the December 15 Medal of Quality, the top quality medal in the DPRK.

This year many exhibitions of consumer goods were held in the DPRK, including the August 3 consumer goods exhibition.

The exhibitions, which were held in Pyongyang and Kangwon, Ryanggang and other provinces, aimed to further improve the people's living standards by raising quality and increasing the varieties of consumer goods.

They achieved the expected success since they put on display many useful and quality consumer goods produced.

The consumer goods exhibition in Ryanggang Province was appreciated as the Paektusan Blueberry-processing Factory, Chongbong General Foodstuff Factory and Hyesan Bag Factory made

notches up successes by concentrating efforts on positively tapping and using local materials and sources.

Consumer goods production units of city and county people's committees in the province and provincial-level enterprises and factories produced over 1 200 kinds of daily necessities.

Pak Yong Ok, vice-minister of Light Industry, said that the exhibition remarkably aroused the competitive enthusiasm of light industry factories and each production unit to produce famous goods.

General Foodstuff Factory are also enjoying growing popularity.

The factory turns out over 130 kinds of foodstuffs including breads, processed meats and drinks.

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory, which was awarded diplomas and medals in several exhibitions, developed light and convenient trainers that suit the likings of customers this

year by putting shoe designs and designing methods on a scientific basis.

Among trainers, some of them received the December 15 Medal of Quality, the top quality medal in the DPRK.

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Unique teaching methods draw wide attention

By Kim Rye Yong PT

New teaching contents and methods devised and applied by Sonjuk Senior Middle School in Kaesong City are now a focus of attention.

"Every teacher is concerned about how to combine theory and practice in education. In the past we tried to solve the problem by getting students to do lots of experiments and practical training while attending lessons on theories, but the outcome was unsatisfactory," recalled Kwak Sim, principal of the school.

Such a method was unable to remove space-time limitations in developing students' cognitive, application and practical abilities, she said.

Teachers of the school racked their brains to find out a solution, given that it was impossible to prolong lessons of each subject, and finally found a way.

It was not a hidebound teaching method dealing with only scientific laws and theories, but a method which combines like a comprehensive book the phenomena occurring and experience and lessons

gained and learned in everyday life to suit the psychology of students who are full of dreams and who have rich imagination.

They worked out a teaching method geared to helping students understand the contents of such natural science subjects as mathematics and physics in connection with such subjects as history, geography and literature and even music and sports.

"Originally, we feared we could fail to ensure the consistency of teaching. But the result of the trial was better than what we had expected.

Students easily understood and memorized the contents of lessons. Moreover, it removed students' partiality to and fear of some subjects and enabled them to acquire a wide range of knowledge," said the principal.

The method made lessons not a simple period of acquiring knowledge but a course of cognition and application that fires students with the fresh zeal for learning and the spirit of inquiry.

It was posted on the homepage of the Education Commission to be highly appreciated by visitors.

In addition, the school built an informatized foreign language study room and introduced a teaching method that enables students to learn easily with enjoyment by combining amusement games and study,

and developed and applied various education support programs including the one for evaluating students' abilities by using artificial intelligence.

The school has been appreciated as a nationwide model in achieving the target for making teaching contents and methods practicable, comprehensive and up-to-the-minute this year.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Teachers hold a seminar to improve teaching methods at Sonjuk Senior Middle School in Kaesong.



Choe Won Hung
(six-year-old)



Ro Ye Song
(six-year-old)

Song Ji Ye
(five-year-old)



Children squarely compete in national festival, international stage

By Kil Chung Il PT

Choе Won Hung (six-year-old), Ro Ye Song (also six) and Song Ji Ye (five) of Changgwang Kindergarten presented their works to the second national festival of sculptures and handicrafts in celebration of the 73rd anniversary of the DPRK last September.

The works of young prodigies drew the attention of many visitors at the venue of the festival participated in by prestigious artists, experts and fans.

Choe brought out coloured-clay handicrafts, while Ro and Song presented embroidery works.

Their works were readily unbelievable to be made by children as they gave a vivid and deep portrayal of their pleasant life in the kindergarten and the scenes of pictorial book.

The coloured-clay handicraft depicting different children tastily drinking sour milk, the fruits they eat at the snack time and the flowers in the kindergarten's flower garden using diverse embroidery techniques.

They all study at the art group of the kindergarten.

"We find out children with gifted talents for painting to teach them how to draw and do coloured-clay handicrafts and embroidery at the art group. Choe, Ro and Song have all unusual temperament and character," said Jong Yong Ae, teacher in charge of the group.

In the meantime, Ro and Song decorated the background of their embroideries with subdued and well-balanced colours and promoted the characteristics of the "king's van" coming to the

66

Children give full play to their talents in the embrace of the socialist system where all conditions needed for the education of children are fully ensured and prominent children are put forward so that they can be known throughout the country."

Jong Yong Ae, teacher of Changgwang Kindergarten

kindergarten every day, loaded with sour milk, the fruits they eat at the snack time and the flowers in the kindergarten's flower garden using diverse embroidery techniques.

As if taking after his artist father, Won Hung drew pictures of everything he saw and once he started to draw, he would keep drawing for hours.

In a little over a year since he enrolled at the group, he readily sketches any features and excels in coloured-clay handicrafts.

His crayon painting "Playing at doctors" came third at the recent seventh Asian children's picture exhibition.

Ro and Song also acquired many embroidery techniques as well as painting skills under the guidance of their teacher Jong. According to her, the former's style is featured by the delicate reflection of objects while the latter's style by sincere and correct depiction.

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Opera highlights significance of war victory

Opera impressively depicts the heroic feats of coast artillerymen on Wolmi Island etched in history of the country

By Ri Myong Jun PT

This year, the Phibada Opera Troupe produced the opera "Eternal Victors" on the theme of heroic feats performed by the coast artillerymen on Wolmi Island during the Fatherland Liberation War.

The opera was staged at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre from October 27 to November 28, drawing the deep interest of the audience.

It depicts in a historic picture the unyielding struggle of the artillerymen

who defended Wolmi Island, an island of the country, for three days against a 50 000-strong force of the US imperialists boasting about their "mighthiness" during the Korean war and thus rendered great services to hastening victory in the war.

The work raises a serious socio-political question how ordinary soldiers could bravely fight against the strong aggressive forces that had never been defeated and answers it through truthful and profound depiction.

It gives the impressive

A scene from opera *Eternal Victors*.

the southern part of Korea help them carry shells to the battery with the DPRK flag in the breast of their clothes as they keenly realize how grateful the DPRK's popular policies are after being liberated by the Korean People's Army.

death.

The artillerymen, who

are absolutely convinced that the embrace of General Kim Il Sung is just that of the DPRK, go out for the last do-or-die battle, holding high the flag of the DPRK and singing *Song of General Kim Il Sung*.

"We have improved the ideological and artistic influence of the opera by properly applying verse-songs and *pangchang* (off-stage song) to fully show the inner world of the hero and other characters and also the three-dimensional stage art across a revolving stage and introduced advanced technologies into stage settings to give a lifelike portrayal of fierce battle scenes," said director Chae Myong Sok.

New stunts added to acrobatic show

By Kim Kum Myong PT

A performance given by the acrobats of the National Circus at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre located in the centre of Kwangbok Street in the capital city of Pyongyang is enthusiastically acclaimed by the audience.

They flaunt their skills in

such pieces as ring whirling,

dish feet and polygonal club

whirling.

According to director Sin Un Sop, the stunt has been staged more than 12 000 times since it was created in 2003 and received four gold prizes at different international circus festivals

including those held in Spain

and Russia in 2014 and 2015.

Spectators watched Merited Artist Kwon Jong Hyok doing a quintuple somersault after flying high from a floating swing, a superb stunt, with bated suspense and gave a big hand to him.

The entertainer did a handstand on iron bars swaying at almost a right angle without even a safety rope. It was really a cliff-hanger," said a spectator named Choe Yon Hwa.

"I am very delighted and have been relieved of fatigue

as I enjoyed the acrobatic performance together with my colleagues after work. Especially, I could hardly suppress a strong impulse to ride a horse as I saw the trainers bravely perform difficult stunts on horseback.

The acrobatic performance was really impressive as it brought us great pleasure and optimism," said Han Song Jun, worker at the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326.



Stills from the performance given by the National Circus at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre.

EU'S 'HUMAN RIGHTS' RACKET DOOMED TO DENUNCIATION AND REJECTION

By Ri Sang Rim

On December 6, the European Union staged a farce of extending for another one year the "human rights sanctions" measures which it had imposed in March this year against the individuals and entities of six countries including the DPRK, China and Russia.

The EU's "human rights sanctions" racket, which has nothing to do with protection and promotion of genuine human rights, is indeed a politically-motivated smear campaign targeting the countries which EU views

as having different "values" from them.

What is actually shocking the world is the human rights violations such as racial discrimination, maltreatment of refugees, police violence, and sexual assaults occurring on a daily basis in the EU member states which are advocating "freedom", "equality" and "democracy".

It is the height of falsity and hypocrisy that these countries make a fuss, blindly picking on the human rights situations of other countries, far from paying heed to the severe human rights situations at their homes.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our strong denunciation and categorical

rejection of the EU's farce of extending "human rights sanctions" as an extension of hackneyed policy hostile to our country and a despicable political provocation aimed at violating our national sovereignty and interfering in our internal affairs.

The European Union should keep in mind that its reckless "human rights" racket targeting the countries of its dislike is doomed to denunciation and rejection from the international community.

The author is chairman of the Korea-Europe Association

An ideal socialist town built by dint of single-hearted unity



Kang Myong Hup
PhD, associate professor and section chief of the Academy of Social Sciences

The City of Samjiyon has turned into a model of modern socialist mountainous town and the standard of rural development.

It is the first village at the foot of Mt Paektu, sacred place and cradle of the Korean revolution, as well as a place dear to the hearts of all the Korean people as it is where the native home of Chairman Kim Jong Il is located.

The Workers' Party of Korea worked out a plan for giving a complete facelift to the city in line with the requirements of the times on the historic march in the new century of the Juche era.

It is the intention of the WPK to turn the place into an ideal socialist land of the people

symbolizing the standard of civilization in the era of the Workers' Party and give a total facelift to the whole country with it as a spark.

The construction of the city was a worthwhile and honourable undertaking for further cementing the feeling of attachment to the Chairman cherished by the Korean people who have spent every day and every month with yearning for him.

Among the volunteers who came to its construction site, there were whole family members, couples, fathers and sons or daughters, mothers and sons or daughters, twins and sisters. Not only those builders but all other people across the country dedicated pure conscience to the

undertaking for sprucing up its birthplace.

Though the imperialists have gone to extremes in their moves to stifle the DPRK and manifold trials and hardships blocked their way at every step, they continued construction without a moment's letup while overcoming severe cold and other unfavourable conditions as they regarded the construction of the city as a fierce political struggle to defend the dignity and authority of the WPK.

That's why the Korean people say that the sea change made in Samjiyon is the outcome of their firm intention to hasten the bright future of socialism as early as possible by dint of single-hearted unity.

Single-hearted devotion

Single-hearted devotion means loyalty and warmhearted sincerity devoted to only one purpose or cause.

During the past anti-Japanese armed struggle, revolutionary fighters entrusted their destiny to the leader of the revolution and

sacrificed their youth and lives in the way of loyalty toward General Kim Il Sung and victory of the Korean revolution.

Their noble ideological and moral qualities have been passed on to the rising generations.

After pledging firmly that

he would always remain faithful to the great people, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un demonstrated the dignity and might of the DPRK to the world with his outstanding revolutionary leadership and revolutionary practice and now devotes his all to providing the Korean people with a wealthy and cultured life.

Deeply attracted by his image as a great man, the Koreans faithfully support the cause of building a powerful socialist country led by him with more passionate single-hearted devotion than ever before.

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OPINION

US State Department's argument on 'AUKUS' unfounded

The Korea-Asia Association

On November 29, the Korea-Asia Association released an article to sound a warning against the attempts of the United States and its vassal forces to bring dark clouds of nuclear war over the planet by leveraging "AUKUS".

Responding to this article, an official from the spokesperson's office of the US State Department made lame excuses to justify "AUKUS" on December 2, saying that they are not talking about the nuclear-armed submarine, but it is just conventional nuclear-powered submarine. He also made nonsensical remarks that they will start transferring the technology for building a nuclear-powered submarine in a way of reflecting its long-standing leadership in global non-proliferation and rigorous verification standard.

This is an open challenge to the international society which is voicing serious concern by stating that it is an "irresponsible act of abandoning regulations and obligations for nuclear non-proliferation" and "manifestation of double standard with a high degree of Cold War mentality".

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons stipulates, inter alia, that equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material should not be provided to any non-nuclear weapon state. And over 90% of the American and British nuclear submarines use the weapons-grade highly enriched uranium as their fuel. Given all the above facts, it is indeed an absurd logic to argue that the transfer of technology for building "conventional nuclear-powered submarine" does not run counter to the provisions of NPT.

It is an American-style gangsterlike logic of calling black white.

This betrays the false and deceptive nature of the acts of the US which has been professing itself to be a "nuclear non-proliferation supervisor", persistently finding fault with other countries' rights to peaceful nuclear development. It also lays bare the hegemonic arbitrariness of the US which takes no account of international laws or the global concerns for the pursuit of its own interest.

It is not surprising therefore that even American experts confessed that the sale of nuclear submarine carries a great risk of proliferation. They also commented that the US, which is said to stand in the forefront of non-proliferation, continues to bypass the principles and regulations of non-proliferation under the pretext of helping its allies, and this is effecting an erosion of the international order which the current US administration claims it defends.

If the US persistently pursues nuclear proliferation by prioritizing only its own interests and those of its allies, it will never be able to get rid of the stigma as the chief culprit who has undermined the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation and destroyer of global peace and security.

The United States can never escape a stern judgment of the international community, whatever tricks it employs to cover up its sinister intention.

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Harping on about 'emergency': what does it aim for?

By Kim Il Chol

Not long ago, Abe, former prime minister of Japan, asserted that "emergency in Taiwan is the same as the emergency in Japan and that of the Japan-US alliance".

Suga, former Prime Minister of Japan, during his trip to the US in April this year, put Taiwan within the range of application of the US-Japan Security Treaty, chiming in with the US in its criticism against China. Japan fanned up the theory of threat from China in the Diplomatic Blue Paper and the Defense White Paper published in 2021. High-ranking officials of Japan including the Deputy Prime Minister and the Defense Minister gave a spate of belligerent remarks that Japan should join the US in protecting Taiwan from the aggression by China.

Referring to this issue, the assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China and the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China said that Japan, which committed a war crime of invading China in the past, does not have any qualification to say this and that about the Taiwan issue and that if anyone dares to follow in the same wake of militarism and challenge the limiting line set by the Chinese people, he or she is bound to suffer a crushing defeat.

Chinese newspaper *Global Times* also underlined in its comment the fact that Japan is one of the countries with the weakest strategic independence in Asia and it should not harbor any expectation that it could pursue a hardline policy against China on the strength of the US.

Besides this, Japan is already agreed to deploy interceptor missile units on the islets located near Taiwan. It is also trying to increase its cooperation with Taiwan by encouraging security dialogue between the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan and the Society for International Politics Study

ministership, is giving the revival of militarism and reinvasion scheme a shot in the arm while attaching the expression "emergency" without discretion to even the Taiwan issue which belongs to the internal affairs of China.

it like the godfather, just at this time when confrontation has grown ever worse between China and the US over the Taiwan issue.

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry censured the West for its human rights violation at a press conference on December 10.

They have pretended not to hear institutional racism and racial discrimination that exist in history and reality and, worse still, imposed sanctions on other countries on the pretext of "human rights" and started war, he denounced.

This is a typical expression of double standards, he said, adding that no one is qualified to style itself "human rights judge" and interfere in other countries' internal issues while wielding "human rights stick".

Cuba

Efforts for increased electricity production

Cuba puts big efforts into increasing the production of electricity.

Despite the lack of parts of and materials for generating equipment, it is striving to recover its thermal power generating capacity and especially speeding up the repair of a thermal power plant which takes the lion's share of electricity production.

It is also pressing on with the repair and maintenance of electric power grids across the country.

Iran

Striving for navy buildup

Iran is directing efforts to building up its naval force.

The navy of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on December 11 took over 110 home-made high-speed attack boats.

Equipped with missile launchers, the attack boats have great mobility and are reportedly to be used in operations for coping with the enemy's potential threats in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Japan

Protest against US military base building

Residents in Japan's Okinawa Prefecture recently held a rally in protest against the establishment of a US military base.

Hundreds of Japanese people attended the rally that was held nearly three years after the earth and sand piling work began for the construction of a US air force base in the sea off Henoko of Nago City.

They assembled in front of the base near the construction site to express their stand not to allow its establishment, shouting "Do not permit the building of new base".

COVID-19

Pandemic causes more casualties

According to foreign news reports, 271 700 691 people contracted COVID-19, 5 336 310 died of it and 22 165 064 were undergoing treatment worldwide as of 24:00 on December 14.

US campuses ringing with gunshots, instead of bell

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Gunshots are ringing louder than the sound of bell at schools in the United States, causing uneasiness and apprehension among people.

On February 14 2018, 17 people were shot dead at a senior high school in Michigan where a 15-year-old student brought his father's rifle from home and sprayed bullets to kill four people, injuring several others.

According to statistics, the number of deaths caused by gun-related crimes in the US has reached 39 892 (1 345 minors among them) this year as of November 21, an all-time high

during a tussle in the classroom of a senior high school in Dallas, Texas. He ran away by car but was arrested by police. On October 12, there was another gunshot incident at a senior high school in Chicago, Illinois.

On November 30, a tragic incident happened at a senior high school in Michigan where a 15-year-old student brought his father's rifle from home and sprayed bullets to kill four people, injuring several others.

Students do not scruple to shoot their schoolmates and even their teachers at the schools where the future of the country is brought up. This is the tragedy that can be seen only in the US where extreme hate and individualism are widespread.

Diplomatic dispute that cannot be easily settled

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The US is aggravating the diplomatic dispute with Russia by greatly reducing the number of Russian diplomats in the country.

Recently, the US State Department made an official request to Russia to let its 27 diplomats and staff members of the Russian Embassy in Washington DC leave the US by January next year without any appropriate reason. It also announced that it expects to take an additional step to let 20-odd staff members of the Russian Embassy leave the country by June next year.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, the US fixed the length of stay in the US for the diplomats of other countries for five years, but limited it to three years for the Russian diplomats and

denounced the US, saying that it is applying sanctions to Russia which go against the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The US tried to make an excuse saying that it had only called on the Russian diplomats whose duration of stay had expired to leave it, but it had never expelled them. But nothing can cover up its sinister intention to impair the external image of Russia and to create an atmosphere of isolating and putting pressure on Russia with its successive measures of expelling Russian diplomats.

The diplomatic dispute between Russia and the US has not started only yesterday.

Typical examples of this are the expulsion of more than 30 Russian diplomats in 2016 by the Obama administration with an allegation that Russia intervened in the US presidential election and that of 60 Russian diplomats by the Trump administration in 2018 on the pretext of attempted assassination of a former Russian secret agent in the UK, prompting Russia's counteraction to it.

As long as the US, which ignores even the elementary diplomatic practices and international law to attain its objectives, continues to stick to its policy hostile to Russia, the diplomatic dispute between the two countries can't be easily settled and it will spark due backlash from Russia.

WORLD

Briefly

China

FM spokesman censures West's human rights abuse

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Left-handed table tennis legend remembered for powerful strokes



PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Ri Pun Hui who rose to fame as a world table tennis star in the 1980s is one of the outstanding sportspersons the DPRK has produced.

As a member of the national table tennis team, Ri took part in 35 major international events including world table tennis championships, world cup tournaments and Olympic games and won 63 medals including 26 golds and 19 silvers.

She was born into an ordinary office worker's

family in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, and started learning table tennis at the age of eight and was selected to the Amnokgang Sports Club in 1979.

Having cut a conspicuous figure by winning a national championship in her teens, Ri snatched a gold medal in the juvenile women's singles of the 6th Asian table tennis championships, attracting the attention of experts and spectators.

She contributed to her team's runner-up finish in the team event of the 38th world table tennis championships

and received the Joola prize

which is given to top scorers of the championships.

She reached the top three in the rankings at the women's doubles and women's singles of the 39th and 40th world championships respectively, and won recognition as one of the world's table tennis aces.

Afterwards, she occupied the second place in the world rankings for several years and won the first place in the team event, second place in the singles and third place in the mixed doubles of the 41st world championships.

A left-handed player with the shakehands grip,

Ri would take the lead in the matches by dint of all-out attacks with various special skills and left-right combination in a short distance.

She won medals in the women's singles and doubles in the 1992 Olympic Games and contributed to the DPRK team's advance to the final match in the team event of the 42nd world championships.

Ri Pun Hui was awarded the Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and the title of People's Athlete. She is now working at the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled.



Songi mushroom.

Songi mushroom seen through national classics

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Various kinds of mushrooms that are good for human health grow in Korea which has been called a land as beautiful as golden tapestry as it has been blessed with spectacular mountains and clear rivers since ancient times.

The fact about the use of mushrooms in the Koreans' dietary life is found in the historical records from the period of the Three Kingdoms (3rd century BC-AD mid-7th century).

According to *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms), mushrooms were presented to royal courts as tributes in the early 8th century.

In the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392), various mushrooms including songi mushroom and *Lentinus edodes* were widely used as subsidiary foods and Koryo medicinal

materials and songi mushroom was regarded as the best.

More detailed accounts of songi mushroom are found many times in the records from the period of feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910).

The historical records introduce the soup, roast, boiled rice and other foods prepared with songi mushroom as the main material.

It was also widely used as medicinal material in people's life.

"Demand for songi mushroom with clear anti-cancer and ageing-retarding effects is on the rise. We work to protect and propagate this mushroom and improve its processing techniques in order to use it in the people's dietary life and medical treatment," said Ri Kuk Song, department chief of the Central Mushroom Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Korean tiger, living monument

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Tiger is one of animals attracting the attention of people mostly. Because it is called the "king" of all animals and the symbol of swiftness and valour.

Since ancient times, those who are valiant and nimble have been called "generals as ferocious as a tiger" and "men as intrepid as a tiger".

It is now under international protection as its breeding coefficient is not so high and its number dwindles day by day due to the reduction of thick forests and poaching.

It belongs to a largest fierce animal in the cat family. Its size and fur colour and length vary according to its distribution areas and it is divided into

several subspecies including Korean, Siberian and Iranian tigers.

Among them, Korean tiger is bigger, nimbler and more intrepid than other subspecies and is noted for its graceful fur pattern.

It has a comparatively big build (its body length is 2.5m long, body weight is 100-306kg and its tail length is 95cm long), its back is yellowish brown and the belly and inner part of four legs are white. There are 24 black lines on its back and five on the belly and eight black patterns are seen on tail.

Unlike other subspecies, it has an outstanding black pattern of "king" in Chinese character on its forehead. This is the external feature of

the Korean tiger.

Korean tiger spread widely across the country, from northern alpine areas to South

Jolla Province, but now its traces are only found in northern high mountain areas.

The Korean tigers

inhabiting Tachongdan County and Samjiyon City in Ryanggang Province

have been nominated as

natural living monument "Korean tiger on Mt Paektu" and they are under good protection.



Natural living monument—Korean tiger.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

