



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un reelected as President of State Affairs of DPRK



KCNA

The election of the president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea representing the DPRK and its people is the most important state affair that the supreme power body determines on behalf of the unanimous will of all the Korean people for the destiny and future of tens of millions of people, the eternal dignity and mightiness of the DPRK and for steadily leading the great pioneering period of national rejuvenation unprecedented in the history of its founding on to a heyday.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK reelected Comrade Kim Jong Un as President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the first session, which constitutes the start of state affairs administration of its 15th term, on March 22.

The Pyongyang Assembly Hall was brimming with extraordinary political awareness and revolutionary enthusiasm of the SPA deputies who would perform and exercise their mission and rights entrusted by the times and the people in a responsible manner as they would deal with the most important state affair of great political significance in reliably guaranteeing the eternal future of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

The 15th Supreme People's Assembly solemnly declared internally and externally the historic decision to elect Comrade Kim Jong Un, the outstanding leader of the Juche revolution, to the top post of the DPRK, reflecting the unanimous will and desire of all the Korean people.

Invariably holding Kim Jong Un in high esteem as the head of the glorious DPRK is a political event to be specially recorded in its history of activities of state power, and another significant revolutionary auspicious event the Korean people have greeted in the course of ushering in a new period of upturn for national prosperity as clearly indicated by the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The election of Kim Jong Un, the most prominent thinker-theoretician of the present world, the great strategist of state building and the great master of creation and transformation, to the top state post has opened up sure prospects for further strengthening the DPRK government as a powerful political weapon for building a powerful nation and realizing the great ideals and aspirations at an earlier date.

Growing stronger is the iron faith and will of all the people and service personnel across the country that Korean-style socialism will always emerge victorious and the historic cause of building a rich country with a strong army will surely be accomplished when they advance, always holding in high esteem at the helm of the revolution Comrade Kim Jong Un, who has been shaping the bright future for all generations to come while bringing about unprecedentedly great changes and victories in the course of the sacred struggle of the Party and the state.

Guided by him as head of state, the DPRK will prosper as a dignified country of the people and a powerful country, independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, as it advances along the road of the most sacred and bold pioneering.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un makes an important policy speech at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made an important policy speech, titled, "On the Tasks Facing the Government of the Republic at the Present Stage of Socialist Construction", at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on March 23.

Dear comrade Deputies,
And comrade observers,

First, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warm congratulations to all Deputies who have been elected as members of the supreme power organ of our dignified State, the fifteenth of its kind, thanks to the great trust and support and approval of the people throughout the country.

I also congratulate you on your election as members of the new-term State leadership according to the recommendation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the deliberation and decision at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Expressing my thanks to the Supreme People's Assembly for entrusting me again with the sacred mission of representing the DPRK and guiding the overall work of the country, I solemnly pledge to make all sincere efforts to firmly defend the Constitution of our Republic and promote the prosperity and development of the State and the well-being of the people, bearing deep in mind the trust and expectations of all of you, Deputies, and all other people.

Comrades,

As the Ninth Congress of the WPK noted, our cause of building a socialist state has now entered a key period of reaching a high stage of development in all aspects and of moving to a next stage.

This is not something achieved thanks to any opportunity or by taking advantage of it, but an inevitable result of the struggle our Party, government and all the people have waged to perseveringly open their own course of development and steadily accumulate potentials by dint of their own efforts.

Today, before referring to the direction of the future activities of the government of the Republic, I would like to briefly explain the affairs of the State during the term of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly, which ushered in a successful period through an arduous struggle.

In fact, 2019, when the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held, was a period that demanded a truly important and responsible choice and fresh courage on the part of our socialist construction and the government of our Republic.

During this period our State building strategy to construct socialism through self-reliance, holding fast to the revolutionary line of independence, was further consolidated to be invariable, and this was clarified in the policy speech at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

And it was detailed and deepened at the subsequent Eighth Congress of the WPK, the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee and the sessions of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

Now, I think we can draw two obvious conclusions.

They are that it was quite right that we resolutely implemented the political line, the strategy for the development of the State, through self-reliance by believing in our people and sustaining our fighting traditions, and that it was very righteous that we



maintained our development mode of steadily accelerating socialist construction while cementing our position as a nuclear state.

The position of our State and the present trend of socialist construction, which have changed incomparably from those of seven years ago, prove the validity of these conclusions.

As we were consistent in maintaining the principles and methods of dealing with problems that rely entirely on our own strength in the face of ordeals, we could remain more faithful to our sacred struggle with the sense of self-confidence, not the sense of dependence, and win great gains incomparable with the result expected from anyone's "promise" or "economic assistance."

Though we felt difficult at every step and were short of everything, we were firm in our conviction that we have nothing to rely on other than our own strength and were full of confidence in our own strength; as a result, we could unyieldingly and to the utmost do more things we wanted for the prosperity and development of the State and the well-being of the people while rapidly increasing our own potentials, and, furthermore, advance these undertakings in breadth and depth beyond precedents and beyond the imagination of the world.

We successfully carried out several-year development plans for the first time in decades, laid down foundations for boosting production in the economic field, created a bold and comprehensive new trend of simultaneously transforming the capital city and regions, the whole country in other words, and increased the people-oriented policies. These can be said to be typical examples.

The successful start of the overall technological renovation and the advance in science and technology, education and public health were also achieved by dint of self-reliance.

What is most important is that we defended the independent development right, with which we can decide and shape the present and future of our State and people according to our own faith, and that our self-confidence, courage and ability to support its realization have grown remarkably.

In the course of the struggle to overcome the challenges and make a stubborn advance towards realizing our ideals by dint of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, the patriotic enthusiasm and spirit of advance of all the people rapidly rose and, in direct proportion to this, the motive force of our revolution grew incomparably stronger.

In short, we obtained many things that are more than precious in terms of spirits, capabilities and materials.

These are precious assets of our revolution which we would never have achieved if we had relied upon others and if we had received assistance from others—our truly proud assets.

The past decade clearly showed that no objective conditions and circumstances can ever check the advance of a state and people that have turned out in the struggle to shape their future, rallied as one with a firm faith, and that the most correct road to prosperity is to achieve self-reliance and self-sufficiency.



FROM PAGE 2

The hostile forces wanted us to make a different choice, preaching a payment for our giving up of nuclear weapons, but the present situation clearly proves how just the strategic option and decision of our State were in rejecting the enemy's cajolery and perpetuating our nuclear possession so that it is irreversible.

During the 14th term of the Supreme People's Assembly our Republic legalized its nuclear policy and enshrined it in the Constitution of our State, and accelerated the strengthening of our nuclear forces, thereby building up an absolute physical capability for practically deterring war and ensuring the balance of forces in the region.

Thus, our State has ushered in a new era of achieving security and safeguarding peace with strength, not by any declaration or through any appeal.

The present world situation, in which the dignity and rights of sovereign states are being trampled upon feebly by unilateral high-handedness and tyranny, clearly teaches us what is a sure guarantee for the existence of our State and for defending peace.

With an insight into the immutable nature of the imperialist and dominationist forces, for whom seeking hegemony has become an inveterate mental attribute and whose shamelessness would evolve to be more brigandish, we secured in a foresighted way a substantial capability for coping with the security threats that would face us in the future and their worst changes. We were absolutely right in doing so.

Externally, the United States and its allies are constantly deploying nuclear strategic assets in the region around our country and threatening the security mainstay in the region, but in fact this is not something new to us, and security of our State is being maintained on a level higher than that in other regions of the world.

I am sure to say: Ours is no longer a country that is susceptible to threats from others, and it has the power to threaten them, if necessary.

The building up of our nuclear shield is firmly guaranteeing and propelling the development of the country in all fields including the economy and culture and the improvement of the people's living standards, as well as the military and security fields.

During the last five-year plan period for national economic development alone, the State investment increased 2.4 times in the major economic sectors, and more than 8 times in the core sectors. The result was that marked progress was made in the growth of the economy and in the updating of technical infrastructure.

The unprecedentedly enormous forces and resources of the State are being enlisted for the projects aimed at improving the quality of the people's life and promoting their well-being, including large-scale construction of houses and expansion of cultural and welfare service facilities. In all regions, under the powerful guidance and assistance of the central authorities, the process of transformation unprecedented in the history of nation building has made a dynamic start in a simultaneous and three-dimensional way.

All these prove that our style of development strategy was very correct as we directed great efforts to the development of the State and the economy while giving priority to getting a security guarantee of our own and consistently carrying on the line of bolstering up our nuclear forces.

And we smashed through scientific reality the insidious and crafty preach and sophistry of the hostile forces that we would not get prosperous if we did not give up our nukes, and demonstrated to the whole world what kind of chain reaction the firm defence of our security interests is effecting in all aspects of our State building, including politics, the economy, culture and external relations.

In the course of adhering to the strategic line of self-reliance and strengthening our nuclear forces and implementing it to the letter, our State boosted the might of independence, self-sustenance and self-reliant defence up to a new height and, at the same time, has further consolidated the people-oriented character of our socialist system and turned the political and ideological unity of the whole society and all the people into an invincible one.

Indeed, this is a glorious and proud review.

What we should consider as more precious is that our faith that "self-reliance is the only way out," which our people have firmly maintained over the long years of trials, believing in the Party and the State and encouraging themselves while tightening their belts, has turned out to be effective in practice, in reality.

Our people have demonstrated to the world that faith gives an eye to see the future and that the cause and the state supported by such a complete faith of theirs are sure to succeed, and have etched the immutable truth in the chronicles of socialist construction. This is a historic exploit our heroic people have performed.

On behalf of the WPK and the government of the DPRK, I extend warm congratulations and thanks to all the citizens of this country for having firmly defended everything precious and beautiful of socialism and blazed a new trail of development with an unwavering faith and fighting spirit, and for having glorified the decade of unprecedentedly arduous struggle as that of miraculous transformation and successful development by dint of firm self-confidence.

Comrades,

The socialist cause of our own style has entered a new stage, and it is an important task facing the government of our Republic to further expand and consolidate the current trend of development under the leadership of the WPK and thus promote the prosperity of the State and the well-being of the people.

The ongoing First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly amended and supplemented some of the contents of the Constitution of the DPRK in compliance with the essential requirements for the development of the State, and adopted ordinances on carrying out the five-year plan set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Party and on the State budget for this year.

With the current session as an occasion, our State power and social system have been further strengthened and developed in conformity with the rising status and strength of our country, and a new situation has been created, whereby the Party congress

and the Supreme People's Assembly, and the Party central leadership and the State leadership, come to have the same period and term and clear responsibility and step up the development of the State and socialist construction vigorously.

The government of the Republic should be faithful to its mission and role in the coming historic undertaking to attain the new long-term objectives set forth by the Ninth Party Congress on the basis of the precious achievements it has made in opening up the era of transformation unheard-of in the history of nation building.

It is important in State building and activities to more vigorously push ahead with the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—in keeping with the current situation of socialist construction, while consistently adhering to the principle of independence, self-sustenance and self-reliance in defence and the people-first principle.

The Ninth Party Congress has clarified the need for all sectors and units to conduct the three revolutions more vigorously.

The three revolutions constitute the general line of socialist construction, and successful progress can be made in all fields only when they are waged effectively.

Therefore, all undertakings and activities of the government of the Republic should naturally be geared to implementing the line of the three revolutions to the letter and carrying them out more actively as required by the times and the developing revolution.

Consistent and definite priority should be given in this regard to the ideological revolution as it is aimed at training all members of society ideologically and morally.

The masses of the people are masters of the revolution, who constitute the foundation of socialism, and equipping them with an independent ideological consciousness is the most important task in socialist construction, and this work needs more profound, continuous effort the more the times pass and the farther the revolution advances.

Moreover, as some changes are taking place in people's consciousness and there still exist subjective and objective impacts on it, the government of the Republic should strictly adhere to the principle of giving precedence to ideological work and actively apply it to its activities.

In organizing and conducting all work, it is necessary to place people above anything else, direct primary efforts to their ideological remoulding and the enlisting of their spiritual strength, and ensure purposefully that each of the processes of adopting and implementing State policy is geared to active development of ideological consciousness of officials and other working people.

The main thing in the ideological revolution is to model the whole society on the revolutionary and working-class pattern.

The government of the Republic should direct primary efforts to training our working class in a revolutionary way so that they will always live and struggle as befits the vanguard of the revolution, the group leading the whole society.

Meanwhile, it should make the whole society assimilated into the working class by constantly implanting in the entire society the progressive spirits and traits of the times created by the working class, and by training the agricultural workers and intellectuals, particularly the young people, in a revolutionary way in the vigorous struggle for socialist construction.

Spurs should also be given to the technological and cultural revolutions to accelerate the gradual technological reconstruction of the national economy, definitely put the economy and culture on the foundations of advanced science and technology and bring daily improving civilization and well-being to our people.

We should further develop the revolutionary mass movements including the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement, which are a powerful driving force for socialist construction, and thus make fresh progress in transforming people, nature and society.

The task to which the government of the Republic should pay due attention is to improve the work of the government organs so that they can vigorously lead the next stage of development in building socialism of our own style.

The five-point requirement of the times set forth by the Ninth Party Congress serves as practical guidelines which must be implemented without fail in improving the work of the government organs.

The requirement of the new era should be fully met first in the work of the government organs exercising the authority to command the whole of society. Only then can it run through all sectors and units of socialist construction quickly and satisfactorily.

In planning, organizing, directing and reviewing all work, the government organs at all levels, including those in the capital city and provincial areas, should make a correct study of whether it meets the requirements of the times and, in the course of this, make purposeful and substantial innovations in their mode of guidance and style of work.

In strengthening the functions and role of the government organs, it is important to establish a rational and well-regulated working system and order.

System and order consist in a very fundamental thing.

Reality changes and develops constantly, and it is imperative to improve the working system and order in keeping with the new tasks given.

As the sphere of work to be dealt with by the government organs continues to expand and the work norms rise, the system of guidance and management should be adjusted and supplemented, and the transitional and temporary modes should be transformed into a regular and specialized working system and order.

We should eliminate irrational and inefficient elements latent in the present working system so that all work can be done smoothly and efficiently, and in particular, pay attention to helping all public servants work at full capacity.

In the work of the government organs, we should identify, prevent and take all possible measures against the opportunities that may give rise to such undesirable style of work as trying to shirk responsibility, protecting oneself, clinging to formalism and doing things in an unscientific way, and to such practices as abuse of power and bureaucratism, which we should guard against and reject without fail as they go against

SEE PAGE 4

the people-oriented character.

Kim Jong Un put special emphasis on principled matters regarding the need to establish a strict order in State organs, before continuing:

In order to enhance the functions and role of government organs, it is necessary to build up the ranks of public servants and improve their qualifications and sense of responsibility.

The working system is, to all intents and purposes, an arrangement and order governing the activities of State organs, and whether the work goes well or not depends on the level, ability and sense of responsibility of each public servant.

To acquire proper qualifications and traits befitting public servants of the people's government and work with devotion for the Party, the State and the people—this is a duty devolving on all officials working at State organs.

Government organs at all levels should make exacting demands on the public servants so that they steadily study hard and intensify self-cultivation in order to acquire noble people-oriented traits and high political and practical qualifications with boundless loyalty to the Party and the revolution.

What is important is to ensure that all the public servants acquire and embody the guidance methods and modes that meet the requirements of the new era.

The problem at the moment is that both the officials who have worked for a long time and the new public servants lack the principled and systematic idea and understanding of the guidance theory, method and style created by our Party.

As a result, they blindly follow the previous outdated pattern of work, failing to properly judge whether or not the present work style, which has been handed down like a custom, conforms to the inherent principles of the people's government organs.

Times develop and the masses demand mature guidance. This being the situation, the government organs should never become an entity imposing inconvenience and burdens while dictating bureaucratic directives and wielding authority, instead of effectively guiding and managing their subordinate units and providing convenience and assistance to the inhabitants.

Therefore, not only senior officials of the government organs but the members of each department should make due efforts to cultivate the correct work method and style and the seasoned guidance abilities that conform to the times.

While directing efforts to embodying our Party's superior method and style of guidance, the government organs should provide education and organize work in a purposeful and conscious manner to create and generalize excellent work method and style in practice.

It is important to strengthen dong and neighbourhood units, the basic units of the State and social life and the bases for the inhabitants' life.

All the families in our country belong to dong and neighbourhood units, and great changes are taking place in all spheres of social life. Such reality further highlights the importance and role of the work of these units.

The government organs should actively improve the work of the units and put to rights the defective problems in time in the direction of consolidating the unity and political stability of society, correctly implementing the policies of the Party and the State, fully meeting the inhabitants' needs in their living and providing them with convenience.

It is important to intensify the struggle to eliminate such practices as imposing extra economic burdens on the inhabitants and fostering discontent, far from correctly fulfilling the policy-oriented requirements concerning the work of dong and neighbourhood units and properly relieving them of their afflictions.

It is necessary to encourage the heads of neighbourhood units, who take care of the inhabitants' living closest at hand, to take pride in their duty and carry out in a responsible manner their such assignments as promoting harmony among members of their neighbourhood units, sprucing up the villages in a cultured and sanitary manner and preventing accidents, non-socialist practices and criminal acts.

In particular, it is needed to avoid deviation in correctly defining the size of neighbourhood units and the standard for election of their heads in keeping with the regional features and living environment and decisively improving the treatment of them.

One of the urgent problems at present is to increase the State income so as to financially guarantee the normal operation of the State and the implementation of people-oriented policies.

As the sphere of socialist construction expands, it is natural that the amount of money disbursed out of the State budget increases, and only when the State income increases steadily, is it possible to effectively enforce the State administration and fundamentally eliminate a series of existing evil practices.

The government organs should create conditions and environment favourable for the business activities of production sectors and units and intensify the work of economic organization and guidance to build up their material and technical foundations and potentialities, so as to create more material wealth and expand the State income.

At the same time, it is necessary to properly restore the State's leading role and control in the space for service and circulation of goods.

The method of payment should be innovated in keeping with the management scale and incomes of the units authorized to use the land of the State or exploit and use natural resources and in consideration of their topographical features.

The government organs should conduct the long-term work for population growth in a more effective way.

Population growth is an important issue related to the future of the State, and an undertaking to which the government of the Republic should always pay attention and devote much effort.

It is needed to correctly enforce the laws reflecting advantageous policies including the law on childcare, the law on the nursing and upbringing of children and the law on

preferential treatment of a family with many children, create a social atmosphere of encouraging women to give birth to many children and bring them up well, and continue to increase the State benefits for childcare and education of the rising generations.

We should also take measures to regularly ensure accommodation of the working people at sanatoria and holiday camps and their paid leave, proactively expand sanatoria and cultural service facilities conducive to the promotion of their health, thoroughly prevent and control major diseases and epidemics and, in particular, further reduce infant mortality.

The consolidation and development of the State and social system is inconceivable separated from the work of constantly supplementing and completing the legal system, and the comprehensive development of socialism requires us to strengthen the legal system.

We should steadily improve the sector-specific laws and regulations from the viewpoint of promoting fresh progress and development in all fields of State and social life, including politics, the economy and culture, and fully ensuring the rights, interests and well-being of the people.

The role of the judicial, prosecutorial and other law-enforcement organs is very important in establishing the socialist legal system under which the people observe the law and the latter defends the former and, in particular, priority should be given to the judgment and defence activities in protecting the legal rights of citizens.

The law-enforcement organs should detect and deal with all kinds of criminal acts in time to reliably ensure the correct execution of the State policies and guarantee the people's interests, and offer citizens efficient assistance to help them exercise their legal rights properly and faithfully observe their duties.

Comrade Deputies,

With regard to the issue of strengthening the legal system of our Republic, it would be subject to an official deliberation at a Supreme People's Assembly session to be convened later, but I would like to take this opportunity to inform you in advance of an important policy orientation.

It is an issue of setting up a police system which conform to our country as required by the political security of our State and the changing and developing times.

The police system is aimed at further consolidating and developing our legal system and State and social system by perfecting the legal regulations for ensuring the internal security of the State and social stability and establishing an effective and profitable mechanism and functions.

In fact, establishing the system is an essential requirement for State administration, and the word police is not bad in itself.

With a view to maintaining public order on a higher level, it is natural and beneficial to establish the system subdividing the field of legal struggle and making it professional.

Its establishment will be favourable for fully ensuring mutual ties and collaboration by clearly defining the work demarcation among the law-enforcement organs at home and realizing cooperation with foreign police organizations.

In this regard, the relevant fields have made in-depth studies and preparations for several years.

It is needed to make more thoroughgoing preparations for reorganizing the Public Security Forces into the police force soon after the police system is officially established in the future.

Besides, it is necessary to give proper publicity to the establishment of the police system so that all the people can have a correct understanding of it.

Comrades,

It is an important political task facing the government of the Republic to successfully carry out the long-term plan of five years set forth at the Ninth Party Congress.

The government of the Republic should carry out without fail the five-year plan thoroughly based on the Party's economic development strategy for stabilizing and consolidating the national economy and achieving its gradual and qualitative development at the present stage.

As the five-year plan for national economic development and the ways of its implementation were clearly set forth in detail at the Ninth Party Congress, I am going to mention the main points of the tasks to which we should pay attention and direct efforts.

The primary task is to consolidate the economic foundations for us to develop onto the next stage by concentrating State investment on technological upgrading in all sectors of the national economy, including key industries.

The balanced development of all fields, sectors and regions is unthinkable apart from the comprehensive technological upgrading of the economic sectors. In particular, the upgrading of the outdated and backward production lines and equipment in the key industries is an important task that should be carried out without fail, no matter how huge and difficult it may be.

In the past five years, we modernized the major machine-building factories, which constitute a precious asset for industrial modernization, by overcoming all sorts of difficulties and deviations, and, in the course of this, we accumulated exemplary experience.

By building on such successes and experience, we should modernize one core machine-building base after another, which play an important part in economic development, and positively upgrade the technical infrastructures in the key industries.

Important is to direct efforts to further boosting the production potentials in the sectors of metallurgical, chemical, electric power and coal-mining industries, the pillars of the national economy.

We should further improve economic arrangement and scientific and technological guidance, so that the metallurgical and chemical industries can give the fullest play to their newly-created production capacities, thereby turning out larger quantities of metal and chemical products badly needed in different sectors of the national economy.

FROM PAGE 4

At present, the electric power and coal-mining industries are the sectors under the heaviest strain in balancing demand and supply, and, as a matter of fact, the scope of growth of our economy can be said to be decided by the production results of the two sectors.

This is why it is necessary to take practical and effective measures to increase the production of electricity and coal and keep intensifying State guidance and assistance for these sectors.

At the same time, we should effectively push ahead with the expansion of the production potentials of the building-materials sector and the consolidation of the material and technical foundations of the rail transport and IT sectors.

In this way, in the period of the five-year plan we should considerably consolidate the foundations for the development of the overall industrial sectors and, at the same time, wage a vigorous struggle to increase production, thus boosting the output value of the industrial sectors 1.5 times.

It is the consistent absolute standard of the government of the Republic and its principle in activities that the results of national development and economic growth should be mainly expressed in improving the people's standard of living and that the people's well-being represents national strength.

The government should make sustained efforts to develop agriculture and fishing and light industries which are directly linked with the people's living.

Kim Jong Un pointed to the need to fully solve the food problem, an urgent task for the people's living, by attaining the grain production goal without fail during the new long-term plan, and set forth important tasks for its implementation. He said:

To this end, the State should consolidate the material and technical foundations for agricultural production by further perfecting the irrigation system, supplying farms with larger quantities of farming materials and larger numbers of efficient tractors and other farm machines and vigorously pushing forward with tideland reclamation to increase the area under cultivation.

What is important in increasing grain production is to concentrate on increasing per-hectare yield in all fields and direct efforts to the seed revolution, scientific farming, land improvement and tideland farming, thus raising the existing rate of land utilization as much as possible.

We should channel particular efforts into wheat farming to increase production and expand the wheat-processing capacity, so as to achieve definite progress in converting the people's dietary life into that based mainly on rice and foods made of wheat flour during the new long-term plan.

We should build larger numbers of modern vegetable greenhouses and livestock and poultry farming bases throughout the country, step up the effort to put production on a scientific, intensive, industrialized and intelligent footing, develop fruit farming and increase the production of industrial crops and mushrooms, thus enriching the people's dietary life.

The fishing industry should build a large number of modern fishing boats, raise the level of scientific fishing and do fish farming and aquaculture on a large scale so as to increase the production of seafood.

By building new, promising light industry factories, the State should further strengthen the foundations of light industry and provide solid assets for satisfying various daily-increasing material and cultural needs of the people.

It should set as the main tasks for developing light industry upgrading of the equipment and production lines at the existing light industry factories and improving the quality, and increasing the varieties, of consumer goods, and give strong impetus to the efforts for implementing these tasks, so as to meet the people's demand for consumer goods both in quality and quantity.

It is important to correctly implement the socialist policies for students and schoolchildren—a consistent policy of our Party and eternal policy of our Republic.

Continuous efforts should be made to produce and supply quality school uniforms, bags, footwear and school things on a normal basis, so that all the rising generations can learn and grow up excellently without anything to worry about or envy.

During the new long-term plan period, too, the government of the Republic will expand construction work for fully solving the housing problem of the people and continuously creating civilization of a higher level.

We should build more modern and comfortable houses and new streets in Hwasong and other areas of the capital city, and direct strenuous efforts to building dwelling houses in provincial seats, rural communities and coal mining villages. In this way, we can ensure that 370 000 families move into new houses.

In particular, we should draw up a detailed plan to turn all coal mining villages into modern and cultured coal mining towns, and carry out construction work extensively for four years to build over 20 000 houses each year by enlisting national resources during the five-year plan period, thus giving a facelift to the coal mining areas.

Steady efforts should be made to transform the Samjiyon area and other scenic spots in provinces into characteristic tourist resorts and build holiday camps in different parts of the country.

In addition, State measures should be taken to find substantial solutions to the basic problems in the people's living, including those of supplying tap water and fuel on a normal basis, and to resolve the public transport and urban heating problems.

The main realm of our current struggle is regional development aimed at transforming the living conditions of the people in provinces.

While further building on the successes achieved in the course of implementing the regional development policy in the new era, the government of the Republic will persistently and without deflection push ahead with the construction projects in this regard during the new long-term plan period, and thus provide 100 cities and counties with solid foundations for their development.

If regional development policy projects are implemented in 20 cities and counties

every year, regions covering 70% of the territory of the country will witness new entities of development and civilization in addition to the already-built ones.

To this end, regions should make thorough preparations for normal operation of the regional-industry factories, hospitals, leisure complexes and grain storage stations to be built, and make positive efforts to fully tap their economic potentials.

Improving guidance on and management of the national economy is a key to further consolidating its current growing trend and laying foundations for its stable and sustainable development.

The economic guidance organs should find correct solutions to improving economic guidance and management in the direction of providing unified management to all the economic activities within the territory of the Republic, enhancing the sense of responsibility and creativity of enterprises and, in particular, arousing the revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity of the producer masses.

Decisive efforts should be made to improve the quality of products for achieving gradual and qualitative development during the new long-term plan period.

Nowadays the material standard of living of our people is improving day after day, and everyone everywhere demands quality products; therefore, producing poor-quality products can be said to be a waste.

The quality of products is related mainly with the level of modernization of production lines and equipment and the quality of raw and other materials supplied; in particular, it is largely dependent on the producers' level of technical skills.

Therefore, along with the modernization of the production lines and equipment in the industrial sector, an effective methodology should be developed and applied for supplying high-quality raw and other materials and raising the level of technical skills.

At the same time, necessary economic and practical measures should be taken to establish discipline and order and promote foreign trade in the external economic sector, so that it can contribute to the development of the economy and improving the people's living standards.

Comrades,

One of the important tasks facing the government of the Republic is to steadily improve the country's sci-tech capabilities and continue to develop socialist culture.

During the new long-term plan period great efforts should be directed to developing the country's science and technology to an advanced level so that they can guarantee putting the national economy on an independent and modern footing and its sustained growth and improving the people's living standards.

We should actively increase investment in, and support to, the sci-tech field, strongly promote and encourage integration of science and technology with production, and further intensify measures for giving preferential treatment to sci-tech talents.

In addition, we should ensure that establishing and implementing optimized plans by relying on science and technology prevails as work style, and create good conditions and environment so that contributing to development of society and units by dint of technological innovations can be turned into the work of the masses themselves.

All sectors and units should strengthen their own sci-tech forces, regarding technological progress as a core task for development and innovation, and at the same time, push ahead with the work of introducing advanced science and technology.

As the Ninth Party Congress clarified, the present scientific and technological work should be firmly oriented to resolving the problems arising in developing the economy and improving the people's living standards, pressing problems in socialist construction.

The scientific research sector should concentrate its efforts on resolving the problems arising in attaining the qualitative and quantitative growth of production by improving the technological infrastructure of major industries, in satisfactorily supplying food, clothing and housing for the people and in creating a more improved civilization.

The development of the State not only at present but also in the future is largely dependent on latest science and technology.

We should successfully carry out the major sci-tech tasks arising in reality and, at the same time, direct national efforts into developing the latest science and technology with world competitiveness, including AI and space technologies.

The top policy priority of our State is always the education of younger generations and talents.

The government of the Republic should give top priority to the work of raising our education onto a world's advanced level during the new long-term plan period as well, and pay close attention and direct great efforts to it.

The implementation of the second universal 12-year compulsory education programme, which begins this year, is of great significance in preparing all our students and schoolchildren to be pillars of the country. So, the State should further improve and strengthen its guidance and assistance for improving the quality of general education.

We should actively comply with the policy-oriented requirements of the WPK to make steady innovations in higher education so as to satisfy the realistic and prospective demands for talents.

It is particularly important for the State to take strong measures to implement all the tasks arising in reducing the differences in the level of education between the capital city and provinces and between towns and countryside.

We should establish bases for training talents capable of leading the future development of the country, step up the work of rebuilding the existing universities and secondary education establishments, and effectively put production at education-related factories on a normal footing. In this way, we can develop the country's educational foundations onto a higher level.

The government of the Republic should direct uninterrupted efforts to providing the people across the country with excellent medical service and promoting their health satisfactorily by turning the Party's plan for modernizing public health into reality.

SEE PAGE 6

In line with the start of the public health revolution to put the country's public health on an advanced basis, modern hospitals should be built in the capital city and regions, and the work of building the health service infrastructure throughout the country launched on a full scale.

The State should establish a well-regulated system of training public health experts and competent medical workers, ensuring regular supply of medicines to hospitals and pharmacies and providing them with adequate medical equipment, and effectively operate the system so that the advantages and vitality of the public health revolution in the new era can be displayed to the full.

It is particularly important to innovate the healthcare system in conformity with the changed conditions and environment.

We should amend the public health law in a more reasonable way and correctly expand the enforcement of the medical care system through the health insurance fund so as to consolidate the material and technical foundations of the public health sector and ensure its normal operation, and make sure that all the people receive high-level medical services at their convenience.

The socialist way of life and moral discipline should be established more thoroughly throughout society.

Establishing a noble and sound lifestyle and moral discipline in the whole of society is a matter which our Party and State have consistently attached importance to as it is directly linked with the nature and advantages of our style of socialism.

We should conduct in an aggressive and methodological way the work of ensuring that the traits of living and working in accordance with the socialist way of life is firmly established as national traits in keeping with the changes in the people's consciousness and cultural level.

We should not only encourage a positive atmosphere for all members of society to value and defend our socialist life, which is the best in the world, despite the difficulties and obstacles, but also steadily create and develop a fine socialist civilization of our own style, which everyone can empathize with and enjoy.

At the same time, we should take strict administrative and legal measures to protect our people, the younger generations in particular, so that the alien and unsound elements that run counter to the socialist way of life cannot infect them, and ensure that this is combined with an active mass-involving struggle.

Sound moral traits should prevail throughout social life.

Courtesy and morality are part of a beautiful and excellent socialist life, and when all the people observe them well, the whole country will become more harmonious and united as a large family.

All sectors and units should lead the people correctly to observe the moral norms voluntarily.

Saying that it is particularly important to establish a strong moral discipline and a refined way of speaking first among officials, Kim Jong Un stressed that officials, who are leading personnel of the revolution and educators of the people, should set an example in behaving morally and politely with a correct outlook on the masses of the people and morality.

Kim Jong Un analyzed and appraised the present unpredictably complicated international situation and clarified the invariable stand of the government of the Republic. He said:

Unpredictability is the only predictable future situation in the present world.

If there is anything predictable, it is the aggressive nature of imperialism which can never change.

Therefore, it will be the greatest error and a reckless gamble for us to predict the presently existing threats and prospective international political trend too easily and without adequate consideration and plan the future without careful deliberation.

The surest way to predict future events and provide for unpredictability is to be prepared for everything.

The correct way to turn unpredictability into predictability is to always worry about the worst situation, rather than seeking comfort, prioritize long-term and strategic benefits over short-term and visible benefits, and aspire to tomorrow's sustainable prosperity, rather than today's ease.

We should have a powerful force to make peace a choice of the strong, not a sign of weakness.

The DPRK has never refused peace so far, and has not neglected in the slightest the efforts to have the most reliable means of defending peace from the most peace-loving stand.

This is the most responsible choice not only for guaranteeing our own security but also for maintaining stability and durable peace in the region and the international community.

The government of the Republic has always been invariable in its stand to take every possible measure to protect the sovereignty and social system of the State and its right to development, security and existence from the threats of hostile forces.

There may be various possible alternatives in ensuring national security and regional peace and stability, but the surest and the most permanent and reliable alternative is to get the means of most powerful force that no one may dare to challenge, and this is what we are now devoting ourselves to.

Precisely, we know too well what we have to do, and will continue to do what we have to do as ever without fail.

Whether our enemies choose confrontation or peaceful co-existence, it is their option, and we are ready to respond to any of their options.

We will further expand and develop the nuclear deterrent for self-defence in accordance with the mission entrusted by the Constitution of the Republic and the requirements of the line of bolstering up the national nuclear forces and get the nuclear forces of the Republic fully prepared for prompt and correct counteraction so as to

tightly control the strategic threats to the security of the State and the region.

The government of the Republic will continue to increase and strengthen the national defence capabilities by thoroughly implementing the line of developing the People's Army into a powerful and modern army and the policy of bringing about a revolution in the defence industry in the new era and supplying manpower and material resources needed for arming all the people and fortifying the whole country sufficiently and on a preferential basis.

Comrades,

As mentioned earlier, although the United States is now resorting to acts of state-sponsored terrorism and aggression in various parts of the world, its arrogant high-handedness and rashness have failed to undermine the will of progressive mankind to oppose domination and subjugation and achieve independence and equality, but rather triggered off anti-American sentiments and hatred of the forces aspiring after independence, and they are pushing them towards unity and resistance.

The forces aspiring after independence will surely overcome the present trials and get stronger than the hegemony-seeking forces, and the building of an equitable and just multipolar world will be further promoted.

The government of the DPRK will, in the future, too, readily undertake the historic mission of leading the trend of global independence under the uplifted banner of independence.

We should firmly guarantee the building of socialist society politically and diplomatically by pursuing an independent foreign policy that best conforms to our national interests, while regarding it as the foremost principle to defend national interests to cope with the changed international balance of forces and the uncertain international political situation.

We should get rid of the diplomatic practices which had been adjusted to the old standards and yardsticks of the past so as to cope with the rapidly changing situation and the unpredictable geopolitical reality with full preparations and employ the diplomatic tactics and methods of external activities becoming to the new status and prestige of the State.

We should build the structure of deployment of the diplomatic forces, which is most reasonable for the promotion of our national interests on a global scale, steadily readjust and improve it and make sure that the external activities of the State are all directed to ensuring its dignity and interests.

The dignity, interests and final victory of the State are guaranteed only by the most powerful strength.

The government of the Republic will continue to consolidate the national position as a nuclear state into an absolutely irreversible one and wage the struggle in an aggressive manner to smash all the anti-DPRK provocations of the hostile forces.

We will never look on the moves of the forces that attempt to infringe on the sovereign rights, security interests and right to development of our State.

In particular, we will categorically reject, ignore and treat the ROK with the most explicit words and actions by officially regarding it as the most hostile state, and make it pay the price for its acts of provocation against our Republic without the slightest consideration, hesitation or mercy.

We should continue to improve and strengthen, from a developmental point of view, the relations with the countries with which we have traditional friendly ties in line with the requirements of the new era, and at the same time readjust and redefine diplomatic preference and adroitly translate it into practice by prioritizing our national interests on the principle of ensuring medium- and long-term and strategic national interests.

The DPRK will, in the future, too, discharge its responsibility in promoting international justice and regional and global peace and security, while firmly defending its sovereignty, security and fundamental interests.

Comrade Deputies,

As the struggle for the prosperity and development of the Republic and the well-being of the people expands and intensifies, our Party's trust and expectations for you, Deputies, who are in charge of State affairs administration and who are representatives of the people, get greater.

In the previous term of the Supreme People's Assembly, the Deputies to it made a considerable contribution to the State affairs administration, regional development and the provision of convenience for the people by proposing many creative opinions. This shows that their consciousness to actively participate in the State affairs got remarkably higher.

I am convinced that all Deputies, who have been newly elected thanks to the trust of the people, will also take an active part in State affairs administration with a high sense of responsibility and a creative and sincere attitude and make painstaking efforts for national development and the improvement of the people's standard of living.

And I hope that you will cultivate your mind and temper your Party spirit hard as befitting the Deputies to the supreme power organ, the representatives of the people born of them and their true servants, so as to acquire mature and seasoned political and moral traits and steadily improve your practical qualifications.

Comrades,

With the Ninth Congress of the WPK and the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK as the starting point, our socialist construction has greeted a new turning phase and our Party, government and people are advancing towards prosperity with definite prospects, sufficient power of execution and firm confidence.

Everything that leads the long and great history of our State to a better future is in our hands, and their success depends entirely on our strenuous efforts.

Let us all work hard and vigorously to make the next five years, a section in the course of advance for realizing the ideals of socialism, the more wonderful and worthwhile five years of transformation and to make our State further grow and develop beyond recognition.



First Session of 15th SPA of DPRK held



KCNA

The First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was opened in the capital of Pyongyang at a historic time when all the people across the country have courageously turned out in the patriotic struggle to usher in a new heyday of steady leap forward and development of the great state, true to the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

For the past seven years since the First Session of the 14th SPA was held, the DPRK's supreme power body has thoroughly embodied the WPK's original ideas of state building, independent revolutionary line and people-first principle in its activities and fulfilled its mission and duty entrusted by the Constitution in a responsible manner in compliance with the requirements of the era of great transformation, thus firmly guaranteeing legally and institutionally the implementation of the policies of the Party and the state for the comprehensive rejuvenation and development.

The first-day sitting of the First Session of the 15th SPA was held on March 22.

The session was convened to further consolidate the state power and provide a solid legal foundation for socialist construction at a new stage. It was attended by the newly-elected SPA deputies and, as observers, relevant officials from Pyongyang and provinces including those of the Central Committee of the WPK, the SPA Standing Committee, the Cabinet, commissions, ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was present at the session.

When he appeared at the venue of the session, all the participants welcomed with enthusiastic applause the peerlessly great man, the leader of the people who, with his great ideas and outstanding political calibre, put the absolute dignity and national power of the state on the peak of the century and ushered in a new era of great prosperity in which the people's ideals and eternal happiness are realized in a comprehensive way.

Leading officials of the state took the platform.

Deputy Ko Kil Son, secretary general of the SPA Standing Committee, delivered an opening address.

When the session was declared open, the DPRK national anthem was played.

There was a speech by Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the Standing Committee of the 14th SPA and chairman of the preparatory committee for the First

country can be ensured only when they remain single-mindedly faithful to the state-building ideas and leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Expressing his regret for having failed to repay the great trust of the Party and the expectations of the state and the people with greater successes in work, he earnestly asked all the deputies to glorify the days of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly as a glorious period of keeping pace with the Ninth Party Central Committee, true to the great Comrade Kim Jong Un's grand plan for building a powerful country and his noble intention to make devoted service for the people's wellbeing.

The session expressed thanks to outgoing Chairman Choe Ryong Hae who made a significant contribution to implementing the policies of the Party and the state during his term of office and encouraged the deputies to the 15th SPA.

The session elected the speaker and deputy speakers of the Supreme People's Assembly before discussing agenda items.

Jo Yong Won was elected as speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and Kim Hyong Sik and Ri Son Gwon as its deputy speakers.

Jo Yong Won made a pledge to be always aware of the mission and duty he has assumed for the Party and the people, remain faithful to the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Jong Un and the Constitution of the DPRK and make selfless, devoted efforts for the realization of the people-first politics of the WPK and the prosperity and development of the state, bearing in mind the trust and expectations of the deputies for him to make single-minded efforts for the prosperity of the country and the wellbeing of the people with warm love for and boundless devotion to them as the speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The SPA speaker presided over the session.

Session of the 15th SPA.

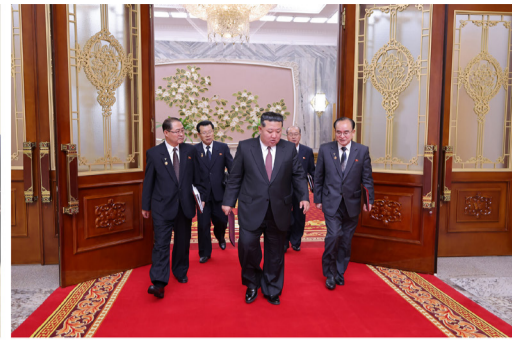
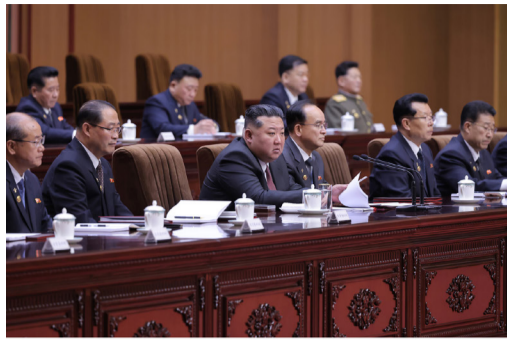
He referred with pride to the great honour of his life during which he personally experienced the greatness of the ideas and leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un while working as the chairman of the Standing Committee in the 14th term of the SPA which witnessed the opening of the era of great transformation unprecedented in the history of the development of the DPRK spanning nearly 80 years.

He recalled with deep emotion the achievements made by the 14th SPA in the activities of state power, true to the intention of the Party Central Committee, including the enactment, amendment and supplementing of hundreds of laws for perpetuating the position of the DPRK as a nuclear weapons state, giving fuller play to the advantages of the Korean-style socialist system and promoting the comprehensive development of the state, and the innovative change in the state affairs administration by the deputies.

He stressed it is absolute truth he realized while working as the chairman of the Standing Committee that the eternal prosperity and mightiness of the country and the promotion of the wellbeing of all the people across the

SEE PAGE 8





FROM PAGE 7

The following agenda items were brought up for discussion at the First Session of the 15th SPA of the DPRK:

First, on the election of the President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Second, on the election of the state leadership of the DPRK

Third, on the election of the sectional committees of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK

Fourth, on the amendment and supplementing of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK

Fifth, on the thorough implementation of the five-year plan for national economic development set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

Sixth, on the fulfilment of the state budget of the DPRK for 2025 and on the state budget for 2026

The session discussed the first agenda item.

The deputies to the SPA were highly excited as they would represent the will of the people across the country at the most responsible time for the future of the country and the people and the prospects of the Juche cause.

Ri Il Hwan made a proposal for the election of the President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The dignity and mightiness of the DPRK, directly linked to the destiny of tens of millions of the Korean people, are unthinkable apart from the high prestige and leadership of the state leader, and the historic task of making the great pioneering period for national rejuvenation lead on to an everlasting heyday can be carried out only by the leadership of the prominent head of state, he said, adding that the agenda item is very weighty and crucial but our choice concerning the decision on it is very clear.

He courteously proposed to the current Supreme People's Assembly to entrust Kim Jong Un with the heavy responsibility as President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again for the eternal mightiness of the DPRK and the new era of its prosperity and for the descendants who will always lead a happy life under his care, by representing the general will of all the people who unanimously trust and follow him who has given socialist Korea the great dignity, honour and glory and defended the destiny of the people and bears responsibility for even the

future of all generations to come.

All the participants expressed full support and approval for the proposal representing the unanimous will and ardent desire of all the people and service personnel across the country with the stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" and applause.

The Supreme People's Assembly solemnly declared that Kim Jong Un, who is leading the cause of building a powerful socialist country only to victory with his gifted ideological and theoretical wisdom and rare and outstanding leadership practice, was elected President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

His election as head of state of the DPRK has made it possible for the DPRK and its people to glorify their sacred dignity and honour forever and more dynamically advance toward the achievement of the just and far-reaching ideals and the goal of prosperity on the strength of the outstanding ideology and politics and the invincible force of the harmonious whole.

The session elected the state leadership as the second agenda item.

Kim Jong Un proposed a motion for the formation of the State Affairs Commission.

The session elected the deputies, proposed by the President of the State Affairs of the DPRK, as first vice-president, vice-president and members of the State Affairs Commission.

It elected chairman, vice-chairmen, secretary general and members of the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK.

And it elected the premier of the DPRK Cabinet.

Pak Thae Song, elected as premier of the Cabinet, proposed members of the Cabinet upon authorization of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and they were appointed with full approval.

The session appointed the director of the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office and elected the president of the Supreme Court.

Premier of the DPRK Cabinet Pak Thae Song, on behalf of his Cabinet members, took an oath to be loyal to the Constitution of the DPRK and live up to the trust and expectations of the Party and the people with remarkable results.

He vowed that the Cabinet would hold fast to it as the basic task of socialist economic construction to lay the foundations for development capable of boosting the country's economy in a stable and sustainable way and to substantially improve the people's living standards, in accordance with the general goal and

principle of development of the Ninth Central Committee of the WPK, and make sure that the guidance and management based on the Cabinet-responsibility system and Cabinet-centred system prove successful in continuously enhancing the new phase of comprehensive development.

He solemnly promised the current Supreme People's Assembly and all the people that he would fulfil his heavy duty as the premier of the Cabinet in a responsible manner, deeply mindful of the heavy mission of him who has assumed responsibility for the economic work of the country at a crucial time when the new era of upsurge in the Juche revolution, the new era of transformation, is being ushered in.

The session elected the Legislation Committee, the Budget Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, the sectional committees of the Supreme People's Assembly, through the discussion of the third agenda item.

The second-day sitting of the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held on March 23.

The speaker and deputy speakers of the SPA took the chair.

The newly elected leading officials of the state took the platform.

The session discussed the issue related to the amendments to the Constitution as its fourth agenda item.

Jo Yong Won, speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly, made a report.

The reporter said that to amend and supplement the Constitution of the DPRK, a legal basis and political charter for defending the dignity and sovereignty of the country and the people and ensuring their independent development, as required by the new stage of the developing revolution, constitutes an important landmark in legally guaranteeing the victorious advance of socialist construction and the cause of the DPRK. He explained in detail the contents of the draft law amended and supplemented, including the renaming of the "Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" as the "Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea".

The session examined the draft law and adopted with full approval an ordinance of the DPRK SPA "On the amendment and supplementing of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK".

It discussed the issue of thoroughly implementing the new five-year plan for national economic development as the

fifth agenda item.

Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet, made a report.

The reporter said that the past five years were the years of great changes when Korean-style socialist construction definitely entered the stage of comprehensive development and remarkable progress was made in the struggle for the prosperity of the country and the wellbeing of the people, adding that this proud success is a brilliant fruition of the outstanding leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un who clearly indicated the main tasks and ways for carrying out economic construction and energetically guided them.

He said that the historic Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea set it as a primary task of socialist economic construction at the present stage to lay the developmental foundations for the stable and sustainable growth of the country's economy and substantially improve the people's living standards while consolidating the successes made during the eighth term of the Party Central Committee. And he referred to the Cabinet's work plan and ways for thoroughly implementing the task.

The tasks facing us are huge, but we are sure to win as the Party, the people and socialism are united by sharing their destiny and there are tens of millions of people supporting the WPK's leadership wholeheartedly, he said, expressing the firm will to unconditionally fulfill the new five-year plan for national economic development by enhancing the role of the Cabinet as an economic control tower in every way.

Oral or written speeches were made by Ri Chol Man, Paek Song Guk, Kim Kwang Nam, Yun Jae Hyok, Kim Sung Chan, Pak Jong Gun, Kim Yu Il, Kim Son Myong, Kim Sung Jin and Ri Song Bom.

Reviewing the work of relevant sectors and units for implementing the Party's and the state's policies over the past five years, they stressed that through the hard yet honourable struggle, they came to keenly realize that a shortcut to making a leap forward is to make bold innovations going beyond the limit and consistently prioritize science and technology with confidence in victory.

They pledged to carry through the new long-term plan by fulfilling their responsibilities and duties in the work to lead the new struggle of a higher stage to epoch-making results on the basis of the past successes, experience and lessons.

SEE PAGE 9



FROM PAGE 8

The session adopted with unanimous approval an ordinance of the DPRK SPA "On thoroughly carrying out the five-year plan for national economic development set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea".

The session discussed the issue of the state budget as the sixth agenda item.

The Supreme People's Assembly recognized that the state budget for 2025 was implemented correctly as planned amid the struggle to successfully accomplish the final year's task during the eighth term of the Party Central Committee and that the state budget for 2026 has been properly set up to ensure the simultaneous and balanced development of all sectors and provide a financial guarantee for the improvement of the people's living standards while concentrating investment on bolstering up the national defence capabilities and successfully attaining the

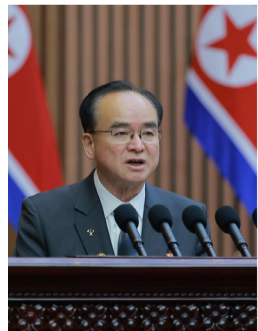
goals of economic sectors as required by the decisions of the Ninth Party Congress and the First Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Party Central Committee.

The session adopted a decision of the DPRK SPA "On approving the fulfilment of the state budget of the DPRK for 2025" and an ordinance of the DPRK SPA "On the state budget of the DPRK for 2026".

There was a policy speech by the head of state at the session.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, appeared at the venue of the session to clarify the important policy orientation of the DPRK government.

All the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers, extending highest respects to Comrade Kim Jong Un who is building the DPRK into an ever-prosperous socialist power, solid with single-minded unity and strong with



matchless national strength, with his spirit of devoted service to the country and the people and seasoned and sophisticated leadership.

Comrade Kim Jong Un made the historic policy speech.

He congratulated all the deputies who were elected as members of the 15th supreme power body of the dignified state thanks to the deep trust and support of all the people across the country, and reviewed the state affairs during the 14th Supreme People's Assembly which brought about successful years through the arduous struggle. And he set forth important tasks and ways for the DPRK government to further promote the prosperity of the state and the wellbeing of the people as required by the reality in which the socialist cause of a Korean style has entered a new phase.

Stressing the importance of more dynamically stepping up the three

revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—in keeping with the present phase of socialist construction while consistently adhering to the principle of independent politics, self-supporting economy and self-reliant defence and the people-first principle in state building and activities, he called upon the SPA deputies to

make painstaking efforts as befitting the masters of state affairs administration and representatives of the people so as to turn the five years to come into a period of better and more worthwhile transformation and for the future of the DPRK which will grow stronger.

All the participants expressed full support and approval with enthusiastic applause to Kim Jong Un's speech which comprehensively and scientifically clarified the path of victory, to be followed by the DPRK, and its perfect action programmes at a new stage of accomplishing the socialist cause.

His historic policy speech is an immortal state-building programme that enables the Korean people to make the unprecedented epoch-making victory, gained in building a prosperous power through their heroic and bold pioneering struggle, lead on to the dynamic prosperity and leap forward.

All the participants hardened their will to fully discharge their duties entrusted by the people in firmly defending Korean-style socialism centred on the masses of the people and accelerating the comprehensive development of the state by thoroughly applying the fighting strategy and ways, set forth by Kim Jong Un, in the overall state affairs. Jo Yong Won, speaker of the SPA, made a closing address.

The First Session of the 15th SPA served as a historic occasion that greatly boosted the patriotic enthusiasm of all the people across the country to usher in a period of comprehensive prosperity of the state by redoubling the fighting spirit with which they had pioneered the period of transformation unprecedented in the annals of the country's history, true to the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un meets and encourages newly-appointed Cabinet members and deputies to SPA

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, met and congratulated the Cabinet members, newly appointed at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly, and the deputies to the 15th SPA at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on March 23.

At a crucial time when a new historic advance, to be specially recorded in the history of prosperity and development of the DPRK, was launched, the participants were filled with boundless emotion and joy of being warmly encouraged by the great leader after holding him in high esteem again as the top leader of the Party and the state and receiving from him an important administrative policy for leading the heyday of comprehensive

national rejuvenation to a new victory.

Comrade Kim Jong Un warmly congratulated the members of the Cabinet who came to assume the heavy responsibilities thanks to the deep trust and expectations of the Party and the people.

Saying that the present situation, in which socialist construction is switching over to a new phase of high-level changes, requires the positive and creative efforts of the Cabinet members who are steering the implementation of the five-year strategy advanced by the Ninth Congress of the WPK, he noted that the officials of the Cabinet should always be full of the will to perfectly carry out the Party's decisions, stronger than any others, and work heart and soul to bring about substantial achievements for the country and the people.

Expressing expectations that the newly

appointed members of the Cabinet would powerfully lead the implementation of the Party's policies during the period of the new long-term plan, which will be the most responsible and important course of the struggle for the Party and the state, with a firm viewpoint that the Cabinet's work precisely means the work of the Party Central Committee and the execution of the Party's decisions is just the work of the Cabinet, he had a photo session with them.

He met DPRK ambassadors to foreign countries who returned home to participate in the important political meeting of the Party and the state. He had a photo taken with them, highly appreciating the efforts they have made by dedicating their wisdom and enthusiasm to the responsible work for reliably guaranteeing socialist construction politically and diplomatically, holding fast to the primary mission of the DPRK's

diplomacy set forth by the WPK.

Then, he congratulated the deputies on successfully concluding the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly.

Expressing belief that the deputies to the SPA would fulfill their honourable mission and duty as representatives of the people and state political activists in implementing the WPK's strategy of national development, he had a photo taken with them, which will be eternally recorded in the constitutional history of the DPRK.

All the participants were full of enthusiasm to uphold with single-minded efforts the leadership of the great Party Central Committee which is powerfully carrying out the epoch-making causes of permanent significance in the DPRK's existence and prosperity, deeply cherishing the great glory and trust bestowed by Comrade Kim Jong Un.



Art performance given to commemorate First Session of 15th SPA of DPRK



KCNA

Now that the whole country is brimming with the great glory and joy of having held Comrade Kim Jong Un, the outstanding leader of the Juche revolution, in high esteem again as head of state of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a performance was given by artistes in celebration of the successful First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly on March 23.

The venue for the art performance at

the foot of Mansu Hill was filled with joy and pride of the people who are firmly convinced of the bright future of the country, which will be more prosperous and thriving, as they held Kim Jong Un, who is vigorously opening up a new heyday of comprehensive development by leading socialist Korea to a brilliant victory under the uplifted banner of the people-first principle, in high esteem as the top leader of the DPRK.

When he came out to the venue together with the deputies to the 15th SPA, the

entire audience and performers broke into stormy cheers as a token of their highest tribute to the top representative of the dignified Workers' Party of Korea, state and people and the banner of all victories and glory.

Among the audience were the participants in the First Session of the 15th SPA, officials of ministries and national agencies and citizens, youths and students in Pyongyang. Put on the stage of the performance, which began with the female group singing and chorus "Do Prosper, My Motherland", were the masterpieces on the theme of patriotism reflecting the thoughts and feelings of all the people who are determined to love and glorify their motherland, the most beautiful and greatest country in the world, all their lives.

entire audience and performers broke into stormy cheers as a token of their highest tribute to the top representative of the dignified Workers' Party of Korea, state and people and the banner of all victories and glory.

Among the audience were the participants in the First Session of the 15th SPA, officials of ministries and national agencies and citizens, youths and students in Pyongyang. Put on the stage of the performance, which began with the female group singing and chorus "Do Prosper, My Motherland", were the masterpieces on the theme of patriotism reflecting the thoughts and feelings of all the people who are determined to love and glorify their motherland, the most beautiful and greatest country in the world, all their lives.

When the performance was over, stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" went up again.

He expressed deep thanks to the performers for expressing the wholehearted and invariable support for the DPRK government through an excellent performance, and warmly waved back to the cheering crowds.

The performance further boosted the high spirit, patriotism and revolutionary enthusiasm of the Korean people who are determined to build a socialist paradise, where all their dreams and ideals are brought into full bloom, on this land, remaining single-mindedly loyal to his leadership.



Warm welcome to Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko to Pyongyang



Ceremony held for welcoming Belorussian President

KCNA

A ceremony took place at Kim Il Sung Square on March 25 to welcome Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, who is paying an official visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the invitation of Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK.

The national flags of the DPRK and the Republic of Belarus were hanging on the flagpoles, and the guard of honour and honorary cavalry of the Korean People's Army and the Central Military Band of the Ministry of National Defence lined up

there.

Kim Jong Un appeared at the venue for the ceremony for welcoming the Belarus President.

Attending the ceremony were Jo Yong Won, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Kim Jae Ryong, Ri Il Hwan and Kim Song Nam, secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, and Kim Tok Hun, first vice-premier of the Cabinet.

Pyongyang citizens and schoolchildren were present there with the national flags of the two countries and flowers in their

hands.

The limousine carrying the Belarus President arrived at Kim Il Sung Square amid the playing of welcome music, and Kim Jong Un gladly met with Aleksandr Lukashenko and warmly welcomed him to the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un introduced major cadres of the Party and the government to Aleksandr Lukashenko.

He exchanged greetings with Yuri Shuleiko, deputy prime minister of the government of the Republic of Belarus, Maxim Ruzenkov, minister of Foreign Affairs, Aleksandr Khodzhayev, minister of Public Health, Andrei Ivanets, minister

of Education, and Andrei Kuznetsov, minister of Industry, and took the platform together with Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The national anthems of the Republic of Belarus and the DPRK were played while a 21-gun salute boomed.

Aleksandr Lukashenko received a salute from the chief of the guard of honour of the KPA.

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

There was a march-past of the guard of honour.

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed his heartfelt thanks to the DPRK government and people for their warm hospitality.



Belorussian President places wreath at Liberation Tower



KCNA

Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, on an official visit to the DPRK, laid a wreath at the Liberation Tower on March 25.

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, greeted Aleksandr Lukashenko at the tower.

Attending the wreath-laying ceremony were Yuri Shuleiko, deputy prime minister of the government of the Republic of Belarus, Maxim Ruzenkov, minister of Foreign Affairs, and other major members of his entourage.

Present there were Kim Song Nam, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Choe Son

Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK.

The guard of honour of the Korean People's Army lined up in front of the Liberation Tower.

The national anthems of the Republic of Belarus and the DPRK were played.

A wreath in the name of President Aleksandr Lukashenko was laid at the tower amid the playing of wreath-laying music.

Kim Jong Un and Aleksandr Lukashenko observed a moment's silence in memory of the fallen fighters of the Soviet Army who dedicated their precious lives to the sacred war for Korea's liberation.

Then followed a march-past of the guard of honour of the KPA.

Talks held between President of State Affairs of DPRK and President of Republic of Belarus

Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between DPRK and Belarus signed



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had talks with Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus on an official visit to the DPRK, on March 26.

Present at the talks from the DPRK side were Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs, Kim Song Nam, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Tok Hun, first vice-premier of the DPRK Cabinet, Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations, and Kim Jong Gyu, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs.

Present from the Belorussian side were Yuri Shuleiko, deputy prime minister of the government of the Republic of Belarus, Maxim Ryzhenkov, minister of Foreign Affairs, Aleksandr Khodzhayev, minister of Public Health, Andrei Ivanets, minister of Education, and Andrei Kuznetsov, minister of

Industry.

Welcoming Aleksandr Lukashenko on a visit to the DPRK for the first time since the establishment of the diplomatic relations, Kim Jong Un expressed support to and solidarity with the policy of the Belorussian leadership for achieving socio-political stability and economic development of the country and defending its sovereign right in the international arena.

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed thanks to Kim Jong Un for kindly inviting him to Pyongyang and said that although the two countries are geographically far apart, the bilateral relations based on the long-standing traditions of friendship and common feelings have entered a new development stage today.

At the talks a series of plans was discussed for boosting exchanges and cooperation in various fields including high-level visits between the

SEE PAGE 14

FROM PAGE 13

DPRK and the Republic of Belarus and opinions were exchanged on international and regional issues of mutual concern.

Expressing satisfaction with the meeting and the talks, the top leaders of the two countries expressed belief that the bilateral cooperative relations between Pyongyang and Minsk would grow stronger in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, together with Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, signed the treaty.

Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with Aleksandr Lukashenko in commemoration of the conclusion of the inter-state treaty between the two countries.

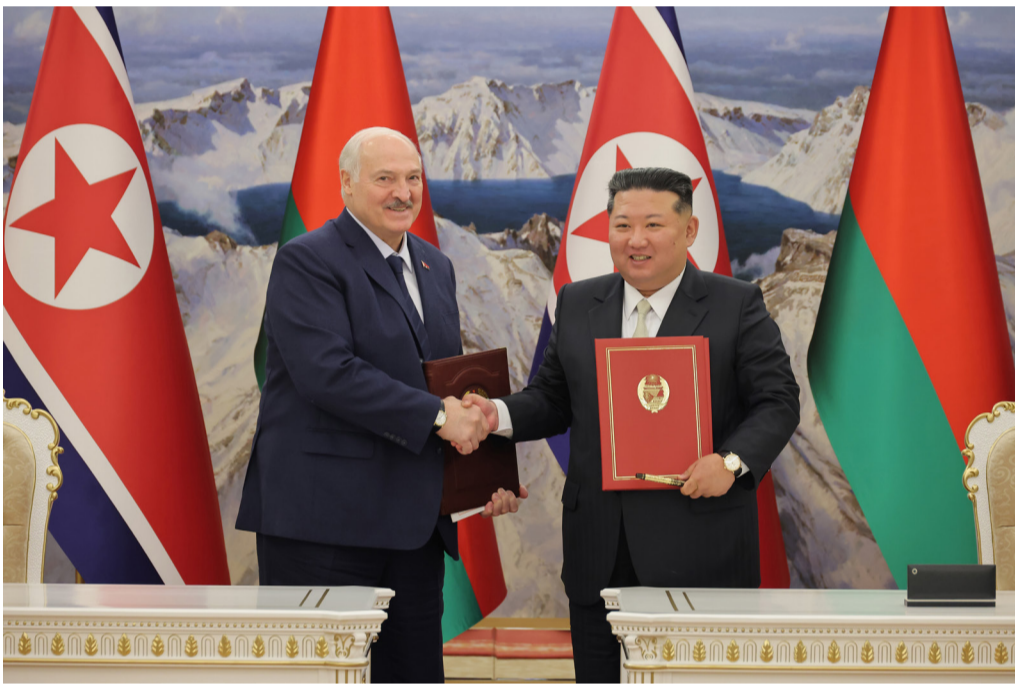
And then the two sides signed agreements on cooperation in various fields including diplomacy, information, agriculture, education and public health.

Aleksandr Lukashenko presented a gift to Kim Jong Un in commemoration of his visit to the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un expressed thanks for it and handed the gift he prepared over to Aleksandr Lukashenko.

At the end of the talks, the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Belarus was signed with due ceremony.

Kim Jong Un,



Reception given in welcome of Belorussian President

the DPRK, and Kim Tok Hun, first vice-premier of the Cabinet.

Kim Jong Un made a speech to welcome Aleksandr Lukashenko to the DPRK.

He appreciated that the visit of President Aleksandr Lukashenko to the DPRK serves as a step of important significance in putting the traditional relations of friendship between the DPRK and Belarus on a new high stage.

He said that he was pleased to confirm the will of the leaderships of the two countries to further boost and develop the bilateral friendly relations and get the confidence that they can do many things beneficial to promoting the prosperity and development of the two countries and the wellbeing of their peoples in the future, through today's meeting and talks.

Aleksandr Lukashenko made a reply speech.

He expressed his thanks to Kim Jong Un for inviting him to visit the beautiful DPRK and according warm hospitality to the delegation of the Republic of Belarus.

Saying that the friendly relations between the two countries are now developing at a very fast speed, he added that through the visit, the Republic of Belarus and the DPRK agreed on boosting the efforts to expand and intensify comprehensive cooperation with each other and the leaderships of the two countries confirmed that they hold the same view on international affairs.

The participants in the reception toasted the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

The reception proceeded in an amicable and warm atmosphere.

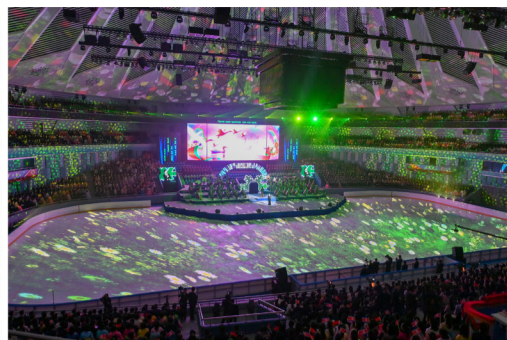
KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, hosted a reception on March 26 to welcome Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, to the DPRK.

Present at the reception at invitation were Yuri Shuleiko, deputy prime

minister of the government of the Republic of Belarus, Maxim Ryzhenkov, minister of Foreign Affairs, Aleksandr Khodzhayev, minister of Public Health, Andrei Ivanets, minister of Education, Andrei Kuznetsov, minister of Industry, and other suite members.

On hand were Kim Jae Ryong, Ri Il Hwan and Kim Song Nam, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs of



KCNA

An artistic performance was given at the Ice Rink on March 26 to welcome Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, on an official visit to the DPRK with the friendly feelings of the Belorussian people.

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, enjoyed the performance together with the

Belorussian President.

When Kim Jong Un appeared in the auditorium together with Aleksandr Lukashenko, the audience greeted them with enthusiastic applause.

Present there at invitation were Yuri Shuleiko, deputy prime minister of the government of the Republic of Belarus, Maxim Ryzhenkov, minister of Foreign Affairs, Aleksandr Khodzhayev, minister of Public Health, Andrei Ivanets, minister of Education, Andrei Kuznetsov,

Artistic performance given to welcome Belorussian President

minister of Industry, and other suite members.

Among the audience were Ri Il Hwan and Kim Song Nam, secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, Kim Tok Hun, first vice-premier of the Cabinet, Kim Yo Jong, department director of the WPK Central Committee, officials of the Foreign Ministry, officials concerned and Pyongyang citizens.

The national anthems of the Republic of Belarus and the DPRK were played.

Put on the stage were a variety of numbers prepared for the close friends.

Through famous songs on the theme of patriotism, the performers truthfully represented the Korean people's genuine love for the country, their devotion to it and their ardent desire to build a powerful

state without fail.

The graceful and impressive rhythm of figure skating and merry tunes of folk songs revved up the atmosphere of the performance, presenting a beautiful and fascinating lyric world.

When Belarus songs were played, the audience waved the national flags of the two countries as a token of their friendly feelings.

The performance was acclaimed by the audience as it represented with remarkable artistry the common thoughts and feelings of the peoples of the two countries struggling to defend international justice and peace and promote national prosperity and the people's well-being.

When the performance was over, enthusiastic applause broke out again.

Kim Jong Un and Aleksandr Lukashenko extended thanks to the performers for their wonderful performance.



KCNA

Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, left Pyongyang by his private plane on March 26 after paying an official visit to the DPRK at

the invitation of Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The guard of honour of the Korean People's Army lined up at the apron of Pyongyang International Airport where

Belorussian President leaves Pyongyang

the national flags of the two countries fluttered.

The President of the State Affairs of the DPRK came to the airport to see off the Belorussian President.

Seen at the airport were Jo Yong Won, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Kim Jae Ryong, Ri Il Hwan and Kim Song Nam, secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, Kim Tok Hun, first vice-premier of the Cabinet, and Kim Jong Gyu, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs.

Kim Jong Un greeted Aleksandr

Lukashenko.

The Belorussian President exchanged farewells with senior officials of the DPRK.

He expressed his heartfelt thanks for the warm hospitality extended to him by Kim Jong Un and the government and people of the DPRK during his visit.

Kim Jong Un exchanged warm farewells with Aleksandr Lukashenko, wishing him good health and greater success in the state affairs and the friendly Belarus people happiness.

The private plane carrying the Belorussian President took off amid warm send-off.



Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, visits the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on March 25 to pay high tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Belorussian President visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun

KCNA

Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, on an official visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on March 25 to pay high tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Among the visitors were Yuri Shuleiko, deputy prime

minister of the government of the Republic of Belarus, and other suite members.

Accompanying them was Kim Tok Hun, member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and first vice-premier of the Cabinet.

A flower basket in the name of Aleksandr Lukashenko was placed at the statues of the President and the Chairman.

Written on the ribbon of the flower basket were the letters reading "High tribute to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il".

Aleksandr Lukashenko also laid a bouquet sent by Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation.

He made an entry in the visitor's book.



Leadership of the state elected at the First Session of the 15th SPA of the DPRK

The First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK elected the State Affairs Commission as follows:

State Affairs Commission of the DPRK

President	Kim Jong Un
First Vice-President	Jo Yong Won
Vice-President	Pak Thae Song
Members	Kim Jae Ryong, Ri Hi Yong, Jong Kyong Thae, Kim Song Nam, Ju Chang Il, Choe Son Hui, No Kwang Chol, Kim Tok Hun, Ri Chang Dae, Pang Tu Sop, Kim Chol Won

The First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK elected the Standing Committee of the SPA as follows:

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

Chairman	Jo Yong Won
Vice-Chairmen	Kim Hyong Sik, Ri Son Gwon
Secretary General	Ko Kil Son
Members	Pak Kwang Ung, Ri Kyong Chol, Pak Jin Myong, Ri Yong Sik, So Kwang Ung, Mun Chol, Ri Won Jong, Han Jong Hyok, Jon Hyang Sun, Ri Myong Chol, Ri Hyok Chol, Kang Myong Chol, Kang Ji Yong

The First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK appointed SPPO director and elected SC president as follows:

Director of the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of the DPRK	Kim Chol Won
President of the Supreme Court of the DPRK	Choe Kun Yong

The First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK appointed the members of the Cabinet as follows:

Cabinet of the DPRK

Premier	Pak Thae Song	Minister of Shipbuilding at the Second Economy Commission	Kim Kwang Il
First Vice-Premier	Kim Tok Hun	Minister of Information Industry	Ju Yong Il
Vice-Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission	Pak Jong Gun	Minister of Construction and Building-materials Industry	So Jong Jin
Vice-Premiers	Jon Hyon Chol	Minister of State Construction Control	Yang Ki Song
	Pak Hun	Minister of Light Industry	Ri Yong Gun
	Ri Kyong Il	Minister of Regional Industry	Kim Chol Bom
Vice-Premier and Chairman of the Agricultural Commission	Kim Chang Sok	Minister of Fisheries	Yun Song Chol
	Jon Sung Guk	Minister of Finance	Ri Myong Guk
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Ri Chol Man	Minister of Labour	Jin Kum Song
	Choe Son Hui	Minister of External Economic Relations	Yun Jong Ho
Minister of Public Security	Pang Tu Sop	Chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology	Kim Song Bin
Secretary General of the Cabinet	Kim Kum Chol	President of the State Academy of Sciences	Kim Sung Jin
Minister of Metallurgical Industry	Kim Kwang Nam	Minister of Land and Environment Protection	Yang Yong Jin
Minister of Chemical Industry	Kim Son Myong	Minister of Urban Management	Kim Son Il
Minister of Electric Power Industry	Kim Yu Il	Minister of Disaster Management	Kim Chol Nam
Minister of Coal Industry	Ri Yong Chol	Minister of Grain Administration	Kim Kwang Jin
Minister of Railways	Kim Ha Gyu	Minister of Commerce	Kim Yong Sik
Minister of Land and Maritime Transport	Jo Jong Ryong	Minister of Education	Ri Yong Chol
Minister of Mining Industry	Ri Sang Do	Minister of Public Health	Kim Tu Won
Minister of Natural Resources Development	Kwon Song Hwan	Minister of Culture	Hyon Un Chol
Minister of Forestry	Han Yong Ho	Minister of Physical Culture and Sports	Kim Il Guk
Minister of Machine-building Industry	Ri Kwang Nam	President of the Central Bank	Paek Min Gwang
Minister of Nuclear Power Industry	Wang Chang Uk	Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics	Ri Chol San

The First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK elected the Legislation Committee, the Budget Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, SPA sectional committees, as follows:

Legislation Committee of the SPA of the DPRK

Chairman	Ri Hi Yong	Members	Kim Chol Won, Choe Kun Yong, Pak Chang Ho, Choe Hui Thae, Kim Sung Chan, Kim Jong Su, Ri Kyong Hun
Vice-Chairman	Pang Tu Sop		

Budget Committee of the SPA of the DPRK

Chairman	An Kum Chol	Members	Ri Chol Man, Kim Chol Bom, Ri Myong Guk, Paek Song Guk, Choe Yong Man, Ri Kon Song, Pak Ji Min
Vice-Chairman	Pak Jong Gun		

Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA of the DPRK

Chairman	Kim Song Nam	Members	Kim Hyong Sik, Yun Jong Ho, Kim Son Gyong, Kim Song Il, Kim Song Ho, Ri Hae Im, Kang Ji Yong
Vice-Chairman	Kim Tok Hun		

Report on Cabinet's work submitted to First Session of 15th SPA of DPRK

KCNA

Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet, made a report on the work of the Cabinet at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

The reporter referred to the successes and shortcomings, made and revealed in the economic work of the country over the past five years, and called for thoroughly implementing the five-year plan for national economic development set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The report noted the great successes, achieved in the historic course of remarkably increasing the state's internal strength, are that the foundations of the self-supporting economy have been firmly consolidated and the overall economy of the country has been put on a steady upward track.

During the period of the five-year plan, the plans for electric power, rolling steel, coal, electrolytic copper, electrolytic zinc and cloth production, housing construction and railway freight transport were successfully carried out among the major indices advanced by the Eighth Congress of the WPK. In the major industrial sectors, the production of Juche iron increased 3.2 times, nitrogen fertilizer 1.5 times, nonferrous metals 1.9 times, cement 1.4 times and fishery 1.9 times, as compared with the year 2020. The increased production in major indices as a whole clearly demonstrated the development of the

national economy.

The Cabinet will carry out in a responsible manner the work of thoroughly implementing the five-year plan for national economic development to consolidate the economic muscle of the country as required by the comprehensive development, the report said, and went on:

The metallurgical industry sector will make the existing foundations for Juche-based iron production prove effective, increase the quality of steel, install more processes for producing various kinds of rolled steel, and take measures to ensure the supply of raw materials and fuel.

The chemical industry sector will direct efforts to giving fullest play to the existing production capacity, while pushing ahead with the work to complete the project for establishing C1 chemical industry and build up a new sectoral structure so as to attain the production goals of the sector without fail.

The Cabinet will take strong measures to supply manpower and materials to the electric power industry sector, put the electricity production and management on a scientific basis and make effective use of the produced electricity.

It will guide the coal industry sector to secure prospective deposits, give priority to the supply of equipment and materials and step up the in-depth development of major coal mines, the construction of gravity-fed drain pits, new coal mines and new pits, while taking other state

measures to increase coal production.

It will ensure that the machine-building industry sector modernize the production lines of major factories at a higher level and actively promote the development of various kinds of high-performance mining equipment and farm machines suited to our actual conditions.

It will take measures for the mining industry sector to increase the production of nonferrous metals and put the production on a normal footing at mines, smelteries and factories.

The forestry sector will make efforts to keep balance between timber production and afforestation and consolidate the material and technical foundations so as to produce timber and wood products sufficiently.

The rail transport sector will improve the organization and control of transportation, promote the security of railways and increase the capacity of railway freight transport.

The Cabinet will accelerate the modernization of the land and maritime transport sector, make proactive efforts to increase the transport capacity and expand the truck-based transport capacity.

It will make the construction sector push ahead with the capital city construction, build dwelling houses in rural and urban areas and coal mining villages, complete the industrial and land improvement projects of national significance and take strong measures to build up the construction guidance

force and thoroughly ensure the quality and safety of structures.

The building-materials industry will readjust and reinforce the production lines at cement factories and apply sci-tech successes to increase cement output and realize domestic production of various finishing building materials and increase their varieties, and the design sector will pioneer a new level in architectural creation by designing all structures to be multi-functional, multi-purpose and practical ones.

The Cabinet will help the information industry sector step up the modernization of broadcasting and postal communication and the work for putting state business on an informatized basis and undertake the work for studying, developing and introducing integrated control systems and integrated production systems at a high level in conformity with the specific conditions of all sectors and units of the national economy.

It will press ahead with the efforts to decisively resolve the energy problem, including the creation of natural energy-based power generation capacity in regions with favourable conditions.

It will continuously conduct the vigorous forest restoration and transformation campaign to turn all the mountains of the country into "gold" and "treasure" mountains, and make sure that the tasks facing the field of land and environment protection are carried out in a responsible manner.

It will take measures to improve urban management.

In the disaster prevention sector, it will establish the state's unified crisis control system, ranging from the prevention of disasters to the response to any disaster and the recovery, in a more well-regulated way and make sustained efforts to increase the ability to cope with crisis. It will also put the hydro-meteorological work on a modern basis to ensure the scientific accuracy and promptness of weather forecast. The state anti-epidemic capability will be enhanced to make full preparations for actively coping with any public health crisis.

The Cabinet will direct uninterrupted efforts to building tourist resorts and exploiting tourist resources and proactively conduct external economic activities.

It will concentrate all efforts on farming to decisively solve the food problem for the people.

The livestock farming and fruit farming sectors will attain the production goals for meat, eggs, milk and fruit tree saplings, and large-scale greenhouse farms will introduce advanced vegetable cultivation technologies and take measures to supply farm materials so as to produce more than 300 tons of vegetables per hectare.

The fishing sector will attain the goal of seafood production.

The light industry sector will increase the production of consumer goods with the main stress put on improving quality and developing new products, and build its new foundations.

The newly-built regional-

industry factories will build up their raw materials bases and train technicians and skilled workers in a far-sighted way so as to put production on a normal footing and turn out various kinds of high-quality goods.

The Cabinet will strive to actively preserve the nature of socialist commerce in commercial service activities and steadily improve the work of the public service sector and the external service sector.

It will vigorously propel the projects for transforming the capital city of Pyongyang into a magnificent one with features of a world-class city and powerfully push ahead with the work for ushering in a new era of regional transformation.

The science and technology sector will focus on enhancing the independence and modernization level of the national economy and solving the urgent technical problems arising in improving the material and cultural life of the people and promote the development of core and future-oriented cutting-edge technologies.

The education sector will train all students into talents competent enough to contribute to the revolutionary practices, narrow the gap in the educational level between urban and rural areas and modernize the country's educational foundation in a comprehensive way. The public health sector will rapidly introduce the successes gained in the healthcare revolution started in 2025 to the whole public health sector.

Report on fulfilment of state budget of DPRK for 2025 and its state budget for 2026

KCNA

There was a report on the fulfilment of the state budget for 2025 and on the state budget for 2026 deliberated on at the Budget Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly prior to the First Session of the 15th SPA.

According to the report, the state budget for 2025 was executed as planned through the struggle of all the people across the country to fulfil the five-year plan for national economic development.

The report said that the state budgetary revenue plan for 2025 was carried out at 105.1 percent, a 7.2 percent increase over the previous year.

It is necessary to provide a reliable financial guarantee

for the work and production activities of all sectors and units in order to successfully carry out the first-year tasks of the new five-year plan set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the report said, and went on:

The state budget for 2026 has been planned to promote the development of all sectors and units including science, education, public health and art and literature and contribute to the improvement of the people's standard of living while concentrating its investment on the building of the greater force capable of repelling all sorts of military threats for defending the sovereignty and security of the country and on the successful attainment of the production targets for this year in the

overall national economy.

The state budgetary revenue for this year is expected to grow by 0.5 percent over last year, with the turnover tax, a major item of the budgetary revenue, increasing by 0.3 percent and the income from state enterprises by 0.1 percent, which will account for 84.4 percent of the total revenue.

The profits of cooperative organizations are expected to be 101.8 percent, depreciation 102.7 percent, real estate rent 102.5 percent, premium for social insurance 102.4 percent, income from property sale and price fluctuation 102.8 percent, income from money collection 102 percent, other income 104.3 percent and income from special economic zones 101.4

percent, as compared with last year.

The central budgetary revenue is expected to account for 72.2 percent of the state budgetary revenue, with the revenue from the central economy accounting for an overwhelming proportion, and provincial, city and county people's committees are to pay some funds in the national budget for the scientific research in the agricultural sector, medical care and others.

The state budgetary expenditure for this year is expected to increase by 5.8 percent over last year.

This year, funds equivalent to 15.8 percent of the total state budgetary expenditure will be spent on national defence, contributing to the steady expansion and

strengthening of the powerful self-defensive nuclear deterrent and war capability.

The investment in socialist economic construction will grow to 105.5 percent over last year so that 43.8 percent of the total state budgetary expenditure is to be spent on it.

Funds equivalent to 106.3 percent over last year are allotted for the work of the national economy for the major sectors, including those of metallurgical, chemical, electric power, coal and machine-building industries and railway transport, in 2026.

Funds equivalent to 105.3 percent over last year will be used for the development of science and technology.

Funds equivalent to 105.7 percent over last year are allotted for the agricultural

work to contribute to the strengthening of the material and technical foundations of agriculture.

A larger sum of money will be disbursed for the people-oriented policies and the social and cultural work than last year, an increase of 6 percent for the educational sector, 5.6 percent for the public health sector, 3.1 percent for the cultural sector and 2.8 percent for the sports sector.

Funds for the anti-epidemic work are expected to grow by 1.1 percent over last year.

This year, too, the state will send a large amount of educational aid funds and stipends to the children of Koreans in Japan so that they can grow up to be reliable pillars who will carry forward the baton of the patriotic cause.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un receives congratulations from foreign presidents on his reelection as President of State Affairs of DPRK

Congratulatory message from Russian President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a congratulatory message from V. Putin, president of the Russian Federation, on March 23.

The message said:

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on your reelection as President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The decision of the deputies to

the Supreme People's Assembly clearly proves the unanimous public support for the line you are pursuing to effectively settle the socio-economic tasks facing the DPRK and defend the sovereignty and legitimate interests of the country in the international arena.

Russia highly appreciates your direct contribution to consolidating the friendly alliance between the two countries.

We will certainly continue to work closely together to further develop the comprehensive strategic partnership between Moscow and

Pyongyang.

This undoubtedly conforms to the fundamental interests of the peoples of our two countries.

I wish you fresh success in your responsible state activities and good health and wellbeing as well.

Yours sincerely.

Congratulatory message from Belarus President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a congratulatory message from Aleksandr Lukashenko, president of the Republic of Belarus, on March 23.

The message said:

Your Excellency,

I, on behalf of our people and on my own behalf, extend sincere

congratulations to you on your reelection as president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The unanimous adoption of the above-said decision at the Supreme People's Assembly reflects the general will and full support of the Korean people for your steadfast line of strengthening the independence of the country and improving the well-being of the citizens.

I am sure that your activities in this responsible duty will continue to promote the development of the DPRK and the prosperity of its citizens.

Minsk affirms that it has interests in actively expanding the political and economic ties with Pyongyang at all levels.

Your Excellency,

I wish you good health and success in the state affairs and pay my highest regard.

Congratulatory message from Vietnamese President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a congratulatory message from Luong Cuong, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on March 23.

The message said:

I, on behalf of the state and people of Vietnam, extend the best congratulations to you as regards your re-assumption of office as the president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly.

The Vietnamese people are

rejoiced over the important successes achieved by the fraternal Korean people over the past years and are convinced that under your leadership, the state and people of the DPRK will continue to implement the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the Party and achieve lots of new successes in the cause of building a powerful nation by displaying the spirit of unity and self-reliance and self-development, thus contributing to promoting the socio-economic development, improving the people's standard of living and augmenting the national potentials.

Highly appreciating that the traditional relations of friendship

between Vietnam and the DPRK underwent excellent development over the past years, I hope that we will together cultivate and promote the bilateral relations so that they can further develop in depth, substantially and effectively day by day in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for the regional and global peace, stability and development.

I wish you good health and happiness and many successes in your noble duty.

I hope the fraternal DPRK will thrive and the Korean people will get more peaceful and happier with each passing day.

Congratulatory message, flower basket from Nicaraguan co-presidents

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, received a congratulatory message from Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Rosario Murillo, co-presidents of the Republic of Nicaragua, on March 23.

The message said:

Dear Comrade,

As regards your reelection as president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, we extend the warmest congratulations to you on behalf of the national reconciliation and unity government and the people

of Nicaragua and the Sandinist National Liberation Front and on our own behalf.

We also extend congratulations to the comrades elected as new-term members of the State Affairs Commission, the Standing Committee and the sectional committees of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Cabinet at the First Session of the 15th SPA of the DPRK.

We express belief that the fraternal DPRK people would continue to advance along the road of peace, prosperity, wellbeing, stability and economic development for the rising generations, true to your devoted leadership and lines.

Dear Comrade,

We reaffirm our invariable will to

continue to maintain the close historic relations of fraternal friendship, solidarity and cooperation linking our two parties, two governments and two peoples in the struggle for freedom and independence, national sovereignty and the right to self-determination, together with you and the people of your country.

We wish you good health and your country prosperity, sending our fraternal and revolutionary embrace and warm greetings of the Nicaraguan families from blessed and eternally free Nicaragua.

Kim Jong Un also received a flower basket from the Nicaraguan co-president on the same occasion.

The Nicaraguan ambassador to the DPRK conveyed the flower basket to an official concerned on March 25.

Congratulatory message from Chinese President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a congratulatory message from Xi Jinping, president of the People's Republic of China, on March 26.

The message said:

Respected Comrade President Kim Jong Un,

I extend sincere congratulations to you at the glad news that you were elected again as president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly.

I sincerely wish that the DPRK would constantly achieve fresh and greater successes in the cause of socialism under the leadership of the WPK.

The traditional China-DPRK

friendship is a precious common asset of the two countries.

It is the consistent and steadfast policy of the Chinese party and government to successfully defend, consolidate and develop the bilateral ties.

Last year I met Comrade President again to have a common understanding of various important issues and open up a new phase of the China-DPRK relations.

I highly value the development of the China-DPRK relations and I am willing to strive together with Comrade President to promote the steady development of the traditional friendly relations between the two countries and provide the two countries and their peoples with better welfare.

I wish your country prosperity and the people happiness and wellbeing.

Congratulatory message, flower basket from Mongolian President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a congratulatory message from Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh on March 25.

The message said:

Esteemed Your Excellency President,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on my behalf and on behalf of the Mongolian people on your reelection as President of the State Affairs of the DPRK.

The Mongolian and Korean peoples have had long historical ties, and the DPRK is the second country that recognized our country in the international arena and established diplomatic relations with us.

The Mongolian people always remember the historic exploits performed by Their Excellencies Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the great leaders of the Korean people who provided the cornerstone of diplomatic relations between the two countries and contributed to bolstering up the

bilateral cooperative relations, and will inherit and develop the precious relationship more wonderfully.

I am firmly convinced that the DPRK, where the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, which clarified the strategic goals and preferential development orientation of the state between 2026 and 2031, was successfully held under your courageous leadership, will further thrive and develop in the future, too.

I sincerely wish you, esteemed Your Excellency President assuming the heavy responsibility for the prosperity of the DPRK, and your family good health and happiness and the diligent Korean people greater development and prosperity.

My noble respects to you.

The Mongolian President also sent a flower basket to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in congratulation of his reelection as president of the State Affairs of the DPRK.

The flower basket was handed over to an official concerned by the Mongolian ambassador in Pyongyang on March 26.

Congratulatory letters from overseas Koreans' organizations

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un received a congratulatory letter from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) on March 23.

The letter said that to have invariably held in high esteem the peerlessly great man, revered by all people, as head of the glorious DPRK is a political event, to be specially recorded in the DPRK's history of development, and a great significant and revolutionary event that will open up a period of comprehensive

development of the movement of Koreans in Japan, along with the homeland ushering in a new era of upsurge in national prosperity.

The respected Marshal Kim Jong Un is the symbol of Juche Korea's mightiness and the banner of all victories and glory, the letter said, adding that they are cherishing deep in their mind the immutable truth that the victory of Chongryon and the rosy future of Koreans in Japan, along with the homeland, lie in upholding the Marshal with single-minded loyalty.

In the letter, the Chongryon Central Standing Committee wished

Kim Jong Un good health in reflection of the ardent loyalty and boundless reverence of all the Chongryon officials and other Koreans in Japan.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un also received a congratulatory letter from the General Association of Koreans in China (GAKC) on March 23.

It is another great revolutionary event, to be specially recorded in the sacred course of struggle of the country and the people, to have invariably held the great Marshal Kim Jong Un in high esteem as general secretary of the ever-victorious Workers' Party of Korea in historic February and then as head of the DPRK, our glorious homeland,

in significant March, the letter said, and went on:

It is the greatest fortune and blessing of the people in the homeland and overseas compatriots to have the respected Marshal who is possessed of rare wisdom, outstanding leadership ability and people-oriented traits and who is enjoying the absolute trust and boundless reverence of all people.

The GAKC in the letter expressed the will to cherish deep in mind this emotion and joy of today and follow only the respected Marshal at any time and in any place and glorify their lives as patriotic compatriots devoting their pure conscience to the homeland.

Flower basket from Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong II Foundation

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un received a flower basket from Cui Tongwen, director of the Board of Directors of the Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong II Foundation, on March 24 as regards his reelection as president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Written on the ribbon of the flower basket are letters reading "Highest glory to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un".

April spring friendship art festival to be held in Pyongyang

KCNA

The 34th April Spring Friendship Art Festival is to be held in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 114th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

The festival will bring together famous art troupes, dance troupes and circus troupes of different countries and overseas Korean art troupes and artistes.

The performance videos

to be sent by art troupes and artistes of relevant countries will show the high praise and reverence of the progressive mankind for President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong II and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the peerlessly great men.

The festival will also present other colourful art pieces showing the desire of mankind to lead a happy life in a peaceful world free from war and subjugation and the

national mood and optimism of peoples of relevant countries.

The festival organizing committee decided to examine the performance videos from art troupes of different countries and edit them in various forms to broadcast them on Korean Central TV and post the accounts of the festival and the results of a jury review on websites including "Korean Arts".

Meeting held to review land management and forest restoration in 2025

KCNA

A meeting to review the general mobilization drive for land management and forest restoration campaign in 2025 took place in the Cabinet through videoconferencing on March 26.

It was attended by Pak Thae Song, premier of the DPRK Cabinet, An Kum Chol, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, other senior officials of the Party and the

government and officials of relevant units in Pyongyang and regions, including the Cabinet, commissions, ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs.

The participants watched a video showing the progress made in the general mobilization drive for land management and forest restoration campaign last year.

The meeting also analyzed and reviewed the shortcomings revealed and

lessons obtained through the work to protect the ecological environment last year, such as the maintenance of roads and dwelling houses, afforestation and water conservation and sewage treatment.

It called on all the officials to make fresh progress in land management and forest restoration true to the decisions of the Ninth Party Congress so as to turn the country into a more beautiful paradise good to live in.

Posters for April spring friendship art festival issued

Posters are brought out in the run-up to the 34th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.



KCNA

Posters have been brought out in the run-up to the 34th April Spring Friendship Art Festival to be held on the occasion of the 114th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

The posters embossed with the festival logo and the letters "34th April Spring Friendship Art Festival" reflect the fervent aspiration of the Korean people and the world's progressive peoples to celebrate the significant

April holiday as a great auspicious event common to mankind.

The posters depicting the passionate artistes who highly praise the immortal exploits, which were performed by the peerlessly great men for the times and history, by dint of beautiful dances and songs also show well the growing enthusiasm to participate in the spring festival.

The one on the theme of the ideal of the festival, entitled "Let us loudly sing the song of independence, peace and friendship",

demonstrates the aspiration of progressive mankind to live happily in a peaceful world free from aggression and war.

Those representing singers, dancers, instrumentalists who will adorn the festival stage distinctively and the scenes of spectacular stunts performed by acrobats are arousing public expectations for and interest in the festival.

There are also those listing the names of groups participating in the festival.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Birthday spreads sent to centenarians

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent birthday spreads to Kim Tong Ok, a woman living in neighbourhood unit No. 3 of Hyokchang-ri of Kosan County, Kangwon Province, and Kim Sun Ok, a woman living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 6 of Ransan-ri, Kangdong County of Pyongyang, on their 100th birthdays.

They received the birthday spreads amid the congratulations from officials of the counties and villagers. Greatly moved, they expressed their gratitude to Kim Jong Un.

Scientific search prize conferred on students

The scientific search prize was awarded to university students who were exemplary in study and scientific search.

Young university students across the country have made valuable research achievements while focusing on opening up new fields of cutting-edge science and technology and realizing the integration of scientific research and production.

A ceremony of conferring the University Student Scientific Search Prize took place at the Central Youth Hall on March 26.

It was attended by youth league officials and university students.

The diploma and medal of the prize were given to more than 600 students exemplary in study and scientific search including those at Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chack University of Technology and Sariwon Kye Ung Sang University of Agriculture.

After the meeting was over, the mobile motivation team of students and youth gave a performance to congratulate the prize winners.

Grand chorus performances given by graduating class students in South Phyongan

Grand chorus performances



were given by students of graduating classes of senior middle schools in cities and counties of South Phyongan

Province amid the ever-soaring enthusiasm of the new generation to glorify their youth at the posts for national defence.

Such a performance was given by graduating class students in Phyongsong City on March 24.

Officials of the youth league encouraged the students who volunteered to stand guard at forefront border posts, while watching the performance with other schoolchildren.

The performers well represented the spiritual world of the younger generation determined to perform feats of loyalty during their military service, always remembering their school days when they learned to their heart's content as the happiest students under the care of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un.

Meanwhile, graduating class students of senior middle schools in Sunchon City, Songchon and Hoechang counties and other cities and counties of the province gave similar performances to demonstrate the high morale of the young successors to reliably inherit the steadfast spirit of defending the country and noble patriotism displayed by the preceding generations of the revolution.

In the flames of educational revolution in new century

Five years of big stride in educational revolution

By Ri Song Sim

It is the general goal of education defined by the Workers' Party of Korea to turn education into the one which can be fully entrusted with the future of the country.

Successes have been made in the field of education during the eighth term of the WPK Central Committee.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK set forth important tasks for accelerating the revolution in education.

The fundamental thing in the educational revolution is to develop the structure, content and methods of education.

The structure of primary and secondary education is mainly geared to making students acquire full general basic knowledge, while that of higher education is for

training a larger number of competent and useful personnel with practical abilities and outstanding talents who can play a pivotal role in the development of science and technology and the economy.

The content of education should enable students to gain profound knowledge in their specialized fields, practical abilities and many-sided knowledge, and the methods of education should be improved to turn students into active learners and searchers so that they can acquire practical knowledge and abilities.

The Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK discussed the issue of education as an independent agenda item and took

Party and state measures to definitely push the work of improving the educational structure onto a full-scale implementation stage.

As a result, the general education sector adopted optional curricula according to economic and geographical features of relevant areas and natural abilities and aptitudes of students, and Kim Il Sung University and other major universities introduced a full credit system, adding new features to the overall structure of education.

Amid the brisk effort for improving the content and methods of education, the second universal 12-year compulsory education programme was revised and supplemented and the heuristic, quest-type and discussion-oriented



Jonjin Senior Middle School in Rangnang District newly built as an integrated school.



teaching methods and various advanced extracurricular education methods were newly created in the field of general education and the research-type teaching and learning methods were introduced in the field of higher education to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of teaching.

The material and

technical foundations of the educational sector have been strengthened.

The Academy of Pedagogical Science was newly built as a centre for research into pedagogical science, modern bases for experiment and practice were created at Kim Il Sung University and many other universities and the national educational information system was set up.

As the construction of model schools and kindergartens has been pushed ahead on a large scale, more than 340 schools, over 780 branch schools and 150-odd kindergartens were newly built or remodelled onto the standard level across the country in 2024 alone and Jonjin Senior Middle School in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, was built as an integrated school and inaugurated in 2025.

Especially, the educational environment in rural areas has been improved.

In close cooperation with the Party and power organs in the relevant areas, educational guidance organs fully grasped the situation of kindergartens and schools in rural areas and took relevant measures. Dynamic efforts have been directed to providing rural schools with more school furniture, educational equipment and apparatuses for experiments and creating various practical educational environments.

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, which discussed the issue of strengthening the country's educational foundations, served as an occasion for boosting public interest in education and enthusiasm for supporting education.



The centre for education through experiment in automatics at Kim Il Sung University.



The general experimental education hall at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

New education programme to be launched in new school year

By Pang Un Ju PT

This year, a new education programme will be carried out in the primary and secondary education sector from the new school year.

The main thing in the programme is the elective education course.

This course covers the fields of literature, science, the arts, physical education and technology, and each field covers detailed subjects.

It is designed for senior middle schools and technical senior middle schools.

This means that primary schools and junior middle schools impart general knowledge according to the unified standard curricula set by the state, while senior middle schools and technical senior middle schools provide students with education in the fields of literature, science, the arts, physical education and technology according to the wish and individual character of students, so that each of them can have more than one kind of technical

skill in the stage of secondary education.

In order to implement the new education programme, the education sector has worked out new compulsory educational curricula, compiled textbooks and applied the elective education course in different cities and counties on a trial basis.

In addition, a crash course on the new curricula was run for officials in the education sector and educators, teaching forces were built and material and technical foundations were laid in close contact with provinces, cities and counties and other preparations were made.

Last January, a national practical training course in the education sector was offered for the implementation of the second universal 12-year compulsory education programme. After the training course, the participants toured different areas where the new education programme has been introduced on a trial basis since last year to listen to their experiences and learn from them.

Intelligent online education system newly set up

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Kim Chaek University of Technology has established an intelligent online education system.

Ri Il Ryong, head of a department of the online education faculty of the university, said the system marks another step forward in improving the quality of online education.

The intelligent online education system consists of the intelligent teaching management system, automatic question-and-answer system, students' learning attitude analysis system and intelligent testing system.

The intelligent teaching management system has a learner model that simulates the thinking of a competent lecturer and gives a correct understanding of the learning situation of students, so as to analyze what they learned, what they do not know and why.

On that basis, it offers appropriate learning materials sequentially.

It is of great help to the learning of each student in online education where detailed learning aid is insufficient.

The automatic question-and-answer system which responds to learners' questions in real time is highly appreciated for its detailedness and high accuracy.

On the other hand, the

students' learning attitude analysis system assesses students' psychology and attention by observing their faces in real time, so that the lecturer can lead the lecture interestingly without boring them.

In addition, the text translation automatic assessment system is applied to automatically scoring the texts translated by students, and there is a system for automatically analyzing students'

reports on experiment, practice and course design.

The intelligent online education system can issue notices on the study results to rouse the students' enthusiasm for learning.

The establishment of the system ensures the promptness, convenience and accuracy of the online education management and improves students' academic abilities.



A lecturer of the online education faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology delivers an online lecture. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Struggle programme set forth by Party Congress to herald new era of national prosperity

By Kim Rye Yong PT

The Korean people are now out in the struggle to usher in a new era of national prosperity, true to the struggle programme set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Congress proudly reviewed the successes achieved during the eighth term of the Party Central Committee, when a new era of changes was opened up, and clearly indicated the scientific orientation of struggle, goals and practical tasks for confidently giving a boost to the period of overall development of Korean-style socialism.

At the Congress the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un unveiled a new strategy of struggle in

line with the high spirit of advance and growing self-confidence of the country and the people, and stipulated the important requirements to be fulfilled in the period of overall development, the long-term goals of all sectors in the period of implementing the new five-year plan and the tasks for attaining them.

The main task facing socialist economic construction at the present stage is to cement the achievements made during the eighth term of the Party Central Committee, lay a development foundation for the stable and sustainable growth of the country's economy and substantially improve the people's living standards.

The Congress specified that accordingly, the period of the new five-year plan should

be a phase of stabilization and consolidation, a phase of gradual and qualitative development, and this must be set as the general goal of and the principle in the work of the Ninth Party Central Committee.

The General Secretary stressed the need to invariably hold aloft the ideals of "The people are god", single-hearted unity and self-reliance as the banner of struggle and advance and continuously push ahead with construction projects in order to consolidate the foundations for increasing national strength, lead the people to new civilization and promote their wellbeing during the ninth term of the Party Central Committee.

The Korean people were filled with joy and excitement as they received the weapon of great change, the definite

action programme, from him at the Party Congress.

It is the firm faith they gained through their actual life that the WPK's leadership is a science, truth and victory.

The WPK's leadership is characterized by the affection of the great mother taking full charge and care of the people to the last, the generous benefits which it provides them and most of which they enjoy unconsciously and the endless favours which it grants them constantly despite hardships.

Even in the face of the extreme difficulties which might have brought others to their knees one hundred times, the Party has brought the Korean people happiness and dynamically opened up the period of overall development of socialism.

Under the wise leadership

of the General Secretary, a new street of the people has appeared in the capital city of Pyongyang every year, while modern regional-industry factories and wonderful rural houses have sprung up across the country, opening up a new era in which the regions change for the better.

It has become a custom in the DPRK to experience a new construction miracle at the end of each year, while the phrase "Groundbreaking is precisely inauguration" is on everyone's lips.

Wonderful cultural recreation grounds and model entities rose up in the places which had nothing to present other than beautiful landscape since olden times, large greenhouse groups, ideal farming towns, appeared in the areas of Ryonpho, Kangdong and Wihwa Island

and there has been a great change in the structure of grain production. And the country triumphantly overcame an unexpected serious public health crisis and built up its national defence capabilities into an entity of matchless and limitless power. These are the precious fruition of the devoted efforts of the General Secretary who spares nothing for the happiness and peace of the people.

It is the firm faith and unshakable will of all the Korean people that the path they follow is always the one of justice and truth, their ideals and aspirations are surely realized and their future is always bright and rosy, thanks to the experienced and seasoned leadership of the WPK led by the respected General Secretary.

Serious water crisis on 'planet of water'

By To Kyong Chol PT

May 22 is World Water Day. According to the decision made at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly in 1992, the day has been commemorated since 1993.

Water is important in not only the existence and development of humanity but also animal, plant, marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The Earth is so rich in water resources as to be called the planet of water but the amount of the water that can be directly used by people is extremely limited. In addition, the water resources decrease day by day owing to their prolonged economic activities and the consequent environmental destruction and the water problem has become one of the big global

challenges.

A UN institute has recently issued a report to warn that three quarters of the world population are faced with the situation of "water bankruptcy" due to the excessive use of underground water and water pollution. The UN and other international organizations have so far used the expressions "water stress" and "water crisis" in the discussion about the problem of water resources depletion on the assumption that it might be resolved in the future, but this is the first time they have used the word "bankruptcy".

Global warming, too, is a factor causing the water crisis.

The inter-governmental committee on climate change already announced that global warming changed temperature, precipitation and evaporation and

warned that if the mean temperature rises due to global warming, billions of people will be faced with water shortage. Today, it has become a reality, not a prediction.

Water pollution by human activities is getting worse day after day.

A large quantity of sewage and most of industrial waste water flows into rivers as it is. In an Asian country, half of its population cannot obtain hygienic and safe drinking water.

The theme for this year's WWD is "Water and Gender".

As the worldwide water crisis greatly weighs on women, the UN suggested the theme, calling for solving the problem of water crisis by focusing on ensuring women's rights in the supply and use of water and giving them transformative authority.

Observe today, protect tomorrow



Ri Song Min, deputy director of the State Hydro-Meteorological Administration

March 23 is World Meteorological Day.

The official theme for World Meteorological Day of 2026 is "Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow".

Accurate monitoring of the current weather is very important in minimizing damage from disastrous weather like drought, high temperature, downpour and heavy rain and storm. Therefore, disastrous weather should be predicted beforehand to minimize the damage.

Climate change caused by global warming is resulting in extreme weather conditions in different parts of the world.

Floods and forest fires are occurring frequently in many regions, the intensity and influence of typhoons are getting stronger, and the sea level is rising to submerge coastal areas.

To cope with climate change and disasters is

an important undertaking for protecting the lives of the people and the natural resources of the country and for successfully conducting production and management activities in various sectors of the national economy including agriculture.

At present, coping with climate change is not limited to a certain country but constitutes a vital issue related to the fate of the present and coming generations and the future of mankind.

The State Hydro-Meteorological Administration is pushing ahead with the effort for putting meteorological observation and forecast on a scientific and modern footing so as to rapidly cope with climate change and disasters.

In order to modernize and informatize meteorological observation, the first process of weather forecasting, it is developing and introducing modern observation devices, including an automatic meteorological observation device, and increasing the space-time density

of the meteorological observation network, while grasping and analyzing the atmospheric conditions in three dimensions and in real time by using aerological observation, satellite and radar data.

It is directing efforts to ensuring the promptness and scientific accuracy of weather forecast, thus developing an integrated weather forecast system based on artificial intelligence, improving the numerical weather forecast technology and developing and introducing scientific forecasting methods and systems including a county-level heavy rain and flood early warning system and a disastrous weather forecast system.

It also established a well-regulated meteorological disaster warning system and informs the agricultural and other sectors of the national economy of forecast data on disaster occurrence in time so that they can cope with drought, hot weather, typhoon, flood and other disastrous weather conditions.

Always paying attention to weather forecasts and having a high risk awareness can minimize damage from disastrous weather.

BYWORD

People-first politics

The people-first politics administered by the Workers' Party of Korea is a political mode of solving all problems in complete reliance on the masses of the people. It absolutely safeguards their dignity, rights and interests and

faithfully serves them. As the WPK adopts this mode of politics, it put forward the slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" and has constantly enforced the people-oriented

policies, while giving top and absolute priority to their interests and convenience.

In recent years alone, new modern streets and dwelling houses for the people have been built uninterruptedly in Pyongyang and regions

and the living standards of the regional people have got better thanks to the resolute implementation of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy and thus the people's happy laughter has got louder day after day.

Contact us

Address: Sochon-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang
Tel: 850-2-18111(8456)
Email: flph@star-co.net.kp
Fax: 850-2-3814598

URL: www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp





New street in Hwasong area

First round of 2025-2026 premier league completed

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The first round of the 2025-2026 DPRK men's and women's premier leagues has come to a close.

In the past, the outcome of the matches was somewhat predictable through the consideration of previous records and individual players' abilities, but the results of the recent first-round matches were difficult to forecast.

Teams in spotlight

The April 25 team on top of the ranking table left a deep impression on the spectators. It played cool, vigorous and

leisurely matches by making extensive use of the whole pitch with proper combination of long cross-field passes and short passes, while creating scoring chances through quick breaks on both sides.

The Pyongyang team also drew much attention.

It made the most of the strengths of individual players as well as well-knit combination between players throughout the matches. Though Pyongyang was placed the second in the first round with goal difference, it showed off its new appearance.

Amnokgang's persevering playing mode and ingenious scoring tactics were truly impressive.

They took thrilling shots into the net while actively coping with the constantly changing circumstances. Experts and fans highly appreciated their strong sense of competition.

Sobaeksu renowned for powerful and speedy games, Ryomyong with relatively high physical and technical abilities of individual players, Hwaeppl with tall forwards and backs and Sonbong which scored the largest number of goals with high offensive power, among others, fully demonstrated their characteristics through the matches.

Meanwhile, the competence of women's teams has been increased to bring some changes in the rankings which used to remain almost the same in the past.

Rimyongsu, the eighth placer in the 2024-2025 women's premier league, stayed below the sixth place in recent years, but in this season it proved successful by strengthening defence, allowing few goals and increasing the speed of attack.

Hwaeppl, which ended up in the 11th place in the last season, is now taking the eighth place.

Powerful tactical weapon – 'substitution'

The significance of substitution of players was highlighted during the first round of the premier league.

Many coaches reversed the tide of games by changing tactics through player substitution. Especially, the men's match between Pyongyang and Hwaeppl was a showcase of the importance of substitution.

The substitution of players in the second half caused a dramatic change in the rhythm of the goalless game.

In the 61st minute, Pyongyang first replaced a defender with a forward to change the formation from 5-4-1 to 4-4-2 and two successful right-hand side breaks led to a goal. In the 81st minute, Hwaeppl also changed players to advance a defender into a forward's position and he successfully created a scoring chance in cooperation with the centre forward. Thus, Hwaeppl scored the equalizer.

Experts and fans said that if the Hwaeppl team had changed tactics earlier, it would have been a very interesting match.

Living monument Flying squirrel of Mt Myohyang

By Pang Un Ju PT

Flying squirrels of Mt Myohyang live in various types of thick forests in the areas from lowlands to highlands rising over 1 000 metres above sea level.

The body is 15 to 20cm long and the tail is 10 to 15cm long.

They are similar to ordinary

squirrels in appearance and size, but they have hairy membranes between forelegs and hind legs.

They live in the holes on hollowed trees or those made in tree trunks by woodpeckers. They are hardly seen during the day as they are active mainly in the evening and at night.

They move from place to place by gliding from the top of trees with



four legs spread to both sides while adjusting the direction with the tail.

They have the habit of storing food for winter and do not hibernate.

A female breeds once a year and produces a litter of four or five babies.

Flying squirrels of Mt Myohyang are under good protection as an indigenous animal subspecies of the DPRK.



A scene from the match between April 25 and Kigwancha teams. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

