

Young Koreans Vow to Carry Forward Revolution

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The Korean people have spent days and nights full of the bitterest grief at leader Kim Jong Il's demise.

Seized with deep sorrow, however, the young people collect themselves and make an oath to be true to his behests.

"Leader Kim Jong Il will always be with us." "We will surely translate his will and desire into reality." This is what the young Koreans vow before his portraits.

Ju Jin A, an official of the Central Committee of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, told KCNA:

"Today I heard that leader Kim Jong Il spent his last days in the severest cold weather in decades. The fact that he devotedly worked for the happiness of our people, though he was out of condition, makes me feel my heart rent. But I will get over my grief and turn out in implementing his behests."

Ri Chol Guk, a section chief of the Central Committee of the youth league, said:

"I will fully discharge the mission as a member of guard detachment and death-defying corps of respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, always remembering leader Kim Jong Il's confidence in the young people."

Jo Jong Chol, a department director of the Central Committee of the youth league, said:

"We will have the leadership system of respected Comrade Kim Jong Un established within the youth league to encourage all its members to remain faithful to him and carry forward the revolution."

Mangyongdae People Lament over Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- An increasing number of residents in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, have gathered in front of the Pyongyang Circus Theatre to mourn the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Looking up to a picture of the leader with a broad smile on his face, the mourners wail over his passing away.

Han Yong Gum, a 51-year-old woman living in Konguk-dong, Mangyongdae District, told KCNA:

"As an inhabitant of Mangyongdae, the native place of President Kim Il Sung, I feel remorseful for having failed to show great devotion to leader Kim Jong Il as requested by the President."

Ri Tong Sun, an officer of the Korean People's Internal Security Forces, said:

"Some days ago, leader Kim Jong Il gave field guidance to the Kwangbok Area Supermarket. The supermarket is seen over there. The news of his demise came to me as a bolt from the blue. I can hardly believe the news.

I will resolutely defend respected Comrade Kim Jong Un by changing this sorrow into a hundred and thousand fold strength and courage."

Koreans Miss Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The Korean people, stricken with grief at the demise of leader Kim Jong Il, are sorely missing him.

Ryu Hyong Du, an officer of the Korean People's Internal Security Forces, told KCNA:

"Leader Kim Jong Il, born in Mt. Paektu during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, was a great man unprecedented in history. He devoted his all to the wellbeing of the people, going through many hardships, and ended his great life on train during his field guidance tour. I can hardly control my grief at his demise."

Jong Chol Ho, a teacher at Kim Il Sung University, said:

"Leader Kim Jong Il was born in Mt. Paektu in a severely cold day, a few years before the liberation of the country. It renders my heart sick to think of the great pains he took for the people. After providing solid foundations for the building of a strong economy, he passed away on train in a cold winter day.

We will remain true to the leadership of great Comrade Kim Jong Un in building a thriving socialist nation as desired by Kim Jong Il in his lifetime."

Kim Jong Il's Exploits Lauded by Beninese Party

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- We will invariably hold HE great Kim Jong Il in high esteem as honorary president of our party and always glorify his exploits in Benin and on the African continent.

The Socialist Party of Benin said this in a statement on Dec. 20 on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

The statement said that the members of the party which held him in high esteem as its honorary president share sorrow with the members of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people overcoming sorrow over the loss of the outstanding leader and wise teacher.

It expressed belief that all the Korean people would overcome sorrow and display strength and courage and thus more dynamically accelerate the cause of socialism under respected supreme leader Kim Jong Un and continue advancing in the van as a model for the world progressive people.

Meanwhile, Don Borrie, chairman of the New Zealand-DPRK Society, released a statement on Monday on the demise of Kim Jong Il.

Press Review

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The DPRK newspapers are still highlighting the news related to the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

The following are major news items illustrated by pictures of the newspapers Friday.

Officials and working people in the capital and localities of the country visit the bier of Kim Jong Il every day to express condolences.

The C.C., Communist Party of China, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, the State Council of China, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the CPC Central Military Commission sent wreaths to the bier of Kim Jong Il.

The Mongolian president sent a wreath to his bier.

Members of the Chinese embassy here laid a wreath before his bier and foreign guests expressed condolences to it.

Photos showing the revolutionary activities of Kim Jong Il, the genius of creation and construction.

Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a message of condolences from the C.C., Anti-Imperialist National Democratic Front.

He received messages of condolences from heads of state and party leaders of different countries.

The Vietnamese president sent a message of condolences to the DPRK National Defence Commission.

Photos showing the DPRK and the world mourning the demise of Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Un received a message of condolences from Jimmy Carter, ex-president of the U.S.

The UN secretary-general and senior officials of the UN Secretariat, the chairman of the C.C., Communist Party of the Russian Federation and other Russian personages, the vice-president of Laos and personages of Lao political parties and organizations expressed deep condolences and visited the DPRK embassies to mourn over the demise of Kim Jong Il.

Internet homepages were opened in south Korea to mourn the demise of Kim Jong Il.

South Koreans and overseas compatriots issued condolatory statements and called for dispatch of mourning groups.

Articles call for glorifying the DPRK as Korea of the sun for all ages under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, keeping the oath taken before the bier of Kim Jong Il with bitter tears.

Rodong Sinmun

In two days after the important report, a total of 43 929 000 people throughout the country expressed condolences over the demise of Kim Jong Il and hundreds of thousands of youth and students and working people have done patriotic deeds.

An article says that humankind will never forget the shining feats of Kim Jong Il.

Minju Joson

Poems "People of General Kim Jong Il, Rise Up" and "People, We Have General Kim Jong Un" are carried.

Kim Jong Il's Feats Eulogized

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The undying feats performed by leader Kim Jong Il in the cause of global independence will remain shining forever with the history. Kim Jong Il steered the cause of global independence to victory with matchless great ideas and leadership art. Rodong Sinmun Friday says this in a by-lined article.

It goes on:

He developed in depth the immortal Juche idea, the zenith of human thought, thus providing the most scientific revolutionary ideas and an invincible ideological and theoretical weapon to the world revolutionary people.

He authored many famous works including "On the Juche Idea," further developing and enriching the immortal Juche idea fathered by President Kim Il Sung.

He clarified with lucidity all principled requirements, tasks and strategies and tactics for developing the international relations on the basis of independence like the issue of the driving force in the struggle for global independence, the issue of boosting unity and solidarity among the anti-imperialist and independent forces and the matter of strengthening and developing the Non-Aligned Movement.

He was a world political elder who steered the cause of global independence to victory with his extraordinary leadership art.

His brilliant activities were mainly characterized by the fact that he consistently maintained the Juche-oriented stand of contributing to the cause of global independence by successfully carrying out the Korean revolution on the basis of organically combining the national duty of the revolution with the international duty.

His greatness found its manifestation in that he foiled the imperialist reactionaries' offensive against the DPRK with his Songun politics, thereby reliably defending peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the rest of the world and boosting the friendly ties with various countries of the world aspiring after independence.

Kim Jong Il, True Leader of Korean People: Russian Party Leader

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a condolatory message from S.M. Mironov, leader of A Just Russia, on December 21.

I, on behalf of A Just Russia and on my own behalf, express our deepest condolences on the sudden demise of leader Kim Jong Il, the message said, adding that he was the true leader of the Korean people.

It hoped that the Russian Federation and the DPRK would strengthen cooperation between the two peoples and work to ensure peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, in the future, too.

Kim Jong Un Is Mental Mainstay of Korean People: Bangladeshi Newspaper

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Bangladesh newspaper "Blits" Tuesday edited a special write-up titled "Respected HE Kim Jong Un is the mental mainstay of the Korean people."

The newspaper carried the following article with a picture of respected Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, standing on the platform of Kim Il Sung Square and a photo of him among servicepersons of the people's army.

The Korean people, who heard the report that leader Kim Jong Il passed away so suddenly to their profound regret, are now making loyal pledge for Kim Jong Un while turning the bitterest grief into redoubled strength and courage.

Today Kim Jong Un, great successor of the revolutionary cause of Juche and outstanding leader of the party, army and people, is standing in the van of the Korean revolution.

Kim Jong Un is the spiritual and ideological mainstay of the Korean people.

The Korean army and people will hold Kim Jong Il in high esteem forever as they did in the past and remain loyal to the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Korean Youths Display Noble Trait for Their Leader

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Youths and students of the DPRK have expressed with pure mind their unbounded reverence for the three commanders of Mt. Paektu after suffering the great loss of the nation.

Keeping back their bitter tears, millions of youths and students throughout the country are standing guards of honor by the statues and portraits of the three commanders in different parts, including leader Kim Jong Il's birthplace in the Paektusan secret camp, Mansu and Ryongnam hills, the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong and Jangdaejae Hill.

They have unanimously proposed to erect the statue of Kim Jong Il, the benevolent father, with serious repentance of their failure to do so as well as bitter grief at his demise.

Meanwhile, many youths and children are vying with each other to show their unsparing sincerity. Among them are junior youth league officials in Jagang and South Phyongan provinces, Hamhung and Munchon cities, youth sub-workteam members of the Sinam Co-op Farm in Ryongchon County and the Ryongbuk Co-op Farm in Yomju County and students of Sinsang Secondary School in Jongphuyong County.

Young employees at a machine factory in Jagang Province formed a shock brigade with their determination to carry out at any cost the project, entrusted to them by Kim Jong Il, and went to the construction site on Dec. 21 after taking an oath with bitter tears at the mourning place.

An increasing number of young people are volunteering to join the shock brigade with their resolve to contribute to completing the construction of the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station ahead of schedule. They included youth league members in Hamhung City and Pukchang County and at the Pyongyang Soju Factory.

Overcoming their sorrow, youths in different parts of the country are making a great improvement in production at their worksites to thoroughly implement the behests of Kim Jong Il.

Tens of young coal miners at the Anju Area Coal Complex formed a shock brigade and raised the speed of tunneling per day four times the previous one with guilty conscience that they failed to allay the pains taken by Kim Jong Il to solve the problem of coal production.

200 odd youths at the Chonnaeri Cement Plant have waged the production drive without shift since the day when the sad news of his demise was reported. They are now raising the daily production results 1.5 times the previous ones.

In the meantime the youths of the Pobdong County Garment Factory are carrying out their daily assignment 250 per cent.

Message of Condolences to Kim Jong Un from President of Myanmar

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a message of condolences from Thein Sein, president of Myanmar, Thursday.

The president in the message said it was great sadness that he has learnt the passing away of Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the WPK and chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK.

He extended deepest condolences to Kim Jong Un and to the government and people of the DPRK on behalf of the government and people of Myanmar.

South African President Mourns Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a message of condolences from South African President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma on Dec. 19.

The message said:

On behalf of the government and people of South Africa I wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea following the passing of His Excellency Mr. Kim Jong Il.

I wish to convey our heartfelt sympathy to you and your country on this tragic loss, and wish you strength in your bereavement.

Tanzanian President Expresses Condolences over Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a condolence message from Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, president of Tanzania, Monday.

The president in the message extended deep sympathy and condolences to Kim Jong Un and the Korean people on behalf of the government and people of Tanzania and on his own.

Kim Jong Il will be remembered as a leader who showed interest in Africa and will live as the great friend of Tanzania and Africa, the message said.

It expressed conviction that the DPRK will remain a reliable friend and companion of Africa under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Il and Red Flag

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The bier of leader Kim Jong Il is draped in the red flag.

The red flag is a brilliant symbol of his revolutionary faith and will to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche.

The red color denotes the precious blood of the revolutionary forerunners who brought a happy life today at the cost of their lives in bloody battles in the forest of Mt. Paektu and in the hard-fought war.

Kim Jong Il said it is none other than the red flag that we should hoist on the peak on the day of the victory of our revolutionary cause. When publishing his famous work "Socialism Is a Science," he said this was a proclamation that his idea was red.

When the song "Let Us Hold High the Red Flag" was completed, he noted the song fully reflects the red flag philosophy of our party and our faith, will and ideal.

He made sure that a red flag was depicted with granite at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery and glow was portrayed as red glow. His spiritual world represented the sacred one of the red flag.

He always led all the servicepersons and people along the road of creation and innovation and victory and glory at the helm of the revolution holding aloft the red flag.

"We are under respected Comrade Kim Jong Un."

"Let's accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche under the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un."

This is the conviction of future and oath the servicepersons and people manifested before the bier of Kim Jong Il, inspired by his red flag philosophy.

Children in DPRK Call Father Kim Jong Il Eagerly

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Nowadays children seem to be grown-ups.

This is what people would say in unison about the children grieving with adults at the great loss of the nation in the DPRK.

At the plaza of the Party Founding Memorial Palace where the portrait of leader Kim Jong Il with a bright smile on his face is displayed, kindergarteners were stamping with tears in their eyes and collections of juvenile stories in hands despite cold weather.

O Myong Hwa, 47, teacher of Pyongyang Munsin Kindergarten No. 1, earnestly told the portrait of the leader:

"The kings of the country, who are growing up only in happiness under your loving care, are wailing while eagerly calling you their father."

According to her, the books in hands of those children are what the leader sent to her kindergarten.

Kim Jong Il did and gave all things he could to delight the children all the time despite the claims of his Songun revolutionary leadership.

So, even kindergarteners are crying bitterly while making deep bows to the portrait of the leader, missing his great loving care that is much warmer than the love of all mothers in the country.

Coal Miners Boost Production

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Coal production is on the increase in the DPRK.

Workers in the field of coal industry overcame sorrow with strength and courage at a time when the whole country is overwhelmed with grief over the great loss to the nation.

According to information available from the Ministry of Coal Industry, the coal production showed a remarkable growth in the last three days.

Officials of the ministry proceeded to production sites to command operations.

Yun Ryong Hwan, 48, vice department director of the ministry, said at the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine that the workers there were in sky-high-spirit to implement leader Kim Jong Il's last instructions to boost coal production.

All the coal mines at the Suncheon Area Youth Coal Complex are conducting bold operations, giving priority to sequence drilling and blasting. Their daily production quotas are now being carried out at 170 per cent as compared with that in the past through the raise of efficiency of the coal faces.

The speed of capital tunneling jumped 1.4 times at the coal mines of the Tukjang Area Coal Complex.

Many coal mines at the Tokchon Area Coal Complex including Sochang Youth, Jenam and Namyang Coal Mines are focusing their efforts on giving full play to the existing production capacity.

Coal mines in Anju, Myongchon and Chonnae areas are overfulfilling their daily production plans while putting main emphasis on preparatory tunneling.

Coal miners across the country are working hard to send more coal to various fields of the national economy, fully confident that the cause of building a thriving nation is sure to triumph as it is led by Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Demise of Kim Jong Il, Greatest Loss to World Progressives: Indian Party Leader

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Prakash Karat, general secretary of the C.C., Communist Party of India (Marxist), visited the DPRK embassy in New Delhi on December 21 to mourn the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

He made an entry in the condolence book.

The demise of Comrade Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, is the greatest loss to the progressive people the world over, he said, adding:

The Korean people registered great successes in building a thriving socialist country under the energetic guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Il.

We are sure that they will overcome the sorrow and surely achieve brilliant successes in the efforts for building of a thriving socialist country and national reunification under the leadership of respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) will always extend support and solidarity to the WPK and the Korean people in their just struggle.

Condolences to Kim Jong Un from Emir of Kuwait

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Wednesday received a message of condolences from Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, emir of Kuwait.

The message said:

We heard the sad news that HE Kim Jong Il, leader of the DPRK, passed away.

We express our heartfelt condolences, sharing this sorrow with Your Excellency and the friendly Korean people.

Condolences to Kim Jong Un from President of Eritrea

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a message of condolences from Isaias Afewerki, president of Eritrea, on Thursday.

The message said:

It is with deep sorrow that I have learned the passing away of HE Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the WPK, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

On this sad occasion, I would like to express my condolences to Your Excellency and, through you, to the government and people of the DPRK.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Servicepersons Vow to Glorify Kim Jong Il's Exploits

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Servicepersons who are greeting the 20th anniversary of Kim Jong Il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, seized with grief at his demise, vow to glorify the great exploits he performed in his Songun-based leadership.

Kim Jong Il Always Alive in Hearts of Korean People

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The Korean people can hardly believe the sudden demise of leader Kim Jong Il as a reality. So they seem to communicate with him to express their inmost feelings the same way they did when he was alive.

Choe Hyang Ran, 31, work-team leader of the Indoor Swimming Pool of Kim Il Sung University, said after placing a bouquet before the portrait of smiling Kim Jong Il:

"How happy I would be if my presentation of all flowers in the country and the rest of the world would help me see again Kim Jong Il, his face beaming with a broad smile!

"We have been weeping bitterly for the last days before the place where he was seated, recollecting the tender-hearted leader who watched happy teachers and students during his visit to the swimming pool".

Kim Yong Nam, 47, artist of the Korean April 26 Children's Film Studio, said:

"All of us are sweeping snow in our compound and on roads leading to it from early morning, feeling that Kim Jong Il may enter our studio right now.

"We have spruced up our studio like a palace and prepared songs of best wishes for the leader but he passed away before appreciating them. We can never believe this."

Choe Kwang Ok, 26, told a reporter at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, in bitter tears with a newborn baby in her arms:

"My baby was born on the morning of the day our father Kim Jong Il breathed his last on a running train on his way of field guidance to mix with the people.

"He died at work after undergoing all sorts of hardships all his life to bring a happy future to the country. Has there ever been in the world such great popular leader as Kim Jong Il?"

"He did not pass away. He is always alive in the hearts of the happy children and in the hearts of all the people who have risen from sorrow to uphold the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Jong Un."

Condolences to Kim Jong Un from Namibian President

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Wednesday received a message of condolences from Hifikepunye Pohamba, president of the Republic of Namibia.

The full text of the message is as follows:

Your Excellency,

It is with a sense of deepest sorrow that I have learnt of the untimely death of the great leader, Comrade Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the National Defence Commission, who passed away on 17th December 2011.

Comrade Kim Jong Il will always be remembered for his distinguished and exemplary services to the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). He endeared himself to the people of Africa and all emerging nations with his steadfast commitment to their liberation and indeed to the struggle for freedom and independence of the oppressed people of Namibia.

During this sad moment of the people of the DPRK, allow me, on behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Namibia, and indeed on my own behalf, to extend to you and through you, to the people and government of the DPRK, our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Comradely yours.

Russian Statesmen Praise Kim Jong Il's Feats

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Statesmen of Russia visited the DPRK embassy in Moscow Wednesday to mourn the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

They included First Vice-Chairman of the Federation Council Torshyn and his party and Minister of Regional Development Viktor Basargin, chairman of the Russian side of the Russia-DPRK intergovernmental committee for cooperation in trade, economy and science and technology, and his party.

They laid bouquets before the portrait of Kim Jong Il and expressed condolences on his demise.

They made entries in the mourners' book.

Kim Jong Il devoted great efforts to the development of good- neighborly relations between two countries, Torshyn said, adding:

The Russian people will always remember his efforts and feats devoted to the development of the Russia-DPRK relations.

We are sure that the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation will continue to develop in the future, too.

Viktor Basargin expressed belief that the Korean people under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, would overcome the present sorrow and creditably carry forward the cause of Kim Jong Il.

Officials in Industrial Sector Vow to Continue Building Thriving Nation

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Four days have passed since Koreans were shocked to hear the news of the untimely passing away of leader Kim Jong Il.

People's sorrow over the loss of their leader grew throughout days.

Flow of mourners converged on Kim Il Sung Square where a huge portrait of smiling Kim Jong Il hangs.

Officials of the Ministry of Electronics Industry were interviewed by a reporter at the square.

Vice-minister Hwang Jong Sik, 61, said:

The great leader used to give valuable instructions to develop the national electronics industry.

We feel deeply regretful as Kim Jong Il died of heavy burden of work because we failed to work hard true to his lofty intentions.

We will make all our efforts and wisdom for the development of the electronics industry true to the leadership of Kim Jong Un as wished by Kim Jong Il.

O Jong Sun, 55, department director, said that history has never seen such a great man as Kim Jong Il who dedicated his all to the country and people standing hardships. We feel growing pangs of compunction of not having held him in higher esteem.

Kim Tok Chol, 44, head of shop at the Electronics Development Company, said:

Kim Jong Il promised us to come to see us, hearing that we have developed our own style laptop.

So we looked forward to seeing him at our worksite.

But we have received the sad news. How can we be told that we have fulfilled our obligation as his soldiers.

We feel deeply regretful.

We will overcome this sorrow and dedicate everything to the building of the thriving nation of Juche, his life-long desire, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Former Japanese PM Mourns Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Junichiro Koizumi, former prime minister of Japan, sent a consolatory message to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on Friday over the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

I express my heartfelt regret at the news of the sudden demise of Kim Jong Il, chairman of the National Defence Commission, he said in the message.

The message hoped that the relations between Japan and the DPRK would be normalized through comprehensive settlement of all problems.

Plenary Meeting of UNGA Mourns Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The participants in the plenary meeting of the 66th UN General Assembly on Dec. 22 mourned over the demise of Kim Jong Il, leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Nassir Abdul Aziz Al-Nasser, president of the UNGA, proposed to all those present at the meeting to express condolences over the demise of Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

The attendants paid one minute's silent tribute to the memory of the leader.

Chinese Residents in DPRK Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Chinese residents in North Phyongan and North Hamgyong Provinces of the DPRK visited the mourning places arranged in Sinuiju and Chongjin cities on Dec. 21 and

22 to express condolences on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Laid before the portraits of Kim Jong Il were wreaths in the name of the Chinese residents.

They observed a moment's silence in mourning for Kim Jong Il, who worked energetically for the prosperity of the country and the people's happiness and strengthening of the China-DPRK friendship.

They made entries in the condolence book.

Kim Jong Un Praised by AINDF Chief

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Jo Il Min, chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-Imperialist National Democratic Front (AINDF), visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace and observed a moment's silence before the bier of leader Kim Jong Il.

The vanguard fighters of AINDF and patriotic people in south Korea are finding it hard to repress their grief at the loss of Kim Jong Il who ushered in the heyday of independent reunification and peaceful prosperity, he said.

Kim Jong Il exerted his whole efforts to reunifying the country true to the behest of President Kim Il Sung, he said, adding his demise was like the bolt from the blue.

At this sad moment when mountains seemed to have changed their look and time stopped, the south Korean people are suffering from sorrowful pain, he said, adding:

Not only politicians, religionists, youths, students, workers and farmers but also housewives, the elderly and children are overwhelmed by the sad news.

These facts show the profound respect of the south Korean people for Kim Jong Il.

His demise is a tremendous loss to the nation and the bitterest grief of the humanity.

He, peerless great man, was like the sky to 70 million Koreans.

Thanks to his broad magnanimity and resolution and will befitting General of Mt. Paektu the historic Pyongyang summit could be provided and the June 15 joint declaration adopted.

The exploits performed by him by ushering in the new history of realizing the independent reunification with his unique Songun revolutionary leadership will be immortal.

The cause of national reunification is sure to be accomplished as there is Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, identical to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Secretary General of United Malays National Organization of Malaysia Mourns Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, secretary general of the United Malays National Organization of Malaysia, Wednesday sent a wreath to the DPRK embassy in Kuala Lumpur on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Committee to Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il Formed in Bangladesh

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- A Bangladeshi committee for mourning the demise of leader Kim Jong Il was formed with due ceremony in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the C.C., Workers' Party of Bangladesh, was elected chairman of the mourning committee.

The committee discussed matters to send a condolatory message to Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, make public statements and organize a memorial service.

Cambodian PM Pays Condolatory Visit to DPRK Embassy

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen Thursday visited the DPRK embassy in Phnom Penh on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

He was accompanied by deputy prime ministers who are concurrently ministers and the advisor to the prime minister for foreign affairs.

They laid a wreath before the portrait of Kim Jong Il and observed a moment's silence.

The prime minister wrote in condolence book:

We, on behalf of the government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, express most profound condolences to the fraternal Korean people who lost their leader in the demise of HE Marshal Kim Jong Il.

Hardly repressing grief at the demise of Kim Jong Il, the prime minister expressed belief that the Korean people would overcome the sorrow and display strength and courage, thus registering greater achievements in building a thriving nation.

Kim Jong Un Visits Bier of Kim Jong Il to Express Profound Condolences (Urgent)

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Friday visited the bier of leader Kim Jong Il again, carrying with him the

unbounded yearning of all servicepersons and people of the country for Kim Jong Il, and expressed profound condolences.

Brilliant Life of Great Revolutionary

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA)

Printed in Rodong Sinmun on Dec. 21, Juche 100 (2011).

[picture set]

Vietnamese, Russian Military Attaches Lay Wreaths before Bier of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The members of military attache offices of the Vietnamese and Russian embassies here presented wreaths to the bier of leader Kim Jong Il on Friday.

The wreaths in the name of those offices were laid before the bier of Kim Jong Il amid the playing of dirge.

The participants paid a silent tribute to the bier before going round it.

Lao Political Party Sends Wreath to Bier of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party sent a wreath to the bier of Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim Somlith Chindavong and a staff member of the Lao embassy here laid the wreath before the bier of Kim Jong Il at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace on Friday.

Great Leader Ushering in New Era of Juche-oriented Revolution

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA)

Printed in Rodong Sinmun on Dec. 22, Juche 100 (2011)

[Photo set]

Wreath to Bier of Kim Jong Il from Cuban Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- A wreath was sent by the Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba on the demise of Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

The wreath was laid before the bier of Kim Jong Il in the Kumsusan Memorial Palace by Military Attache of the Cuban embassy here Leonardo Perez Mesa on Friday.

Kim Jong Un Visits Bier of Kim Jong Il to Express Profound Condolences

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Friday visited the bier of leader Kim Jong Il again, carrying with him the unbounded yearning of all servicepersons and people of the country for him, and expressed profound condolences.

Wrapped in a solemn atmosphere was the mourning place of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace visited by an endless stream of servicepersons, people from all walks of life and world progressives to mourn the demise of Kim Jong Il.

His bier is bedecked with flowers and his body is draped with a red flag associated with his lifelong desire.

Seen in the mourning place was a wreath sent by Kim Jong Un.

He, overwhelmed with bitterest grief, paid silent tribute to the bier of Kim Jong Il who lies in state, together with senior officials of the party, state and armed forces organs, and went round the bier.

Then standing vigil by the side of the bier, he received servicepersons and people of all social standings of Pyongyang and local areas visiting the palace to mourn the demise of Kim Jong Il.

There were tears in the eyes of Kim Jong Un as he was looking at servicepersons and people weeping bitterly and calling Kim Jong Il in chocking voices.

The mourners expressed in humblest reverence condolences over the demise of Kim Jong Il, a peerlessly great man, father of all people and the sun of mankind.

Among the mourners were senior officials of the party, state and armed forces organs Kim Yong Nam, Choe Yong Rim, Ri Yong Ho, Kim Kyong Hui, Kim Yong Chun, Jon Pyong Ho, Kim Kuk Thae, Kim Ki Nam, Choe Thae Bok, Ri Yong Mu, O Kuk Ryol, Kang Sok Ju, Pyon Yong Rip, Jang Song Thae, Kim Jong Gak, Kim Yang Gon, Kim Yong Il, Pak To Chun, Choe Ryong Hae, Kim Rak Hui, Thae Jong Su, Kim Phyeong Hae, Mun Kyong Dok, Ju Kyu Chang, U Tong Chuk and Kim Chang Sop.

Mongolian Senior Officials Visit DPRK Embassy to Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Delegations of the state, the government and the People's Party of Mongolia on Tuesday called at the DPRK embassy in Ulan Bator to express condolences over the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

The delegations laid floral baskets before the portrait of Kim Jong Il and paid silent tribute.

N. Enkhbold, vice-chairman of the State Great Hural of Mongolia, said:

On behalf of the State Great Hural and the presidential secretariat of Mongolia, I would like to express deep condolences over the passing away of His Excellency Kim Jong Il.

I believe that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between Mongolia and the DPRK will continue to strengthen.

The vice-chairman of the State Great Hural, the advisor for foreign policy to the prime minister and a secretary of the People's Party, who were heading the delegations, made entries in the condolence book.

Servicepersons, Officials, Working People Pay Condolences to Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Men and officers of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces, officials of ministries and national institutions, officials and working people of North Phyongan, South Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces and former unconverted long-term prisoners visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace Friday to pay condolences over demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Amid the playing of dirge wreaths were placed before his bier in the name of units of KPA and KPISF, the Ministry of Fisheries, Taesongsan Guidance Bureau, State Hydro-meteorological Administration of the DPRK, the Mansudae Art Troupe, North Phyongan provincial condolatory delegation, South Hwanghae provincial condolatory delegation and Kangwon provincial condolatory delegation and former unconverted long-term prisoners.

The mourners paid silent tribute to Kim Jong Il, looking up to his noble image.

They hardened their iron faith and will to safeguard the socialist homeland of Juche as an iron wall and glorify the country with the single-minded unity of the army and people true to the Songun revolutionary idea of Kim Jong Il.

Officials and working people of ministries, national institutions and industrial establishments in the four pilot sectors of the national economy are visiting mourning sites set up in their units every day to pay respects to Kim Jong Il.

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Kim Il Sung Square Crowded with Mourners

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang is crowded with people mourning leader Kim Jong Il's demise on Dec. 23.

[Photo set]

Cause of Kim Jong Il Is Sure to Be Accomplished

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Leader Kim Jong Il is missed more ardently in the DPRK with the passage of time.

The history of the forced march made by Kim Jong Il for the people's happiness all his life records his dedication made during his trips to foreign countries.

It was for the good of people that he traveled by train at such high speed and had tight schedules for external activities baffling human imagination.

When he was visiting a country 10 years ago he rode for a long while along an avenue famous for traffic congestion in the world. He acquainted himself in detail with transport and its management, street formation, distribution of catering network, road marks, etc.

Possessed of love for people as his natural disposition, he examined a bottle of beer on the table during a banquet and asked for including a visit to its brewery in the program, skipping his short rest.

Having such strong desire to get people well fed and clad, he looked with keen attention at production processes at a bread factory, medicines at a pharmaceutical factory and even products displayed at a commercial center.

Such visits continued till late at night and did not cease despite rainstorm accompanied by typhoon at the speed of dozens of meters per second.

So reporters of that country said with deep emotion that he was the man of the greatest fortitude in the world. But they might not fully understand the loving care for his people underlying his perseverance.

Lots of buildings sprang up in the DPRK under his grand plans and new factories appeared or the existing ones were technologically updated to contribute to improving the standard of people's living.

A fashionable funfair was built at the foot of Moran Hill to gorgeously illuminate Pyongyang at night.

A modern street for people is springing up at a miraculous speed at the foot of Mansu Hill where the statue of President Kim Il Sung stands.

The Korean people grieve the demise of Kim Jong Il so bitterly as he passed away at a time when everything in the country turns more beautiful and highly civilized before the emergence of a thriving nation and at a historic juncture when the centenary of birth of Kim Il Sung is near at hand.

Standing before the portraits of smiling Kim Jong Il, people look back with deep emotion on patriotic dedication he made day and night.

Days and nights this grief-stricken month seem to hardly go by. World media are vying with each other to report the appearance of the DPRK rallied close around Kim Jong Il.

The world is recognizing leadership system of Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As long as he is at the helm of the Korean revolution, socialism in the DPRK remains undeterred and the cause of Kim Jong Il is sure to be carried forward and accomplished. This truth will be proved by history sooner or later.

Dispatch of Mourning Group to DPRK Called for in S. Korea

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The Council of Christian Churches in south Korea clarified it would send a mourning group on demise of leader Kim Jong Il, according to Yonhap News of south Korea on Dec. 23.

The council stressed they would make their utmost to have the group sent, adding they express their heartfelt mourning over the demise of Kim Jong Il, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission.

Members of the Kwangju City Assembly of south Korea Thursday issued a statement asserting it is their moral obligation to express condolences.

The statement said the present chief executive should express condolences and dispatch a government-level mourning group to the DPRK.

Russian Politicians Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Officials in Amur Region of Russia visited the DPRK construction company active in Blagobeshensk City on Dec. 20 and 21 to mourn demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

They included Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of the region, N. Sabeliev, chairman of the Regional Legislative Assembly and secretary of the Amur Regional Political Council of "United Russia" Party, and members of the assembly.

They paid silent tribute to the memory of Kim Jong Il after laying bunches of flowers before his portrait.

N. Sabeliev said:

The news of Kim Jong Il's sudden demise engulfed whole Russia in sorrow.

We are sharing the sorrow at this great loss with the Korean people.

Seeing the Korean people writhe in grief like children who lost their real father, we keenly felt once again what the single-minded unity is.

As chairman of the Regional Legislative Assembly I will keep to the last the commitments to cooperation, made by the regional government to Kim Jong Il, come what may.

Chinese Students Here Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The Chinese students studying at Kim Il Sung University visited the mourning site arranged at the university and expressed profound condolences over the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Liu Qian said in bitter grief that she is proud and honored to be an exchange student at Kim Il Sung University. "We have received deep loving care from Kim Jong Il while studying here for several years, she added. His great revolutionary feats will shine forever, she stressed.

Song Bin said in tears:

The demise of Kim Jong Il brought the greatest sorrow to the Korean people and this was the Chinese people's loss of another close friend.

I am convinced that Korean people will overcome this sorrow and display fresh strength and courage to accomplish the cause of building a thriving nation under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Li Zhuang said:

Kim Jong Il dedicated his whole life to the people's happiness.

"Though prominent statesman Kim Jong Il passed away, his august name will shine forever.

His revolutionary cause is sure to be accomplished as the Korean people are under Kim Jong Un

UN Officials Visit DPRK Mission to Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The president of the UN General Assembly and representatives of Russia, Venezuela, Nigeria and other countries at UN, visited the DPRK permanent mission at UN on Wednesday to mourn the passing away of leader Kim Jong Il.

They paid silent tribute in deep mourning for his demise.

Nassir Abdul Aziz Al-Nasser, president of the UNGA, wrote in the condolence book: I would like to express deep sympathy to the government and people of the DPRK that lost their leader. I wish for a rosy future to the DPRK and regional stability.

Supply of Fishes to Pyongyang Citizens Begins

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The supply of fishes to Pyongyang citizens began Thursday at this sad time of national mourning.

Leader Kim Jong Il worked heart and soul to supply the people with fresh fishes the year round while giving tireless field guidance to fisheries bases on the eastern and western areas, commercial service centers and related units during his lifetime.

Earlier this year he made sure that pollacks and herrings were supplied to the Pyongyang citizens. At sandfish season this November he instructed officials to swiftly catch sandfish and send them to the people.

On the evening of Dec. 16, just a day before his demise, he took a step for the fish supply.

Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of Workers' Party of Korea, made sure that special transport measures were taken and let officials in Pyongyang and local areas take charge of the supply in the field, saying the loving care of Kim Jong Il should reach the people as soon as possible even though it is a mourning period.

Officials and commercial service workers are now making sure that those fishes are supplied to every household in the city.

Salespersons and citizens burst out sobbing at fish shops in the capital city Friday.

Officials in the commercial service field in the city pledged their loyalty for Kim Jong Un, saying the history of loving care for the people continues and no people on earth are blessed with leaders and generals as the Koreans.

Fresh Fish Supplied to Pyongyang Citizens

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- While the whole country is seized with grief at the demise of leader Kim Jong Il, Pyongyang citizens are now struck with another story about his loving care for them.

Ri Chun Guk, a vice department director of the Pyongyang City People's Committee, told KCNA:

"From 10:00 this morning, shops in all districts have sold fish.

Leader Kim Jong Il, who had always been concerned for fish supply to Pyongyang citizens, took a measure for fish supply on the evening of December 16, a day before his demise.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who has been overcome with the deepest grief at his demise, took all necessary measures to truck fresh fish to the capital city in time and supply the fish to the citizens even in the mourning period."

Song Hye Yong, a 42-year-old woman living in Pothonggang District, said with a bag full of fish in her hand, "Leader Kim Jong Il is always with us as we have respected Comrade Kim Jong Un identical to him."

Kim Jong Hwa, a saleswoman of the Oesong Grocer's Shop in Central District, said she was much touched by leader Kim Jong Il's deep care for the supply of fish to people.

All of citizens are deeply moved by his deep care, she said.

Nepali Political Party Official Mourns Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- C. P. Mainali, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist), Thursday visited the DPRK embassy in Katmandu to express condolences on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

The general secretary laid a floral basket before the portrait of Kim Jong Il and observed a moment's silence.

He said:

It was with great shock that I heard the sad news of the sudden demise of Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and great leader of the world socialist movement.

I am sure that the revolutionary cause of Juche will be carried forward to completion in the DPRK and peace be ensured on the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the world thanks to Kim Jong Un who is reliably upholding the cause of Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Il will be immortal in the hearts of the world progressive humankind.

The general secretary stressed that he will make positive contribution to boosting the friendly relations between the two parties and the two countries.

Guinean Government Delegation Mourns Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Upon the authorization of Guinean President Alpha Conde, a Guinean government delegation led by Prime Minister Mohamed Said Fofana Wednesday visited the DPRK embassy in Conakry to express condolences on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

The delegation laid a wreath in the name of the president before the portrait of Kim Jong Il and observed a moment's silence.

The prime minister made an entry in the mourners' book on behalf of the president:

The fraternal Korean people lost the great leader HE Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and prominent statesman.

HE Kim Jong Il was the successor to the cause of HE Kim Il Sung, the father of socialist Korea.

At this moment of bitter grief, the president, government and people of Guinea express the most profound sorrow to the government and people of the DPRK and send them heartfelt condolences.

The prime minister hoped that the Korean people would achieve many successes in building a thriving nation under the leadership of HE General Kim Jong Un.

Russian Political Figures Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Political figures of Russia visited the DPRK embassy in Moscow on Dec. 20 and 21 to mourn the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Khristenko, secretary of the C.C., the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, and his party, Mozgovoi, first secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Soviet Union, and his party and Chilingarov, member of the Supreme Council of the United Russia Party and member of the Russian Federal Assembly, laid bouquets and paid silent tribute before the portrait of Kim Jong Il.

Khristenko expressed conviction that the Korean people would overcome sorrow and steadily advance along the road of socialism under Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Mozgovoi expressed belief that the Korean people would overcome a stern trial and the cause of Kim Jong Il would be steadfastly carried forward thanks to Kim Jong Un.

Chilingarov said Kim Jong Il was a universally recognized great state and political activist, expressing belief that the people of the DPRK would overcome all sorts of misfortunes and steadily keep to the road chosen by them.

Families of Chinese Related to Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Struggle Here

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Families of Chinese related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle arrived here Friday on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il. They included the family of Zhou Wei, daughter of Zhou Baozhong, the family of Feng Zhongyun and Chai Long, a great-grandson of Chai Shiying.

S. Korean Authorities Urged to Send Mourners' Group to North

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- The South Headquarters of the Pan-national Alliance for Korea's Reunification Friday held a press conference in Seoul on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il. At the conference it urged the authorities to send a mourners' group to the north.

The organization praised Kim Jong Il as a great man who adopted the June 15 joint declaration and the October 4 declaration.

It held that all Koreans should be allowed to mourn the demise of Kim Jong Il, chairman of National Defence Commission.

It also urged the "government" to form an official mourners' group and allow NGOs to send similar groups.

Russian Embassy Officials Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Russian Ambassador to the DPRK Valery E. Sukhinin and his embassy officials laid a wreath before the bier of leader Kim Jong Il on Friday.

Amid the playing of dirge, a wreath in the name of the Russian embassy was placed.

The participants paid a silent tribute in humble reverence to the bier of Kim Jong Il, who made immortal contribution to the development of the DPRK-Russia friendly relations and the human cause of independence, and went round the bier.

On the same day members of the EU mission for cooperation here laid a wreath before the bier.

Demise of Kim Jong Il Mourned in Benin, Malaysia

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Memorial services took place in Benin and Malaysia on Wednesday and Thursday on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Present there were members of organizations for friendship and solidarity with the Korean people, personages of all social standings and masses of relevant countries.

Speeches were made at the memorial services.

Hessou Kohovi, chairman of the Benin-Korea Amicable Association "Long Live Kim Jong Il, Supreme Leader", said:

The demise of Kim Jong Il is the greatest loss to the Korean people and the biggest sorrow for progressive mankind. It is unbelievable that he passed away all of a sudden.

Although his heart stopped beating, the undying feats he performed for the Korean people and progressive mankind will shine long.

His august name and tender-hearted image will always be remembered by mankind.

The rector of the Cotonou Institute of Journalism of Benin said that Kim Jong Il will be immortal thanks to Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The chairman of the Malaysian preparatory committee for commemorating the centenary of birth of President Kim Il Sung referred to the brief history of Kim Jong Il's revolutionary activities and undying feats.

He expressed conviction that the Korean people would overcome sorrow and display strength and courage, rallied close around Kim Jong Un, and certainly build a thriving nation, the desire of Kim Jong Il.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian preparatory committee set the period from Dec. 22 to 24 as a mourning period and decided to pay tribute to Kim Jong Il for one minute every day before starting work during the period.

Thai Cabinet Meets on Demise of Kim Jong Il, Decides to Hoist Flags at Half-Mast

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Thailand convened a meeting of the Secretariat of Cabinet Tuesday on the passing away of leader Kim Jong Il.

It decided to hoist flags at half-mast at all the government buildings, state-run business enterprises and overseas missions from Wednesday to Friday.

Americans Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- U.S. Rev. Billy Graham, Rev. Franklin Graham who is president of Samaritan's Purse, a non-governmental organization, and Robert Springs, president of Global Resource Services, a non-governmental organization, and his wife Babara Springs sent a floral basket and wreath to the DPRK permanent mission at U.N. Wednesday on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mexico State, requested the U.S. government to express condolences over the demise of Kim Jong Il.

He in a Tuesday TV show including ABC TV said the U.S. government should express official condolences to the DPRK.

Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Fighters Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where the bier of leader Kim Jong Il is placed and expressed condolences in the bitterest grief.

They entered the mourning hall in heartrending sorrow at the loss of the peerless patriot and the father of the nation.

The veteran revolutionary fighters have glorified their life on the road for the party, leader, country and the people enjoying longevity under the care of Kim Jong Il.

They observed a moment's silence in memory of Kim Jong Il, great and kind-hearted man who lies in state.

They broke into tears, thinking he might just get up, greet them with a broad smile on his face and ask about their health in a resounding voice as he used to.

Haeon Square in Wonsan Inundated with Mourners

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Many people in Kangwon Province gather in Haeon Square in Wonsan City to mourn the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

[Photo set]

Phyongsong People Lament over Kim Jong Il's Demise

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- People in Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province, lament over leader Kim Jong Il's demise.

[Photo set]

Railway Workers Vow to Increase Transport

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Employees of the Pyongyang Railway Bureau are determined to change their grief at the demise of leader Kim Jong Il into strength and courage to increase transport.

[Photo set]

Korean in U.S. Praises Exploits of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Jo Myong Ji, chairwoman of the Central and Southern Regional Association of Koreans in America, made public an article on Thursday over the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

The untimely demise of Kim Jong Il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, greatly shocked and saddened the whole world, the article said.

Listening to news bulletins conveying the sad news of the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il, we realized what great influence he had worldwide, it noted, and went on:

TV programs in the U.S. keep airing his image. They showed Kim Jong Il providing field guidance, the tenderhearted leader shaking hands of people to instill energy and courage into them, military parades demonstrating the powerful might of Songun politics and the people broking into cheers with pleasure and excitement, looking up to him. These scenes help the world people understand his personality.

Kim Jong Il devoted himself to the implementation of behests of President Kim Il Sung, the article noted, adding that he taught Koreans the awareness of national independence and paved the way for peaceful reunification through the June 15 joint declaration and the October 4 declaration.

Saying that Kim Jong Il enforced Songun politics, enabling the DPRK to emerge a powerful nuclear weapons state in the world arena and leading it to become the world's only country to stand up against the U.S., the article noted that such dignified diplomacy of Kim Jong Il was the pride and honor of the Korean nation.

The great exploits Kim Jong Il performed by consolidating the foundation for building a rich and powerful country through his dedication all his life will always remain shining in history, concluded the article.

Foreign Delegations and Guests Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross active in the DPRK, a fisheries representative of Russia, a delegation of the Friendship Import and Export Co. Ltd. in Jilin Province, China and other foreign guests staying in the DPRK expressed condolences to the bier of leader Kim Jong Il on Friday.

Seen beside the bier was a wreath sent by Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Amid the solemn playing of funeral music, wreaths in the name of delegations and delegates were placed there.

The guests paid silent tribute to the bier in humble reverence and looked round it.

They made entries in the mourners' book.

Meanwhile, members of a delegation of the Delixi Group Co. Ltd. in Dandong City and a delegation of the Aoxin Zinc Industry Co. Ltd. in Hebei Province of China and crewmen of Russian ship "Kapetankremen" called at mourning places at the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee and Hungnam Port on Thursday and Friday to mourn the demise of Kim Jong Il.

Message of Sympathy to Philippine President

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Friday sent a message of sympathy to Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino, president of the Philippines, as regards the recent flood that hit his country, causing heavy human and material losses.

Kim in the message hoped that the president and government of the Philippines would heal the aftereffect of this natural disaster as soon as possible and stabilize the life of the people in the damage-stricken areas.

Representatives of CCP Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Miroslav Stepan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, together with its Secretariat members paid a condolatory visit to the DPRK embassy in Prague to mourn the demise of leader Kim Jong Il on Dec. 22.

He said that the demise of Kim Jong Il who was deeply respected is a big loss to the Czechoslovak Communist Party and all its members.

He expressed deep condolences to the Korean people on the loss of the father of the Korean nation.

He expressed firm belief that the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people would accomplish the revolutionary cause of Kim Jong Il under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK.

He asked the embassy to lay a wreath in the name of the Central Committee of the CCP before the bier of Kim Jong Il.

Messages of Condolences to Kim Jong Un from Mexican Party Leaders

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Tuesday received messages of condolences from Jose Armando Rodriguez, chairman of the C.C., the Socialist Party of Mexico, and Jesus Antonio Carlos Hernandez, general secretary of the C.C., the People's Socialist Party of Mexico.

They in the messages expressed deepest condolences to Kim Jong Un on the untimely demise of Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the WPK.

They sincerely wished Kim Jong Un, outstanding leader of the party, army and people of the DPRK, good health and great success in his responsible work for leading the WPK and the Korean people in their revolutionary advance for building a thriving socialist nation.

Condolences to Kim Jong Un from Bangladeshi Party Leaders

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Tuesday received messages of condolences from Bangladeshi party leaders. They are Garib Newaz, president of the Bangladesh People's League and chairman of the Bangladesh

Self-Reliance Research Centre, Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Hasanul Huq Inu, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh National Socialist Party, and Dilip Barua, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist - Leninist).

In their messages they expressed deep condolences to Kim Jong Un and the WPK and the Korean people on behalf of their parties and on their own upon hearing the sad news that leader Kim Jong Il passed away to their great sorrow. -

Condolences to Kim Jong Un from Syrian Party Leader

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Tuesday received a message of condolences from Gassan Abdul Aziz Osman, general secretary of the Al Ahd al Watani Party of Syria and member of the Central Leadership of the National Progressive Front of Syria.

The message said:

We are sharing sorrow with you over the loss of a world leader who struggled for the country's dignity and the freedom of the world people upon hearing the sad news with great sorrow and to our profound grief that leader Kim Jong Il passed away.

We once again highly appreciate the feats performed by him in the struggle against the arrogance and hegemony of the imperialists and his efforts to maintain the best relations with the Al Ahd al Watani Party of Syria.

We wish you greater success in leading the friendly DPRK.

Wreath to Bier of Kim Jong Il from Lao President

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- A wreath was sent to the bier of leader Kim Jong Il by Lao president Choummaly Sayasone, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, on his demise.

The wreath was laid before Kim Jong Il's bier by Somlith Chindavong, Lao charge d'Affaires a.i. in Pyongyang, together with an embassy staff member Friday.

Condolences to Kim Jong Un from Pakistan PM

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, on Thursday received a message of condolences from Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani.

In the message the prime minister said he could hardly repress sorrow at the sad news that leader Kim Jong Il passed away. His demise is, indeed, a great loss to the Korean people, he said.

On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan and on his own, the prime minister expressed deepest condolences to the people and government of the DPRK.

Raul Castro Ruz Visits DPRK Embassy to Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA) -- Raul Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State of Cuba and president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, Thursday visited the DPRK embassy in Havana to mourn the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

He was accompanied by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla.

He observed a one-minute's silence after paying tribute to Kim Jong Il before his portrait.

He made the following entry in the mourners' book:

"I express deep condolences on the demise of Comrade Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, on behalf of the Communist Party of Cuba and the government and people of Cuba. His demise is an irrevocable loss to the Korean nation and the cause of socialism."

He courteously asked Kwon Sung Chol, DPRK ambassador to Cuba, to convey his condolences and greetings to Kim Jong Un, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK.

Saying that he visited the DPRK embassy to express condolences over the demise of Kim Jong Il, he continued:

I feel very sad that Comrade Kim Jong Il passed away. He demised too early.

Though he passed away, the Korean people are under Comrade Kim Jong Un, leader of the party, army and people, who successfully carries forward his cause.

I am sure that the Korean people will victoriously advance the cause of Comrade Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il under the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un.

He asked the ambassador to convey to the leadership of the DPRK the will of the Cuban party, government and people to steadily boost the friendly relations with the party, government and people of the DPRK in all fields and his wish to meet Kim Jong Un.