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Mother-of-pearl work “The Quds Mosque”

DPRK President Kim Il Sung received the gift from Yasir Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Commander-in-chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces, in April 1982.



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Today independence is the maxim of Juche Korea representing President Kim Il Sung's lifelong exploits, and the epitome of his great personality.

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Front Cover: At a Kimilsungia Show

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: An April spring day

Photo by courtesy of the KCNA

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Opening up the New History of Independence



**President Kim Il Sung acknowledges enthusiastic
cheers of the people in September 1988.**

INDEPENDENCE WAS THE LIFELONG revolutionary creed and practice of Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Origin of Independent Politics

President Kim Il Sung held fast to the principle of solving all problems in the interests of the Korean revolution, and adhered strictly to this principle in laying down political lines and adopting policies. Even now, the Korean people recall the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle in the early 20th century when the people's power was born in the guerrilla bases in the form of liberated zones.

At the time, the issue of political power was regarded as a matter to be taken up after the liberation of the country which was still in a state of colonial semi-feudal society, a matter actually feasible only in case of the restoration of national sovereignty. Kim Il Sung, however, saw the people's earnest desire to have their own political power even in the guerrilla base and lead a life worthy of man, and decided to build a government first in the guerrilla base before its establishment in the liberated Korea.

He was well aware that the desire of the Korean people, who were groaning under the cruel colonial rule and burdens of all forms of feudal relations, was to have democratic freedom and equal rights such as owning their own lands and living equally in the liberated homeland, and that the form of political power should not be socialist at the outset. He concluded that the form of political power for the Korean people should be broad-scaled to embrace all people who constitute the motive force of the revolution in serious consideration of the fact that the absolute majority of the people, regardless of their property status, including workers, peasants, intellectuals, petty bourgeoisie, and even national capitalists and religious men demand the country's independence and have vital interests in it.

According to the conception of the leader, the people's revolutionary government came into existence with the unanimous support of the Korean people. It became the model of the people's government to be established in the liberated homeland without losing its true nature as the people's power. At last, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was born in September 1948. After liberation he put forward the line of building a new Korea and the basic line of socialist economic construction giving priority to the development of heavy industry while simultaneously developing light industry and agriculture in due consideration of the Korean people's independent requirements and interests and the need of their steadfast implementation.

The lines and policies of the Korean revolution set forth by President Kim Il Sung were mostly associated with some localities or workplaces in the country. Taedong County and Samsok District are where he set forth the policy of agrarian reform; Wonhwa-ri and other rural villages are the places where he announced the policy of agricultural cooperativization; in Changsong he set out the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on making the most of mountains in the mountainous area; at the Juul Flax Mill he put forward the policy of let-one-machine-tool-beget-another movement; Pukchong is where he suggested the policy of laying out orchards in all areas of the country; and at a railway section of Tanchon the policy of railway electrification was proposed.

President Kim Il Sung led the revolution all his life by relying on the strength of the Korean nation with a conviction that self-reliance means the independence and Juche. His political creed was that one could win everything if one believes in one's own strength and advances by relying on that strength, but one could not make a revolution nor maintain life if one does not believe in one's strength but looks up to Heaven for help.

The Yongil bomb is recorded as a symbol of self-reliance in the history of the Korean revolution. Once the people in Jiandao made a plan to build a hand grenade factory in the guerrilla base and asked a neighbouring country for aid, but there was no reply from that country. Taking this incident as a decisive opportunity for cultivating the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance in the guerrilla army, Commander Kim Il Sung told all the fighters of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army and revolutionary masses to have the viewpoint that the decisive factor in advancing the revolution was to bring their own strength into action to the maximum and that help from outsiders was a matter of secondary importance.

He saw to it that arms were obtained by snatching weapons from the enemy and building their own arsenals. He invented a method of turning out bombs suited to the reality of the guerrilla base with gunpowder of their own making and encouraged the workers of arsenals to display revolutionary zeal, fortitude and creative initiatives. As a result, they produced bombs only with hand tools like hammers, files and bellows. The name Yongil bomb was a synonym of fear contrived by the Japanese imperialists frightened out of their wits by the bomb attacks of the anti-Japanese guerrillas in the Yanji area. This induced the guerrillas and people to awake themselves to their own great capability and resources in practice and to gain faith through practice that they were fully capable of shaping their destiny with their own strength. ►

► Later, self-reliance became the basic spirit and method in all spheres of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle from the building of party organizations, establishment of the people's revolutionary government and realization of the anti-Japanese national united front to the supply of food and clothing, provision of medical treatment and publication work. In this course, the philosophical axiom that if you follow the principle of self-reliance, you will live, and if not, you will perish, became the motto and soul of life.

This revolutionary tradition of self-reliance was later the spiritual staff in stepping up the whole process of the Korean revolution including the periods of postwar reconstruction and socialist construction.

Pioneering the History of Building the Independent State

President Kim Il Sung set up the spirit of national independence as the spiritual mainstay in building the state and thoroughly established it in all spheres.

In the latter half of the 1950s a high tide of socialist construction set in Korea. Embarking on the building of socialism which was regarded as an impossibility in the existing conditions at the time, the President kindled the flames of revolutionary upswing with a determination to implant the spirit of national independence in the minds of the people and carry on the struggle in Korea's own fashion on the strength of the people. Amidst the flames the Chollima movement was born. The movement was a manifestation of the independent spirit of the Korean people who were out to build a prosperous and powerful nation faster only by their own efforts no matter what the outsiders might say or what roads they might have come along.

At the Fourth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea the President stipulated the movement as the general line of socialist construction. Besides the Chollima movement, various types of mass movements were launched in all stages of the revolution and construction in Korea by rousing the spiritual force of the people and relying on it. On the strength of such movements, socialist construction made headway steadily and a radical change came about in the people's ideological life and thinking patterns.

In founding the DPRK, he laid down self-reliant defence as one of the main principles of building the independent state and paid the utmost attention to the development of defence capabilities. Taking up the work of founding and strengthening the country's own armed force as the central task in building self-reliant defence machinery, he propelled the work of

training military cadres as the core of the revolutionary military force. The Pyongyang School was the first personnel-training institution of Korea founded three months after liberation for the purpose of raising political and military cadres. The honorary rector of the school was Kim Il Sung himself. This shows that the cadre-training work was a matter of utmost concern for him.

He reared the Korean People's Army into a match-for-a-hundred revolutionary force fully equipped not only politically and ideologically but also militarily and technically. He then built up Korea into a formidable socialist power by founding a self-sustaining modern defence industry.

The invariable creed he adhered to in economic construction was that an attempt to build a powerful prosperous nation without economic independence was as good as trying to build a castle in the air, and that it was nothing but a daydream. The self-supporting national economy he had conceived and built up was a self-sufficient economy and a national economy in the service of the people.

The economy the Korean people took over after liberation was marked by colonial lopsidedness and deformity and, moreover, it had been wrecked out of shape by the defeated Japanese imperialists before running away, and the treasury they left behind was empty. Kim Il Sung set out on the path of building an independent national economy in spite of the unprecedentedly stern ordeals and difficulties, and pioneered the untrodden path by relying on the people's unlimited strength. He perceived scientifically the specific features of the economy and the law-governed process of the economic development and correctly laid down the strategic stages of building the material foundations, and wisely led the work of building the economy in Korea's own way according to the requirements of the Korean revolution and the will of the Korean people.

Giving priority to the growth of heavy industry while simultaneously developing light industry and agriculture was the fundamental principle President Kim Il Sung kept to all his life in the building of an independent national economy. In the mid-1970s, he met the editor-in-chief of French newspaper *Le Monde* on a visit to Korea. Answering his question, the President said that his greatest pride during the more than 30-year-long socialist construction was that an independent national economy was built in Korea, so the country was able to maintain independence and follow independent policies.

Today independence is the maxim of Juche Korea representing the lifelong exploits of the President, and the epitome of his great personality.

Ri Jong Nam

Along the Path of Independence, Self-sustenance and Self-reliant Defence

Independence Is the Life of the Nation

IN MID-NOVEMBER 1973, President Kim Il Sung met a delegation of the national executive council of the Zaire Republic.

Zaire, well-known as a raw material depot in the world, stood first in the deposits of uranium and led the capitalist countries in the output of industrial gem and cobalt. A colony of Belgium for more than half a century, this country gained independence in 1960, and the liberated people wanted to live on by their own efforts relying on their rich natural resources. Displeased with this, the imperialists incited the reactionaries to complicate the domestic situation of the country while applying pressure on and sanctions against the government of Zaire. This caused difficulties in the building of a new society.

When the head of the delegation told the President that they were aspiring to advance along the road of independence, Kim Il Sung supported him actively, saying that this is an age of independence when all peoples of the world wish for independence and that independence is the life and honour of the nation. He

continued to say that without political independence, national liberation would prove useless, that every nation claims national sovereignty and independence irrespective of difference in religious belief, and that all nations should struggle for the complete freedom, independence, peace and benefits of their people. If a nation was unable to defend its independence, they would remain helpless, he said, adding that all nations demand national sovereignty and peace to defend their independence and that there would be no national sovereignty and peace without independence. Speaking about the experience of Korea in building socialism and national reunification issues of Korea for a long time, the President said that as both Korea and Zaire were claiming independence, it was very important to unite on this basis, and that when they were united on the basis of independent thoughts, they could do everything.

Expressing his sympathy with the President, the head of the delegation said that while seeing all the successes achieved so far in Korea, he could clearly understand that the secret of all the successes lay in independence.

In the Spirit of Self-reliance

President Kim Il Sung visited the Kangson Steel Works in August 1953. Looking round the workshops lying in ashes destroyed by the brutal bombings of the US imperialists in the Korean war—demolished walls without a single brick remaining whole, tangled steel bars hanging from the naked roofs and broken electric furnaces—he looked gloomy in low spirits.

He asked the manager if they could restore the steel works though it was ravaged so severely. The manager answered that they were going to restore electric furnace No. 2 to begin with as it was a little better than other three furnaces which were razed almost entirely.

Approving his plan, the President proceeded towards the site of electric furnace No. 3 whose body was gone and its concrete foundation was in a mess. At the sight of the wretched scene, he stated that the Americans who had wreaked havoc like that were rattling that the Korean people would not be able to return to the normal state even in a hundred years and that therefore the steel workers should demonstrate the mettle of the Koreans once more. ►

► Then he went over to the blooming shop where all the equipment like the heating furnace, crane and hydraulic tanks had also been ravaged so badly by the brutal American bombings that the workshop itself was a heap of shapeless iron. He said that the workshop should be reconstructed without fail and that modern technology should be introduced in the reconstruction so that its production capacity might be raised to the maximum.

After a while, the President went up a low hill in the premises of the steel works. There he said that the steel works should be restored not to its old state but developed into a modern factory capable of producing various standards of steels, larger than that of the Japanese imperialist days. Coming down from the hill and proceeding to the steel workshop, he met soldiers working there for the rehabilitation of the steel works and told them to display the heroic spirit of the Korean People's Army once again in the rehabilitation work in the spirit they had demonstrated beating the US imperialists at the front during the war.

That day, he gave instructions that in spite of difficulties and bottlenecks cropping up in the rehabilitation work, the workers should not look to others for help, that it was not the right attitude of the revolutionary working class by nature to try to solve problems on the strength of outsiders, and that however hard the situation might be, they should thoroughly establish the revolutionary habit

of depending on their own efforts, not others' help, in solving all problems. Then, he encouraged them by saying that if everyone turned out with firm conviction, they would be able to rebuild the steel works by themselves and induced them emphatically to carry out the task by all means on their own resources.

First Step Towards Establishing the Self-supporting Defence Industry

One day in October 1945, Kim Il Sung in military uniform of the anti-Japanese struggle days went to the Phyongchon district in Pyongyang and inspected the former site of the Phyongchon ordnance factory operated by the Japanese imperialists before. After looking over the deserted precincts of the factory for a good while, he said that defeated and fleeing, the Japanese aggressors had destroyed the buildings and installations, and burnt up all the technical and business documents to keep Koreans from using the factory.

Acquainting himself with the actual situation of the factory, he said that the Korean people should build a new democratic Korea on the ruins, and above all, an ordnance factory without a moment's delay. He further said it was important in the building of armed forces to equip all the soldiers with modern weapons and military outfits, and that for this purpose, the armament industry should be established and

developed.

At that time, only over 40 days since the country's liberation from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists, the Korean people had no party or people's government, and were at a loss which way to go. The leader said to the officials that the Korean people had enough creative ability to build the armament industry by their own efforts. He went on to say that when the wrecked factories and iron works were reconstructed and put into operation, various kinds of equipment and materials could be provided for the building of the armament industry, and that the workers should study hard to acquire necessary techniques and knowledge.

Then he emphasized that when the Korean workers buckled down to the task with fixed determination, they would be able to make rifles, guns, tanks, automobiles and what not. When the Korean people became capable of defending their country, their national pride and self-confidence would be enhanced and they could build a new Korea still better, he said, adding with confidence that he was going to build an ordnance factory at the place and develop the armament industry of the country with the factory as a model.

This was how the leader designated the site of the first ordnance factory of the country in the Phyongchon district. He then wisely guided the construction of the factory and the production of weapons.

Kang Hye Ok

April Spring Friendship Art Festival



ter of culture of Mongolia.

President Kim Il Sung always saw their joint performances and had photos taken with them—this left a deep and indelible impression on all the participants as the acme of the festival.

The meaningful event returned even after the demise of the President in 1994.

At the 13th round of the festival held in 1995, Zikina Lyudmila Georgiyevna, a winner of the

THE APRIL SPRING Friendship Art Festival which takes place in Pyongyang has a tradition spanning over 30 years. It is an international event which is held in celebration of the birth anniversary (April 15, Day of the Sun) of President Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people.

The first round of the festival took place in Pyongyang in April 1982 to celebrate the 70th birth anniversary of the President.

Over the years the festival held under the motto of independence, peace and friendship contributed greatly to expanding cultural exchange and cooperation among artistes from many countries and promoting their friendship and solidarity.

In the past, it brought together more than 17 430 foreign and overseas Korean artistes of



over 1 850 art troupes, cultural delegations, inspection groups and supporters' organizations from a total of 1 090 countries. More than 2 770 famous stars participated in the festival and the spectators numbered as many as 2 436 000.

Hundreds of songs were put on the stage, which were created by lots of political and public figures who were neither poets nor writers, including a former President of Zambia, a former Vietnamese minister of culture, press, sports and tourism, and a former minis-

ter of culture of Mongolia. Lenin Prize, People's Actress of the Russian Federation and head of the Russian Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, sang a song of wish for the President's immortality, titled *He Is Still Alive*, with the image of the President displayed on the background. She also thanked Chairman Kim Jong Il who fulfilled their hope to sing a song of immortality for the sun at the spring festival.

Kim Jong Il saw to it that the festival became a traditional event and provided scrupulous guidance in all aspects of the fes-

► tival—designing of its flag, emblem and commemorative medal, creation of the festival theme song, invitation and reception of participants, organization of performance as well as the participants' stay and leisure activities so that the 13th round of the festival took place ever more splendidly in 1995.

Thankful for his wise leadership, a lot of prominent cultural figures and domestic and international prize winners flew to Pyongyang from all over the world and expressed their boundless reverence for the leader on the festival stage. At the 3rd round of

ever better under the guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. Their respect for him, who is making an immortal contribution to the building of a socialist power and the pushing of the cause of global independence by carrying forward the cause of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, is to be felt manifestly in the gifts presented by the festival participants.

The leader of the Academy Ensemble of the Internal Security Forces under the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs said on the occasion of their participation in the 29th round of the festival, “Our

Koreans presented more than 1 700 gifts of over 790 kinds to the President and the Chairman and more than 50 gifts of 25 kinds to the supreme leader.

During the festival there was held a seminar of the prominent scholars in the circles of culture and the arts of many countries on matters related to promoting the art of each nation. In the seminar they exchanged their achievements and experience in the development of their national art and discussed important problems to develop the art of mankind with joint efforts.

More and more countries, art



the art festival a Japanese violinist played the Korean song *I'll Be Loyal down through Generations*, and many artistic pieces were put on to express admiration for the leader. The head of an Italian art troupe conducted *Song of General Kim Jong Il* at the 15th round of the festival held in 1997, saying that Kim Jong Il was the defender of the security of the Korean nation and peace of humankind.

Today the festival participants are struck with admiration for the appearance of Korea changing

gift shows the symbol of victory, or God who defeats evil and prevents war. During our stay in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Un was elected First Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the First Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly, and our gift is well in accord with this great event, I think. Our earnest wish is to have the honour of having a performance in the presence of the supreme leader.”

Participating in the art festival, the foreigners and overseas

troupes and artistes take part in the April Spring Art Festival which comprises all fields of performing arts—vocal and instrumental music, dance and acrobatic, and the level of their performance grows higher and higher.

Amidst the expectation and concern of the Koreans and other peoples of the world, the festival is carrying on its proud tradition as prestigious festival dedicated to boundless reverence for the great men.

Rim Sang Jun

The Birth of a New Armed Force

IN HIS REMINISCENCES *With the Century* President Kim Il Sung recalled the foundation of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, the first revolutionary armed force of Korea. Following are the excerpts:

The spring of 1932 was turbulent with events that shook the world. After occupying Manchuria the Japanese imperialists rigged up the puppet Kingdom of Manchukuo through the reinstatement of Pu Yi, the last Qing Emperor who had been dethroned by the nationalist revolution led by Sun Yat-sen. The Japanese government-patronized mass media and the Chinese and Manchurian pro-Japanese publications chanted their praise of the kingdom, clamouring about the "concord of five nations" and the building of a "paradise of righteous government," whereas the progressive people of Asia and the rest of the world strongly denounced it.

But we who were in the Antu area preparing for the armed struggle did not listen to the rumours and conjectures; we were applying ourselves to military training....

Antu became the headquarters of the Korean communists who were forming the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army. Political workers and messengers from several counties along the River Tuman often came to Xiaoshahe to make contact with us. The news of our activities to form the guerrilla army in Antu spread from mouth to mouth

as far as the homeland. On hearing the news, young patriots in their early twenties from Korea and various parts of Manchuria flocked to Antu, at the risk of their lives, to volunteer for the guerrilla army.

But the Chinese national salvation army units often captured them on their way to us and killed them in groups.

At that time there were various Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese units in the northeastern region of China, such as the Northeast Self-Defence Army, the Anti-Jilin Army, the Anti-Japanese National Salvation Army, the Anti-Japanese Volunteers' Army, the Mountain Rebels, the Broad Sword Society, the Red Spear Society and so on. These nationalist armed units comprised patriotic soldiers who had broken away from the former Northeast Army to march under the banner of anti-Japanese national salvation after Japan's occupation of Manchuria, as well as Chinese government officials and peasants. These units together were known as the national salvation army.

They all regarded the Korean communists as stooges of the Japanese imperialists and the Korean people as having guided the Japanese army of aggression into Manchuria. They were prejudiced against the Korean people partly because the Japanese imperialists continued to drive a wedge between the Chinese and Korean peoples, and partly because the bad impression the Chinese people had received of the Korean people from the May 30 Uprising and the Wambaoshan incident was still vivid in their memory.

Without improving our re-

lations with the Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese units, it was impossible for our guerrilla army to survive and operate as a legitimate force.

Whenever we got together, we discussed over and over again how we should make our guerrilla army legitimate and how we should improve our relations with the Chinese nationalist army.

We maintained that we should not only improve our relations with them but also form a united front with them because we firmly believed that these units, in spite of their various limitations, could become our strategic ally in the anti-Japanese war as we shared common fighting objectives and a similar situation.

The guerrilla units in the various counties at that time were small in size; there were only a few dozen guerrillas in each county. They were in danger of being annihilated if captured by the Chinese nationalist units, so they could not expand their ranks even if they wanted to.

In the light of this I wondered if it would not be a good idea for our guerrillas to join Commander Yu's unit and operate as a special detachment of it for a period.

We had a day-long meeting on this question at Kim Jong Ryong's house in Xiaoshahe, where the headquarters of the party organization was situated. It is now called the Xiaoshahe Meeting.

The meeting decided to dispatch a delegate to Commander Yu's unit to negotiate with the Chinese national salvation army unit, and I was singled out as the most suitable person for the job. To be more precise, I volunteered, ►

▶ rather than being chosen by my comrades.

Thanks to the successful negotiations with Commander Yu we were able to make our guerrilla army legitimate and have an ally in the war of resistance against the Japanese imperialists. The success also gave us the belief that in the great, patriotic cause we would be able to form a united front with the nationalists of another country who had a different ideology and different ideals.

After forming the special detachment we pushed ahead with preparations for expanding and reorganizing it into the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army as soon as possible.

The organizational structure was established after a wide-ranging discussion. Some comrades were very apprehensive of the small number of people of working-class origin in the guerrilla army. An investigation into those 100 men applying to join showed that most of them were students or peasants.

I explained ... that, although the general principle of Marxist-Leninist military science regarded the industrial working class as the main component of a revolutionary army, there was no need to apply this principle mechanically. Although the industrial working class was relatively small in our country, with peasants accounting for the overwhelming majority of the population, I said, we could not postpone the formation of the guerrilla army until the number of workers had increased. I told them that the peasants and students in our country had as high a revolutionary spirit and as strong a national spirit as the working class, that it would be good if people from different backgrounds fought with the ideol-

ogy of the working class, and that the preponderance of peasants and students in the revolutionary army would not cause the army to degenerate.

In establishing a command system we did not regard the existing formula as absolute. We defined the organizational structure in such a way as to increase the combat strength to the maximum and to keep the number of commanding officers to the minimum to suit the characteristics of guerrilla warfare. In short, we made the command system as simple as possible. We did not maintain a supply department or a supply officer. We ensured that everyone was able to cook, launder, fight and, if necessary, conduct political activities.

The Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army was formed with the company as the basic combat unit. I was elected commander and concurrently political commissar.

Uniforms for the army were made from cloth dyed green in water and boiled oak-tree bark. A five-pointed piece of red cloth inscribed with the company number was worn on the left breast of the tunic. We were to wear caps with a red star insignia and white leggings. Our hearts swelled as we prepared the design of the uniform, the finishing touch to the formation of the guerrilla army.

In the second half of April 1932, we held a meeting to finalize the preparations for the formation of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army in Antu. The meeting discussed the date and place of the inauguration of the guerrilla army along with the final screening of the applicants, defined the area of its immediate activities and adopted general measures related with the activities of the guerrilla army.

On the morning of April 25, 1932, we held the founding

ceremony of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army on the tableland at Tuqidian. The guerrillas, dressed in their new uniforms and with their guns on their shoulders, lined up in unit order in the clearing on the tableland surrounded by larch trees, and the people from Xiaoshahe and Xinglongcun were buzzing, as they stood in a group at one edge of the clearing.

When looking at the fresh, sturdy soldiers, my mind was flooded with surging memories. How many miles our comrades had walked, how many meetings they had held, how many speeches they had delivered, how many rugged mountains they had trekked, and how many comrades had laid down their lives in the course of forming this armed force! The Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army was a priceless creation of our revolution, born of superhuman efforts, a bloody struggle and sacrifice.

Feeling an irresistible urge to summon all the comrades and people who had sacrificed themselves for this day to this tableland at Tuqidian, I made a speech, with strong emotion bursting out of my heart.

As I proclaimed the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, the soldiers cheered at the top of their voices and the people applauded them enthusiastically.

On May Day, the militant holiday of the working class of the whole world, the AJPGA entered the county town of Antu with the red flag flying in the van and marched in parade, while blowing trumpets and beating drums.

Later guerrilla units were formed in Yanji, Wangqing, Hunchun, Helong and other parts of east Manchuria.

The spring of 1932 advanced with the rumbling of the gunfire of the great war against the Japanese imperialists. ◻

Songun Politics Elevates Korea's Strategic Status



IT IS AN INVARIABLE philosophical principle of history that if a nation does not have the power to defend itself, it will end up in ruin and break to pieces.

The Korean people learned this through their experiences. In retrospect, Korea, for its geopolitical position of being the gate to and bridgehead of the land mass, was something to be traded and scrambled for by the imperialists for a long time. The people were driven into the vortex of war mingled with blood and tears, and they could do nothing about the ruin of their country with their national dignity and pride trampled down mercilessly.

But that's a thing of last century for the country. Korea is neither a small country whose potentials are to be judged by territorial space, nor it is an ordinary nation which is to be easily shaded by the great powers and

their influence.

The historic position of the country has changed completely. Single-handedly coping with the intense pressure from the allied imperialist powers, it has risen to the status of a nation that can manufacture and launch artificial earth satellites, and a military giant that has got even H-bombs. This is just an inevitable product of Songun politics.

In Korea the history of Songun began with the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized by Kim Il Sung early in last century. Songun-oriented politics was further developed in a comprehensive way by Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The Korean people still vividly remember the mid-1990s when their revolution was faced with grave trials and difficulties. At that time the imperialist forces intensified their vicious moves of aggression and war against Ko-

rea, tightening economic blockade in all directions to stifle the country. To make matters worse, the Korean people suffered catastrophic natural disasters for several years, and the shortages of food, power and fuel were the most serious challenges. So, the Korean people had to undergo the time of the Arduous March and the forced march.

In those historic days Chairman Kim Jong Il made a conclusion that the fate of socialism, the country and the people rests all on Songun, and that the pursuit of Songun represents the supreme patriotism. He started his work for the year of 1995 by inspecting the Dwarf Pine Post on January 1 and continued his journey of the Songun-based revolutionary leadership. Pushing the People's Army to the fore as the main driving force of the revolution and the pillar of the country the Chairman saw to it ►

► that the People's Army stood in the van of solving all problems arising in the patriotic struggle for the nation.

Noting that the army is one of the three pillars of the Korean revolution along with the Party and the State he put much emphasis on thorough political and ideological preparation of the People's Army and took warm care of the servicepersons, regarding them as part of his own family and his revolutionary comrades-in-arms. In the course of this the Korean People's Army grew up into powerful combat forces in terms of ideological and mental preparedness, strategic operational capacity, training and equipment. It could also successfully perform the role of not only the defender of the country but also the creator of the people's happiness and the shock force in building a thriving nation.

The Chairman took resolute self-defence measures in order to safeguard the supreme interests and sovereignty of the State, the lifeline of the country and the people. He consistently maintained Songun in the showdown with imperialism headed by the US. In the early 1993 the extreme moves of the US and its followers to isolate and suffocate the DPRK made the latter to make a choice of crucial importance, that is, confrontation or compromise with the US-led allied forces of imperialism. Because it was the confrontation where there was a huge imbalance of power between the DPRK and the US—the US has a population 10 times larger than the DPRK while its territory is 78

times greater and, in terms of military expenditure, 150 times higher. Worse still, Korea had to fight singly with the world's allied forces of imperialism with a huge nuclear arsenal.

In the showdown with the enemy Chairman Kim Jong Il made a decision to stoutly counter it with arms. He issued the order of Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army on declaration of the semi-war state. And it was followed by the country's declaration on its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to cope with the imperialists' threat of nuclear war. As the US's threat of nuclear war and moves of sanctions and pressure were going to extremes, driving the situation to the worst crisis, the DPRK had no other choice but to choose the road of strengthening its own self-defensive nuclear deterrent. The Chairman, holding high the banner of Songun, made every possible effort to increase the nation's self-defence capabilities.

On October 10, 2006 the Korean Central News Agency made a report on DPRK's safe and successful underground nuclear test done on October 9, and the second underground nuclear test was carried out successfully in May 2009. The country succeeded in the third underground nuclear test in February 2013 and the first H-bomb test in January 2016. The complete success in nuclear tests based on the nation's own wisdom and technology was a historic event which gave boundless courage and joy to the Korean people who had yearned

for a powerful self-defence capacity and a thriving nation from generation to generation. As it has achieved the status of a nuclear state, the 5 000-year-old history of the nation has changed dramatically, and there came a breach in the existing world political structure with the nuclear powers at the centre. Now Korea is able to cope with the US with force.

Songun politics is in its heyday today. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, as Supreme Commander of the KPA, is vigorously pushing the cause of building a thriving socialist nation by dint of the Songun-based revolutionary leadership, true to the intentions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. Last year alone, the country conducted the first H-bomb test, test-firing of various means of strike and a nuclear warhead test successfully to cope with the imperialists' nuclear war threats which were growing more wicked day by day, and briskly developed state-of-the-art military hardware. This provided a powerful military guarantee for defending the destiny of the country and nation and victoriously advancing the cause of building a powerful socialist country.

Through today's brilliant reality where marvellous successes are made one after another the Korean people keenly feel the great fruition of Songun politics and renew their determination to add lustre to the Songun Korea.

An Chol Ho

In Support of War for Liberation of Northeast China (2)

Establishment of Revolutionary Base

IT WAS IN 1946 THAT THE Communist Party of China made the first step in its effort to lay a base in Northeast China. Much earlier, that is, in the autumn of 1945 the commanding officers and men of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA), dispatched to the region in September that year, were already busy with the creation of the base in accordance with the strategic plan designed by Kim Il Sung, the leader of the new Korea.

Kim Il Sung saw the organization of an army as the foremost task in creating a base in Yanbian. In view of the essential requirement of the revolutionary struggle and in consideration of the experience he had gained in his protracted warfare against the Japanese imperialists, he paid primary attention to the work of the Korean military and political cadres dispatched to Northeast China in assisting the Chinese in forming armed units in the base. Recalling the time, Tang Tianji, the then political commissar of the Jidong Branch Military District, wrote: "As instructed by President Kim Il Sung, the Korean comrades, together with us, set up the Jidong Security Command (later reorganized into Jidong Branch Military District) in Yanji with Kang Sin Thae (Kang Kon) as the commander, and dispatched competent commanding officers to different counties and important areas to organize security regiments. Commander Kang was personally in charge of the task in Yanji, Pak Rak Gwon and Kong Jong Su in Longjing and Helong, Choe Myong Sok (Choe Kwang) in Wangqing, Im Chol in Tumen, O Juk Sun in Mingyue-

gou.

"Taking advantage of the rising revolutionary enthusiasm after Japan's fall, garrison forces grew up rapidly in different places, and the most striking of them was the Longjing security regiment whose strength rose sharply from some hundreds in the early stage up to as many as 3 000. This is attributable to the awakening and mobilization of the Korean youth by Jon Yun Phil's underground organization members through energetic activities under Pak Rak Gwon's command. (They had been under the control of the guerrillas from before Japan's defeat.) And this is the outcome of Kim Il Sung's foresight into the situation in Yanbian."

While building up armed units, the KPRA military and political cadres established the Jidong Military and Political Academy in Yanji in early January 1946 in order to train military and political officers needed for the armed units. The school was to turn out young military and political cadres not only for the Yanbian area but also for the whole Jidong region. The post of commandant was concurrently assumed by Kang Kon.

The academy admitted around 500 best young Koreans and Chinese for a batch. It was renamed into Jilin Branch of the Northeast Military and Political Academy, and trained over 3 700 officers over the whole years of the war for liberation of Northeast China, and 2 520 of them were Koreans, who made a great contribution to the victory in the war to liberate the northeastern region and the whole of China.

True to Kim Il Sung's instruction to pay due attention to the organization of paramilitary groups as well as regular armed

units, the Korean mission formed paramilitary organizations of various names in different places in the Yanbian area with individual places and organizations as unit. As many as 120 000 young Koreans joined paramilitary groups like the security unit and militia.

When powerful units were formed in the Yanbian area as the first step in the effort to build up a solid base, other areas followed suit. Around the time thousands of young Koreans in North Phyongan Province, Korea went over to China and joined Ri Hong Gwang-led detachment according to Kim Il Sung's instructions. (This unit later became the Fourth Separate Division of the Northeast Democratic Allied Army before integrated into the Chinese People's Liberation Army as its 166th Division. In July 1949 they returned to Korea to join the Korean People's Army as its Sixth Division.)

Korean battalions were organized in county seats with a large Korean population, typically in Jiaohe and Shulan. Many of the Korean communities in Northeast China had active armed units.

Scores of years later, remembering his comrades-in-arms of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army in his reminiscences *With the Century*, President Kim Il Sung wrote that in the northeastern region of China as many as 250 000 young Koreans, including Kang Kon, Pak Rak Gwon and Choe Kwang, who were veteran military and political cadres of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, were engaging themselves in the war to liberate Northeast China.

Dispatching military and political cadres to the northeastern region of China, Kim Il Sung assigned them the tasks of form-

► ing mass organizations to suit local conditions and the preparedness of the people there and giving help in the work of establishing the united front to rally all the democratic forces.

According to his instruction, the delegates carried out an active campaign to set up local organizations of the Communist Party.

Kang Kon formed the Yanbian Party Committee first of all and worked as its founding secretary. The activities of the Communist Party of China in the Yanbian region had been almost in paralysis by around September 1945, but they began to get vigorous with the formation of the Yanbian Party Committee by the KPRA military and political cadres under Kim Il Sung's instructions.

The newly built mass organizations also played a big role. The most important was the Yanbian Grand Democratic Alliance organized by Kang Kon. Referring to the role and achievements of the alliance, Zhou Baozhong, the then deputy commander of the Northeast Democratic Allied Army and concurrently commander of the Jilin-Liaodong Military District, said in his address to the Jilin provincial national affairs assembly in December 1946: "The Yanbian Grand Democratic Alliance with more than 150 000 members was organized under the guidance of the Yanbian Provisional Party Committee headed by Kang Sin Thae, and 99 percent of the membership was Koreans. The Jilin Provincial Democratic Federation was also formed with Hwang Jae Dong, Ryang Hwan Jun and other Korean comrades at the core according to the instruction of Wang Xiaoming, Li Weimin and other leaders of the Jilin City Committee of the Communist Party of China. The Yanbian alliance played the decisive role in the struggle for founding the armed forces, reorganization of the government, acceleration of the liquidation campaign, land reform, purge of the Kuomintang spies and bandits, aid to the front

and other purposes. In its early period it assumed the role of the substantially functioning government. Its historic role and achievements shall go down in history forever."

To deal with the economic matters was no less important than founding the army, establishing the Party and government bodies and forming mass organizations in the effort to develop a strong revolutionary base in the Yanbian area. From this point of view, Kim Il Sung told the military and political cadres to give active support for the earliest possible land reform in the Yanbian area so as to relieve the peasants from the feudal fetters.

True to his instruction the KPRA veterans carried out a land reform in the area by building on the experience they had gained in the struggle to enforce the land reform in the liberated guerrilla bases in the Tuman River basin in the first half of the 1930s under the leadership of Commander Kim Il Sung and later in the post-liberation struggle for land reform in the homeland in March 1946. Having been allotted land the peasants made up their mind to devote themselves to the cause of the Communist Party and the people's government. They turned out actively to build up the base and joined the armed units ahead of others.

The KPRA cadres, in close cooperation with the Chinese communists, took over railways, factories, enterprises, banks, post and communications facilities in the Yanbian area and declared them as the people's property. By mobilizing the armed groups and revolutionary organizations they made sure those gains were kept safe and secure.

The Korean revolutionaries also gave active assistance to the effort to make education democracy-oriented and establish a college in the Yanbian area. Thanks to their endeavor, the number of primary schools grew by 16.1 percent and that of pupils by 34 percent by the year of 1949

compared with the time of the Japanese imperialists' rule. Meanwhile there were 31 middle schools at work, 28 of them being for Koreans. The schools enrolled 13 797 children, and 91.7 percent of them was Korean. Compared with the time just before the fall of the Japanese imperialists the number of middle schools grew by 72.2 percent and the number of their students by 88.5 percent.

The Yanbian University was established in Yanji in 1949, which was the first university of the minor nationalities in China. The birth of the university brought a great pride and honour to the Koreans.

Great attention was directed in the Yanbian area to the abolition of human traffic, prostitution and concubine-keeping system, which was an important task for democratic reform.

With these changes the area became further revolutionary and the local base turned more fortified.

The Yanbian base built up as instructed by President Kim Il Sung turned out to be an impregnable bulwark against the Kuomintang forces' military offensives and economic blockade. Its survival led to victory in the war for liberation of Northeast China.

Such being the history, Chinese books write that the Yanbian area rose as bulwark of the revolution with the establishment of the revolutionary armed force, the Party and government bodies and mass organizations which were all attributable to President Kim Il Sung's concern and strong assistance. Yanbian was a stronghold for the Communist Party of China and the people in their struggle to liberate the war-torn northeastern region from Chiang Kaishek's yoke.

The people in Northeast China say that the pioneer of the struggle for establishment of the Yanbian base was the Korean military and political cadres dispatched by President Kim Il Sung. □

Mother of Korea

THE KOREAN PEOPLE laud Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as liberator of their country from the Japanese military occupation, the father of the nation who brought genuine freedom and happiness to them, and sun of the nation.

His mother is Kang Pan Sok, an outstanding leader of the women's movement in Korea.

Kim Il Sung said:

"The love she showed me was not simply motherly love. It was true revolutionary affection with which she regarded me as the son of the nation rather than her own son and awakened me to the need to give priority to loyalty to the country over filial piety towards my parents. Her whole life served as a textbook for me in implanting in me a true view on life and on the revolution."

Kang Pan Sok educated her children from their early years in hatred for the Japanese imperialists who were occupying Korea, and love for the beautiful land of Korea, avoiding simple motherly care for them. In particular, she taught her first son [Kim Il Sung] from his early age to have a great mind of loving his country and hating the Japanese imperialists. In the morning and evening, she often took him to the Mangyong Hill and Sunhwa River where she told him about the beautiful mountains and rivers of the country and the time-honoured history of the Korean nation to implant a patriotic spirit in him, and sang songs for him on the swing, hoping that he would



do a great thing for national independence in the future.

As he received such education in patriotism from his mother, he, at an early age, wrote the words "Korean independence" with a brush, exciting the people's admiration.

In March 1923 her husband Kim Hyong Jik, an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement in Korea, told Kim Il Sung, 11, to return to Korea alone to have a good knowledge of Korea. It would be a long trek covering as many as 250 miles, but Kang Pan Sok did not hesitate to set her young son on the journey.

Many years later Kim Il Sung founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army on April 25, 1932. Soon the leader planned to go on the first south Manchurian expedition with his guerrillas. Before leaving for the expedition, he visited her

mother at home in Xiaoshahe bringing with him a bag of hulled millet. That day he was too anxious for his sick mother to leave the village. So, he roamed around the house for a good while. At that time his mother scolded severely: How can a man who has turned out with a determination to win back his country cope with the great cause when he has such a weak heart and so many worries about his home?... You must think of your lost country and its people rather than worrying about household affairs. You should set yourself a high aim and stride ahead.

Her words of the day were a valuable instruction which awakened him to the idea that a revolutionary should work hard to accomplish his aim alone to the end without vacillating to simple human affairs or any other attractions.

Recollecting the day, Kim Il Sung wrote:

"At that time I first saw as her son the stout and noble image of my mother alive with a sense of justice and radiant with ardour. She looked as though she would be burnt to a cinder in the flames of her fiery sense of justice and ardour. Until then I had believed I knew my mother, who had born and brought me up, well. But my mother with her noble spirit and soul was now looking down at me from a height beyond my reach. Her image at that time was more of a teacher than of a mother. I felt so happy that my heart seemed to burst with pride in my mother who was so excellent and so kindhearted."

That day Kang Pan Sok gave ►

WPK's Climate

MAKING SELFLESS, devoted efforts for the good of the people is just the way of existence of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and its revolutionary climate. It is also the basic character of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the WPK, rather than his duty.

It is well known that when he was beginning his career as the supreme leader shedding tears of blood over the unexpected loss of Chairman Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un made the sincere request to give the highest and absolute priority to the people, and implanted in the officials the profound principle of **"Let's serve the people"** by writing it himself.

In October 2015 the National Association of the Korean Residents in the US homepage posted the following article:

"Can any party in the world claim to be a true popular party with time-honoured history? In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) WPK First Chairman Kim Jong Un proudly stressed, in his speech given in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the WPK, that the WPK is an invincible one that has achieved unity with the masses of the people. Closing his

speech, he appealed, **'Let us all make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of our great people,'** and shouted, **'Long live the great Korean people, united single-heartedly around the invincible party, the Workers' Party of Korea!'**—this is just the political creed of the supreme leader of the DPRK, and the source of north Korea's might that no up-to-date weapons including nuclear weapons can break.

"As they have him as their leader, their future is as wide open as the ocean. Under the assured leadership of the WPK that serves the people with devotion, the north is now advancing with dignity along the untrodden path of people-centred socialism that no other nations have ever tried to go."

Last year was a period full of the people's happiness thanks to the ennobling care of the supreme leader who spares nothing for the people and works single-heartedly for the people. In his New Year Address 2016, he instructed the officials to become true servants of the people and competent leading personnel of the revolution who make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people with the ennobling view of life that they have nothing more to wish for

even though their bodies may be scattered like the grains of sand on the road for the good of the people. Then he immediately went to the inauguration ceremony of the Sci-Tech Complex, a great house of learning for all the people in the 21st century, and cut the tape.

His revolutionary activities officially reported last year amount to one hundred and scores of items.

In September last year some areas in the northern part of Korea were devastated in a sudden disastrous flood. Having heard of the news, Kim Jong Un saw to it that the main thrust of the 200-day campaign was changed to the efforts for recovery from the flood damage, saying that his dear people were left homeless, and that there was no emergency greater than their pain and no more important revolutionary work than the work of alleviating their misfortune. Stressing the need to save the inhabitants in the affected areas from the imminent rigours of the cold winter even if it would cost the whole wealth of the country, he saw to it that the primary efforts were directed to the construction of dwelling houses through general mobilization and concentration of

her son 20 *yuan*, saying that a man had to have money in his pocket in case of emergency. It was what she had saved penny by penny when she had to support her family despite her serious illness. Kim Il Sung knew it was associated with the deep and warm love and desire of his mother who wanted to be always with his son and help his revolutionary work. (Later the President spent the 20 *yuan* to make clothes for some Children's

Corps members who he found were in rags and hungry in Maanshan.)

That was the last time Kim Il Sung saw his mother, for she passed away at the age of 40 in Xiaoshahe on July 31, 1932. As she always thought of her country and nation before anything else, she gave up her maternal right to care from her children.

Since he left the Xiaoshahe tableland with his young anti-Japanese guerrilla army,

Kim Il Sung traversed a long way of bloody battles through rigours of cold and starvation beyond imagination to achieve the historical cause of national liberation as his mother wished. Then he advanced along the road of creation and construction for half a century under the banner of socialism.

Kang Pan Sok is the mother of Korea who brought up the great sun of Korea.

Sim Chol Yong

▶ all human, material and technical potentials of the State.

The WPK Central Committee made an appeal to turn out in the campaign for restoration of the northern areas. True to the intention of the leader, the whole country turned out to develop the victimized areas into a wonderful place in the era of the Workers' Party in the flames of defending and serving the people.

At last, they completely erased the vestiges of the greatest disaster and developed a socialist fairland in a matter of a little over two months. The flood victims moved into new houses far better than their old ones, and were provided with lots of necessities, rice and fuel for winter, in particular.

In addition, lots of factories,

enterprises and cooperative farms across the country carried out their plans for national economic development ahead of schedule, some bringing about the record-high results.

That's not all. In different parts of the country were built monumental edifices satisfying the standards of the current era, typically the Medical Oxygen Factory, the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, the Natural History Museum, the Ryongaksan Soap Factory, the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory, the Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans, the Mindulle Notebook Factory, Power Plant No. 3 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station and the Wonsan Army-People Power Station. In addition the richest ever apple harvest was

gathered in Kosan County creating "A Sea of Apple Trees at the Foot of Chol Pass" as one of the thirteen famous scenes of the Songun era, and a huge amount of fish was caught in the East Sea of Korea, giving rise to a new legendary tale.

Making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people was not only the source of the creative campaign to develop the whole of society into a single harmonious family and achieve economic prosperity but also an invincible sword which defended the socialist country against the foreign invaders.

Last year was not an ordinary one. As the US imperialists made reckless moves for war against the DPRK from the dawn of the year, the Korean people had to

Flood victims in the northern areas in North Hamgyong Province are in ecstasy over their move into new homes.





The Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans.



primary Party committees should cherish the Party's ennobling view on and philosophy of the people and become true servants of the people and dear mothers who make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people. In his New Year Address 2017, he emphasized that he would push the effort to set up across the Party a revolutionary climate of making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

The WPK's sacred climate of working faithfully for the people is the sword of victory for Juche Korea.

Won Chung Guk

▶ push forward the revolution and construction in a dangerous situation.

Even in bad weather and at deep night, Kim Jong Un, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army (KPA), inspected a lot of military units to guide their training, sometimes visiting island-defending units at the dangerous front to see his soldiers. He spent the whole year on the road of Songun-based leadership.

As a result miraculous achievements were gained for increasing the military capability—the first H-bomb test, the test-fire of ground-to-ground intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong 10, the underwater launch test of ballistic missile Pukguksong from a strategic submarine and the nuclear warhead test.

Enjoying the love of their supreme leader last year, the Korean people were convinced again that when they follow him,

they will win happiness and victory.

Addressing the First Conference of Chairpersons of WPK Primary Committees held in December last year, Kim Jong Un said that the chairpersons of



The Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital.

Struggle to Develop Famous Brand



The design office.



Efforts are made for higher quality.

THE PYONGYANG BAG Factory newly built in Thongil Street, Pyongyang, is in good operation. It produces bags with locally-produced materials including canvas produced by the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and zippers by the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Site Souvenir Factory. And 95% of the factory's facilities including a laser cutter are modern domestic products. The laser cutter developed by the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering and

the Laser Institute of the State Academy of Sciences ensures a 1~1.5% higher yield than a highly skilled worker, and thus it makes it possible to produce 5 000 more bags a year with the materials saved by the cutter. Scientists and technicians also established an integrated production system to suit the actual conditions of the factory.

In the designing section they employ scenes from animations which are quite familiar with the children and scenes showing the

spirit of the children growing as pillars of the country, and put out new interesting designs for production of bags suitable for children of different ages and psychology. Efforts are also directed to diversifying bags in terms of kind, shape and colour through designing contests and mass-based deliberations on the factory scale.

In the technical preparation section they are intensifying the research work to establish standards of bags suitable for age and



► physical qualities, apply body engineering technologies to the designing of bags easy to carry, and improve the waterproof quality and resistance to deformity from strong strikes.

The factory also produces various sticky pictures for pupils to decorate their satchels, which are liked very much by the children. On April 1 last, beginning a new school year, the pupils in Pyongyang went to school taking on their back the satchels produced by the factory. The useful, high-quality and comfortable satchels, shoulder-straps of which are stuck with luminous tapes to prevent traffic accidents at night, are very popular among pupils.

Manager Ri Un Jong says, "People say the streets have become more beautiful with pupils taking new satchels. We will equip all our factory with Korean facilities and always accept nice opinions of the pupils, their parents and purchasers, and thus make a famous brand of bags."

Rim Ok





Great Enthusiasm

RECENTLY WE VISITED the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill to cover a newly built quilt production process. Han Jong Gum, manager of the quilt process, greeted us. Guiding us to the production site, she said that her factory set about full-scale quilt production after it established a modern large-scale quilt production process in December last year.

When we entered the site we could see the whole process at a glance. We saw a machine embroidering colourful patterns with buzzing sound, and approached the operator. Introducing herself as Rim Ok Jin, she said, “Traditionally Koreans make quilts with beautifully embroidered patterns and like to use

them. In the past designs were embroidered manually but now machines take place of manual labour. I’ll try hard to embroider patterns suited to the modern sense of beauty.”

The machine had four sewing devices, each equipped with nine needles. It was really interesting to see the needles pass varieties of colourful threads—red, pink, yellow, etc.—embroidering patterns on cloth without interruption. Ok Jin said proudly that it was being operated by a computer and that they had developed tens of programs for embroidery.

We came across Kim Ok Gyong operating a cloth spreading machine. She said that she was full of pride in the cloth made from Korean materials and re-

sources by Korean factories including the Nyongbyon Silk Mill. She added that she was working with a sense of responsibility for her post in the primary course.

There we saw a multi-functional mobile cutter and fixed cutters working busily. The cut pieces were being joined for sizes of quilts. Every process like ironing and basting was streamlined. Multi-needle sewing machines and mono-needle tufting machines were operated by the computer to embroider varieties of patterns.

A machine operator Pak Jol Gyong said, “We always think how to make quilts more comfortable with colours and designs suited to people’s emotion and sense of beauty.”

► We saw rising piles of various quilts and mattresses of beautiful colours, including quilts for every season, and wedding quilts. Jong Gum said that her mill supplied quilts to the Pyongyang Orphan-

age, the Pyongyang Baby Home, the Pyongyang Old People's Home and nurseries and kindergartens in the Wisong Scientists Residential District and the Mirae Scientists Street. She added, "Our aim will certainly be carried out to produce and supply more quality quilts for the people. It doesn't depend on the well-equipped production process alone. The work-

ers' conscience and devoted efforts to contribute to better life of the people are more important."

The managers and workers of the mill have got great enthusiasm to make world-famous products with a competitive edge by increasing the number of styles and kinds and colours of products steadily.

Kim Kwang Myong



Phurunhanul Gets Popular

THE PHURUNHANUL Corporation, located in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, went online not long ago, but its *Phurunhanul*-brand products have already become very popular with the public. In particular, the plasma display panel from the company is a typical favourite of the Korean people for its soft and fine colour and bright quality of the display suited to the national taste.

The company conducts all

business activities relying on science and technology. The research team staffed with young people in their 20s and 30s developed a product examination program suitable for domestic circumstances, and established a practical integrated production system in accord with the characteristics of the electronic manufacturer.

They also developed various application programs for making products more intelligent and effective, thus launching into both domestic and international markets boldly. Furnished with CNC facilities and a streamlined production system, the company produces new models of high-performance computers by steadily cutting the period of technical updating of products.

As they are fitted with G-4 or G-5 CPUs, all the computers can carry out dynamic image processing and other heavy tasks swiftly at a very rapid computing and graphics processing speed. All the processes from designing of printed circuit to the manufacture of board and assembly are controlled by the company's own technicians. Furnished with full sets of electronic products assembly line and surface mount technical line, the shop manufactures

well over a thousand and hundreds of boards every day on average.

The company produces various kinds of *Phurunhanul*-brand electronic products—desktops, all-in-one computers, laptops, two-in-one computers, plasma display panels, setup boxes, mobile multimedia projectors and various game facilities. An integrated system of manufacture, research and sale of electronic goods is in operation at a high level.

Especially, the two-in-one computer is the first energy-saving computer developed in the country, thus it is very popular with the public. The quality of all the products is fully warranted.

After finishing the project for domestic production of setup box the company is developing with its efforts various electric products that suit local conditions. The products are available at Phurunhanul IT centres in Pyongyang and provinces.

Choe Jin Hyok, president of the company, says, "In the future, too, we'll work hard to make products of the cutting-edge level and ensure domestic production of all goods so as to make our company beneficial to our people." □



New Fuel Additive Developed

SOME TIME AGO I visited the University of Sciences to meet developers of a new type of fuel additive, which is popular at the moment.

The leading developer was Hong Yong Bom, vice dean of the chemistry faculty, who I felt was highly noble and intellectual. Thus, I could guess that his fuel additive would be of high value.

I asked him how he had majored in chemistry. Recollecting his past days, he said, "During my middle school years I liked my chemistry teacher. And she also loved me very much. I easily understood her explanation. My respect for her turned into an aspiration for chemistry. She used to say that we can obtain anything we want by means of chemistry. Remembering her words, I applied for the chemistry faculty without hesitation when I had my entrance examination for university."

His chemistry teacher brought him the curiosity about chemistry, and veteran professors of the university implanted in him the confidence and enthusiasm to be master of creation finding out secrets of the mysterious chemistry.

Teaching students after finishing university, he further expanded his knowledge and improved practical abilities.

After a number of successful research projects he set out to develop a new type of fuel additive. A lot of fuel additives had already been developed, but they were little satisfactory to consum-



ers, for they had some limitations. He paid attention to dimethyl carbonite in his research. Dimethyl carbonite, which is drawing attention as green chemical fuel of the 21st century and admitted as nonpoisonous chemical material, is an organo-liquid fuel additive that could reduce the amount of fuel consumption and exhaust by increasing efficiency of combustion.

A number of people including researcher Sim Ui Chan, faculty dean Hwang Yong Su and teachers Yun Kyong Sop and Kim Se Hyok helped him make dimethyl carbonite using domestic materials to suit the local condition. In existing practices, the absolute method was to synthesize dimethyl carbonite in high pressure. Another method based on conventional pressure was not yet in industrial use due to low yield.

With tireless pursuit and efforts, Hong and his team finally found out a new method of synthesis to increase the yield with conventional-pressure reaction. They secured over 70 percent of yield by dint of a solvent, which

can increase the temperature of reaction, and a catalyst which can accelerate the speed of reaction in the conventional-pressure condition. Moreover, they reduced the production cost by using materials produced by domestic chemical giants and establishing a simple production process, which meant a successful industrial method of production. According to the result of test introduction, a little amount of the additive could save fuel and further reduce the amount of exhaust, while having no effect on the engine.

The new method of dimethyl carbonite synthesis was registered as a national sci-tech achievement.

Hong said to me, "Images of the chemical teacher of my middle school who nurtured a mysterious dream in me, and the university professors who congratulated me on becoming a Master of Science, were great encouragement to me whenever I had a failure. I wish to be honourable before them. So I've engaged myself in a new scientific research project."

Rim Ok

Pothonggang Footwear Factory



LAST YEAR THE Pothonggang Footwear Factory produced more than a hundred new styles of shoes that suit the physical qualities of the customers and the seasonal conditions, causing a sensation.

Originally, the factory produced shoes with vinyl chloride as its main material. Having set a high target of producing various styles of shoes to meet the increasing cultural and emotional demand of the people, it organized prize contests and exhibitions on a regular basis and introduced worthwhile technical innovation ideas into production.

“Those shoes of various styles are associated with our employees’ wisdom,” said Hwang Tong San, chief engineer of the factory.

According to him, a skilled worker in his 30s created a new design of sports shoes which is now youth’s favourite. As he is very fond of sports activities, he

always paid special attention to the design of sports shoes. Having set a target to make smart and lighter sports shoes for sports-persons and young people who love exercises, he studied hard to design sports shoes making the most of his spare time. As a result his was highly appreciated among a dozen kinds of samples.

That’s not all. By conducting a mass-based technical innovation campaign throughout last year, the factory updated all the production processes to a much higher level, including the modernization of shoemaking assembly line, with their own efforts, thus laying a solid foundation for a leap forward in footwear production.

Now various kinds of shoes produced by the factory—leather shoes, injection-moulded sports shoes, sandals and winter shoes lined with fur—are very popular at shops and stores like Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.

Hwang says, “We have a lot of things to do in order to make all our products competitive in the international market. But seeing the workers engrossed in thinking and study in their respective jobs, I’m sure that our *Pothonggang*-brand shoes will be the people’s favourite in the near future.”

Ri Song Chol

THE TAEDONG RIVER rises in Mt. Rangnim in Taehung County, South Phyongan Province and empties into the West Sea of Korea. The fifth longest river in Korea is 450.3 km long and drains an area of 20 247 square kilometres. In the past the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea carried out the project to complete an agricultural irrigation system including the building of the West Sea Barrage and the digging of a 500-mile-long waterway in the western area. Thus, the Taedong River is now used to supply agricultural water to the vast area comprising South Phyongan, North and South Hwanghae provinces. In the estuary of the river the water level is under control against the effects of high and low tides thanks to the West Sea Barrage, thus contributing largely to development of marine transport. Along with this the Mirim, Ponghwa, Songchon, Sunchon barrages went up, and thus the basin is free from flooding.

Kim Yong Guk, official of the Taedong River Barrage Manage- ▶



Taedong River Tamers

ment Bureau, says, “We’ve become much more capable of controlling the Taedong River now that we completed an integrated control system to prevent flooding in the basin as required by the 21st century.”

In recent years the Taedong River Barrage Management Bureau and other related units under the Ministry of Land and Maritime Transport and scientific research institutes have gained achievements in the work of completing a scientific flood control system in the Taedong River basin. The hydrological information such as water levels in the barrages and power stations and the rainfall in the basin is sent in real time to relevant units, making it possible to predict flood, work out the best control plan for it and take a measure rapidly so as to decrease flood damage to the minimum.

One day a few years ago, Yong Guk, while making scrupulous

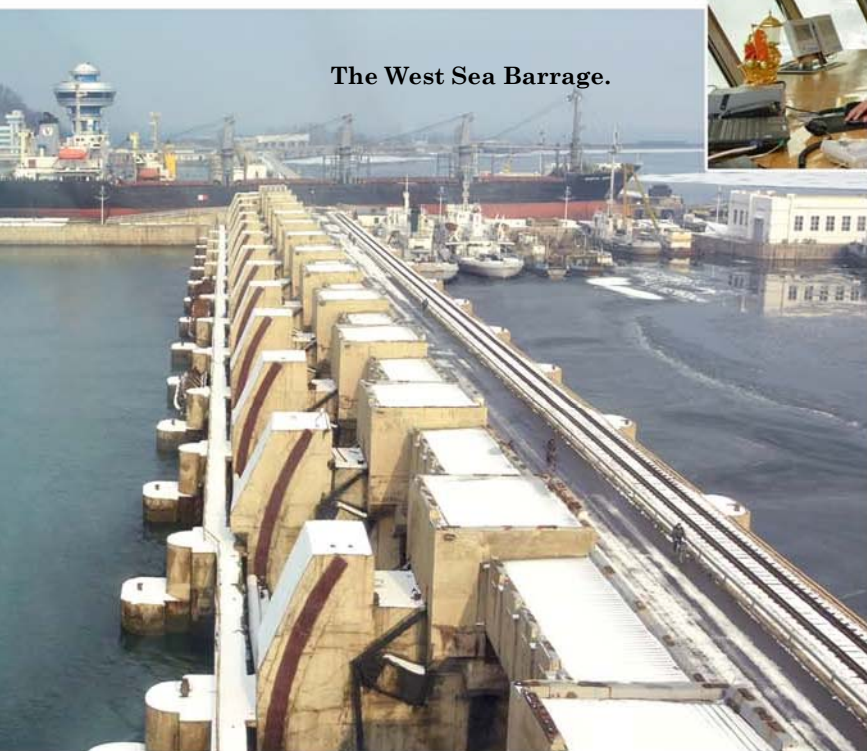
arrangement for flood control in the rainy season, learned that information from all of the barrages and power stations was not so prompt and accurate as desired. In such a situation it would be impossible to ensure a comprehensive control to cope with unfavourable conditions of the rainy season. So, Yong Guk decided to complete an integrated control system.

The project of establishing an integrated control system was a difficult task that required the establishment of designing and service base of a data transfer system, the manufacture of a multi-functional data link and the development of programs for flood forecast and optimum sluice gate control. He dauntlessly pushed the project by mobilizing tech-

nicians. The most difficult problem was how to design and manufacture a multi-functional data link, the core of the project. In close contact with research institutes they managed to produce the device from scratch in a few months by pooling their creative wisdom. They had technical discussions over ten times, travelling up and down the river dozens of times.

In the course of this, they integrated a transmitting system including the mode of information communication and exchange, and improved the power control function of all relevant devices, thus ensuring reliability of data

The West Sea Barrage.



transfer and convenience in management and operation.

Yun Kwang Hyok, a technician, says, “The multi-functional data link is a communication device equipped with a function of collecting various kinds of information. It is of great practical value in establishing an integrated control system between factories and enterprises in different places.”

On the basis of the newly completed flood control system, the Taedong River Barrage Management Bureau introduced a scientific system for general control of vessels passing through the West Sea Barrage.

Pak Yong Il

Developers of Popular Program

NOWADAYS A NEW program is winning the public favour. It is *Him* (power), a general knowledge quiz program developed by the Information Technology Institute of the Cutting-edge Science Research Centre affiliated to Kim Il Sung University. This program is conducive to remarkably deepening the special and general knowledge, thus it is popular with the people of all social strata. The program research team has already produced *The Boy General*, a game program for smart phones, earning reputation from the users including the children.

When I asked the motive for the development of *Him*, researcher Kim Song Nam told the following story.

In December 2015 Kim, on his way back from work, was on the escalator of the underground with two students who were familiar with him. They were on their way back home after seeing the national general knowledge contest of university students. While talking about their impression of the contest and discussing an efficient method of study, one of them abruptly asked Song Nam whether it could be possible to develop a program on the general knowledge to suit the current IT era. At the moment a novel idea flashed into his mind.

He thought that if a program which would help acquire the

information on special and general knowledge and could be installed in cell phones, was developed, it would be a great aid to people in learning better knowledge faster without reference to books at any time.

The next day he suggested his idea of developing such a program to his institute. It gained the unanimous support from all researchers. Soon, they started the development of the program. Repeated discussions were made on the matter of the form of program.

Kim Kwang Ju, one of chief developers, said, "Imagine there is a high peak, and it would be good to climb with a determination to reach the summit of it without fail. But I think that it would be better to conquer the peak with pleasure regarding mountaineering as a kind of hobby. Changing learning into such a kind of hobby is what I think is appropriate to the purpose of the program for cell phones."

Now they decided to develop the program in the form of quiz. Believing that most people would have their own interest in at least one or two fields they set diversified fields and added popular books. The experienced teachers of several faculties of the university including the history faculty and the literature college, who had been jury at the general



Researchers Kim Song Nam (right) and Kim Kwang Ju.

knowledge contest of university students several times, rendered service to the development. When the researchers developed the program with their painstaking effort, they decided to name it *Him*, which means knowledge is treasure and power. As soon as it appeared, it became a great favourite with the public, causing a sensation.

Kim Kwang Ju says, "Today the users of our program say that it helps them have knowledge with pleasure, and that it is better than other amusement programs. They request us to develop new versions of it. To meet their demand we will develop popular programs in greater numbers so as to actively encourage all people to learn assiduously."

Kim Chol Ung

KOREA IS VIGORously pushing the project to develop Kangnyong County, South Hwanghae Province, into a green area.

The county has favourable conditions to develop into a green area. The clean districts in the county have a long coastline of the West Sea of Korea, where a lot of marine resources and abundant energy resources including wind force, solar heat and tidal power as well as a favourable condition to

Green Area Under Development

develop aquaculture are available. In this area they extensively grow sweet potatoes as well as grain crops like rice and maize. It has various kinds of vegetation resources including bamboo and a lot of nonferrous metal resources. Sites and

relics of historical importance and natural monuments are well preserved in the area.

A general plan has been drawn up and a project is making a brisk headway to develop the county into a green industrial area, a green populated area and a green coastal area as well as a comprehensive tourist resort while preserving the natural ecological system in the forests and on the seashore. □

By Improving Teaching Methods

KWANGMYONG SENIOR Middle School in Mangyongdae District is well known across the country for training a lot of honour students.

When Paek Sin Guk was appointed headmaster of the school 18 years ago, he understood that the school was different from others in two aspects. One was that it was closely connected with the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and the other was that students came from different districts in the city. In other words, students were acquiring knowledge and techniques through lessons at the school and extracurricular activities at the palace, and developing their physical abilities. *It is said that an excellent teacher stands behind a talent, and this is an eloquent saying indicating the teacher's ability to raise the talent,* he thought.

The teachers of the school, by the encouragement of Paek, put much effort in studies of teaching methods in keeping with the characteristic of the school which mainly consists of sci-tech circles and sports circles. In the course of this they actively developed new teaching methods including the one of improving students' logical

reasoning and practical ability, and a program aimed at developing intellectual faculties. A teacher trained students so that they have the most correct and broad thinking ability through lessons based on the question-and-answer mode. Another teacher improved their concentration using their psychology in conformity with their ages, dispositions and hobbies.

The school administration often organized discussions on teaching methods and materials, presentations of experience and inspections of classes at work. These programmes encouraged the teachers dynamically to conduct the work of improving their qualities by learning from and overtaking each other. Some teaching methods helped the students learn ten and a hundred things from one, and led them easily to find the fastest and correct answers to difficult and complex problems; those methods remarkably improved their thinking and practical ability. Those students who had won first place at national academic contests and become best players at sports competitions said unanimously that all their successes were at-

tributable to the exact demand of their teachers who encouraged them to have a determination, will, courage and confidence to lead the world.

The school livened up. Many of the teachers became the October 8 Model Teacher while an increasing number of students won the July 15 Honour Student Prize. Demonstration courses were often arranged at the school for teachers in Pyongyang. The headmaster, however, was not content with the success. "Conceit is a taboo. Remember we are responsible for finding talents and training them with sincere effort," he would stress.

The students of the school are now growing up into talents with both theoretical and practical abilities, and promising reserves for different sports clubs. Paek says, "My school is renowned for the work of rearing talents. We school administrators, however, feel proud only when our students become true pillars of our country."

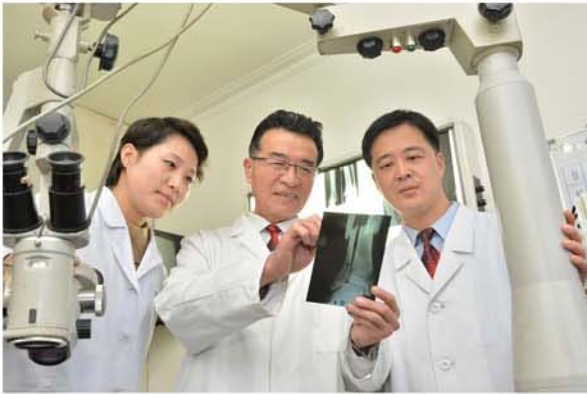
Now the school is redoubling its effort to develop practical and superior teaching methods.

Ri Chung Ho

Scrupulous arrangements are made to improve students' thinking and practical abilities.



Pioneers of Microscopic World



“AN UNEXPECTED ACCIDENT ENDANGERED one of my legs on the verge of amputation. All the members of my workteam were at a loss, and my family was also full of anxiety. As an emergency case I was rushed to the micro surgery laboratory under the Clinical Institute of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University. I was in a critical condition, so medical consultations took place several times on the spot of surgical operation. I was in despair thinking I’d be disabled. The following day, however, when I recovered consciousness and touched my leg unawares, I was surprised to feel my injured leg—it was still with me. At that time I was in floods of tears. I had known our public health system is the best one through my experience of trifling cases, but words failed me to express my feelings this time as I had had such a difficult operation. Thanks to the health workers I regained my hope of life.”

This is a note written by Jong Il Sop, 57, who was a tractor driver at the Taedong County Town Cooperative Farm in South Phyongan Province, after receiving treatment in the laboratory recently. There are many similar notes left by the people who had got the treatment there.

The researchers of the laboratory have obtained a lot of remarkable successes in rejoining severed limbs and research into plastic surgery on nerve, blood vessel and tendon since its inauguration scores of years ago.

In Korea there was little foundation in micro

surgery in the past. As most treatments were given by the method of amputation, the cases ended up in disability unavoidably. When the researchers saw people come to the laboratory with their severed finger and earnestly asked them to rejoin it, they keenly felt it was just their own affairs, and started the research work, an unknown world, to solve the problem without hesitation.

In order to lay the theoretical foundation for the micro surgery they carried out the perusal of a colossal amount of latest documents while repeating experiments. At last they found out an innovative micro-surgical method. It was a cutting-edge method which restores the wounded part to its original state by reconnecting the blood vessel, lymphatics, nerve and tendon of the severed arm, leg, finger and toe without cutting. Along with this, the researchers succeeded in developing the atraumatic needle for micro operation, the main surgical tool which some countries had monopolized as patent at that time, and established its production system. The atraumatic needles are now widely used in the health establishments in the country.

Recently the researchers applied to the clinical practice those techniques they named *Free-acid Bone Grafting with Vasa Nutritia*, *Free-flap Grafting with Vasa Nutritia*, *Operation on Wounded Hand*, and *Operation for Extending Limbs*, and performed scores of different kinds of micro plastic surgical operations, most of which were successful.

In January last a man was seriously wounded in his right arm in an accident at work, and was rushed to the laboratory. It was a very difficult operation as the blood vessel, nerve and muscle of his right arm had been completely severed. However, the researchers managed to restore his arm through a devoted, serious effort.

People call them an “able team” and the “men living in the microscopic world.” Now the researchers are pooling their wisdom to raise micro surgery up to an advanced level as early as possible and disseminate their experience throughout the country.

Sim Hyon Jin

Paduk Champion

IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR the Shanglu Cup Hangzhou International City Go Tournament 2016 took place in Hangzhou in China. Ham Un Gyong from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was placed at the top of the women's ranking at the contest which is known as the top-level amateur go competition.

Son Nam Sun, coach in the Pyongyang Sports Club, who was the first paduk (go) instructor of Ham, says, "It was Un Gyong's debut in the international tournament. But I believed she'd win. She had enough potential."

Ham enjoyed the counting game very much since her childhood. One of her female cousin, who was a middle school student, often visited her house in Taesong District, Pyongyang. Ham was a kindergartener at that time, but she used to play with her cousin counting from thousand to ten thousand easily. She liked playing *star kkoni* and *encircling kkoni* games, and no one in her kindergarten could defeat her.

One day Son Nam Sun, passing the kindergarten, saw Ham sitting alone at a *kkoni* board in the yard, when other children were all frolicking around. Quietly approaching her, Son was surprised to see the board—all stones of the opponent could be taken away with a few moves. She proposed the child that she learn paduk, and she agreed readily, for she was fascinated by the words that paduk needs intelligence.

Now Son taught her knacks of paduk carefully creating various difficult situations. When she taught one thing Ham understood ten. Gradually the girl came to

acquire an extraordinary ability to think things out and deal with close contests.

Years passed, and Ham went on to middle school, bidding farewell to Son reluctantly. Even at middle school she sought her happiness in paduk. If she had spare time she set up difficult problems for herself and exerted all her efforts to solve them. Seeing that she had extraordinary attachment to paduk, the school saw to it that she learned paduk to her heart's content in the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace. Over the years she improved her ability steadily. Usually a paduk player can attain fame only through a long period of learning, but Ham achieved remarkable successes in many contests soon after.

Last year she won national championships by winning a lot of contests including the Mangyongdae Prize National Martial Arts Championships, the Jongilbong Prize National Schoolchildren's

Sports Games and the Jonsung Cup National Taekwon-Do All-Star Tournament.

In the abovementioned international tournament that made no distinction between men and women, she launched daring offensives using her special techniques. Putting an end to the old idea that a female player could not defeat a male opponent in paduk, she rose as star. She had ten matches in all in the tournament. She was the focus of attention for all judges after she had won six consecutive matches. When the tournament result was declared everyone gave her a thumb-up.

Receiving garlands on her return home, she said, "I could make daring moves because I knew a lot of people were watching me with expectation. So today's victory is not for me alone. I'd like to offer these garlands to my teachers and schools."

Chae Kwang Myong

Ham Un Gyong (right).



Famous Accordion Producer

AN SONG HO AND CHOE Jin A, students at Kim Won Gyun University of Music, performed a button accordion duet in the music hall of the university in celebration of the New Year 2017, winning a great applause of the audience. They played the song *Blissful Tomorrow*, which promises the people more beautiful life and happiness and gives them courage and optimism. Watching them on TV some people felt a surge of pride. They were the managers and workers of the Pyongyang Musical Instrument Factory, who produce the kind of button accordion as well as *Unbangul*-brand ordinary accordions. The factory has developed into a modern and comprehensive musical instrument production base.

Whenever people ask about the achievements in musical instrument production General Manager Ri Chang Ho tells them about the history of the factory, saying, "Our country was in a very difficult economic condition the year when we won victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953), but the government made sure our factory was built regarding the instrument production as important for musical development of the country."

At its inauguration the factory had only 20 employees, a belt lathe for equipment and a horse-drawn carriage for transport. In many cases it had to use clock and gramophone parts for materials

for musical instrument production. Such a simple enterprise has now refurbished itself admirably as mother factory of the musical instrument industry of the country.

The employees are producing musical instruments with the consciousness that the musical instrument manufacturing is a sort of art, and with the honour and pride that they are creating such an art. As they produce accordions including button ones, they work hard to ensure a clear tone and an abundant volume and a high quality of the products. First of all, they acquire broad knowledge and technology about different kinds of accordions through the course of the vocational school of the factory. Thus they rely thoroughly on science and technology breaking away with the old manners in which they used to assemble instruments and modulate sounds by relying on their experience. In particular, the quality of musical instruments has improved remarkably through the introduction of the scientific measuring facilities including a computer-aided primary reed sound decibelmeter and the delicate and precise course of assembling. In the course of this all production processes from the case making to injection of various kinds of parts including reeds, keys and bellows were streamlined.

Kang Un Jong, an assembler at the accordion workshop, says,

"The *Unbangul*-brand accordion has got familiar with the people in the course of mass-based artistic activities. Whenever we see them play accordions we assembled, we feel very proud of our job."

Pak Yong Il, head of the button accordion assembling workshop, says that although it took a long time to understand the button accordion as it also has a complicated structure they ensured both quality and speed of the production on a top priority by conducting a vigorous technical innovation movement to do away with manual jobs. And the role of the skilled workers grew to make sure various and unique tones are produced as required by the character of a piece of music and a high level of presentation is displayed. Thus the musical instruments of the factory are appreciated by the musical instrument experts and their performers, he said.

The *Unbangul*-brand accordions, especially the button accordions, are a great favourite of professional performers, and of the general public.

The factory is conducting positive exchange and cooperation with countries in Europe and Asia in the field of musical instrument manufacturing. It is developing into a reliable musical instrument producer which contributes to the education of rising generations and satisfaction of the increasing cultural and recreational demands of the people.

Kim Un Chol



Natural History Museum (3)



The marine algae and the freshwater algae in the algae district.

GOING UP TO THE second floor, we found a notice indicating the animal hall on the right and the vegetation hall on the left.

We met curator Hong Su Ryon in the vegetation hall. She said that we could have a good knowledge about how plants came into being and evolved on the earth, about typical plants and living monuments in many countries around the world including Korea, and about various vegetable products we use widely in our life.

We first went into the algae district. According to the curator,

algae is divided into marine algae and freshwater algae. Algae lives in rivers, lakes and the sea by making organic substances through photosynthesis by itself and it can be regarded as progenitor of vegetation. Marine algae includes such plants as seaweed, tangle and laver and freshwater algae includes such plants as euglena which goes between the animal and the plant life. From algae came the bryophyta and pteridophytes, the spore-bearing plants, and later trees and flowers.

Then we went over to the dis-

trict where gymnosperms and angiosperms are exhibited. In the gymnosperms section we saw various kinds of trees including pine, nut pine and ginkgo and photos of sample leaves of gymnosperms were hung on the walls. In the angiosperms section are various kinds of flowering and fruit-bearing trees including *Toona sinensis*, *Evodia daniellii* and *Elaeagnus crispa Thunb.* An attraction there was a wide flower garden where schoolchildren and other visitors were excitedly taking photos or writing in their notebook. In the garden were ▶



► flying bees which amazingly looked like real. It seemed as if flowers were calling bees and butterflies for pollination.

There we met and talked with Ryang Kuk Song, Kim Yong Song and Ji Ryong Chan, first graders of Jongsung Senior Middle School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang. They said in unison that the garden has really a lot of flowers, almost all kinds of flowers, and showed us the flower names they had written in their books. The names numbered scores.

We could see, in the angiosperms section, immortal flowers Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia called after the august names of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. According to the curator, flower exhibits had been treated with the drying technology. And she began to tell a story about Kimilsungia:

In April 1965 when Kim Il Sung paid a friendship visit to Indonesia, President Sukarno of Indonesia invited him to the Bogor Botanical Garden. Making a round of the garden Kim Il Sung stopped in front of a

refreshing, full-blown flower. For its straight main stem, broad petals and clusters of unusually beautiful blooms of deep purple it was quite attractive. The Korean leader said the flower was very beautiful and excellent. Sukarno expressed his desire to name the flower after Kim Il Sung in honour of his respect and admiration. Kim Il Sung declined with thanks over again, but Sukarno said earnestly that Kim Il Sung deserved greater honour since he had already performed a lot of exploits for mankind. In this way Kimilsungia came into existence with a botanical name and has been looked after as flower of the era of independence symbolizing the great personality of Kim Il Sung.

The curator continued to tell about Kimjongilia, a perennial flowering plant belonging to the begonia family. It was what Kamo Mototeru, a famous Japanese horticulturist, presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il on the occasion of the latter's 46th birthday in February 1988. Choosing the most beautiful flowering plant with glossy and crimson

blooms among those he had bred with devotion for over 20 years, Kamo wished to name it after the Chairman who was admired by all peoples as the sun of mankind.

That was how the DPRK got the immortal flowers, Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, amidst the blessing of the progressive people.

There were also exhibited photos of flowers contributed by all parts of the world.

We also dropped in at the vegetation protection district. There was a computer, which showed tens of plant reserves in the DPRK. The curator said the museum had sections for vegetation from Mts. Paektu and Oga. Entering the Mt. Paektu section, we felt as if going into a primeval forest. The curator said the 2 750-metre-high mountain is located in the northern part of Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province. In the Mt. Paektu area there co-exist the trachyte layer, basic rock, and the rhyolite layer, acid rock, which were both formed by two volcanic eruptions a million years ago. There are ►



▶ various kinds of animals and plants. The curator explained how the exhibition hall of the reserve sections was arranged wonderfully. Hearing of the plan of a section for Mt. Paektu's vegetation to be laid in the Natu-

ral History Museum in Pyongyang, the students of Jongilbong Middle School had collected and sent a lot of samples of mosses, pumice stones and plants including rhododendron and dwarf trees in the mountain. Now the

curator said the primeval forest in Mt. Oga is the oldest in Korea and that there are a number of living monuments including a 1 100-year-old yew and a 500-year-old pine-nut tree.

We could see in the vegetation district cacti and aloes growing in not only thick forests in polar and boreal zones but also in deserts, and water chestnuts and water lilies growing in swamps.

For the last course we entered the district of "Vegetation and Our Life." There we could see how the plants and wood products coming from Korea are used in the life of the people.

We left the museum, convincing ourselves that it would give people plenty of knowledge and help them become well-informed.

Sim Yong Jin

The vegetation protection district.



Dream of the Piano Prodigy

IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR the 6th Rakhmaninov International Musical Concours was held in Sankt-Peterburg, Russia, and a girl was awarded a special prize, the highest prize of the concours, and performed unprecedentedly a number of musical pieces at the closing ceremony, attracting the interests of the jury and audience. She is Han Il Yong of Pyongyang Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

Il Yong grew up with piano playing, for hers was a family of musicians. Her grandfather Han Si Hyong was well-known to the Korean people as the composer of many pieces of music including *Song of the Ten-point Political Programme* and *Under the Banner of the Party*, and her grandfather's brother and her father were also composers who composed many pieces of film music and piano concertos.

However, engrossed in musical creation, they always regarded Il Yong's interests in piano just as a mere child's curiosity. Even when Il Yong was three years old and her nurse told them that the child could catch seven-composite sounds to say nothing of triads, her family members admired but were dubious of her capability.

Under the educational system of the state, she was admitted to the Kyongsang Kindergarten, the cradle of art prodigies. Now her parents began to pay greater attention to their daughter. Il Yong's talent developed day by day. She came to correctly hear out 12~15-composite-sounds and would readily play piano études.

After she finished the kindergarten, she was admitted to the primary class of Pyongyang Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music. Ho Ye Son, teacher in charge of Han Il Yong at the school, says, "One day I wondered if some adult was playing the piano in the room where Il Yong was training. The tune was *The Country I Defend*, and the melody reflected a soldier's love



for the country, his affection and feeling, fully and broadly. I thought she should not be taught like the other children of her age. I had to redouble my efforts to develop her rich musical sensitivity and power of expression. People would be doubtful when the teacher in charge of a prodigy should say more efforts are needed to teach the child than teaching other children." After that, Il Yong won first place in the contest of primary-class children of the music school and was awarded a prize.

Highly appraising her talent, the state sent her to study abroad. On the day of her admission to the Tchaikovsky Conservatory, she performed a number of tunes including the Korean musical

piece *Footsteps* and foreign music *Puppy Waltz*. Hearing her performance, the rector, dean and teachers of the conservatory were all moved with admiration and highly praised her superb talent. In March 2014, six months after she came abroad for study, she took part in the 3rd International Music Concours *Chord* in Moscow, and was awarded a special-prize cup and a certificate of merit. Also, in November 2014, she participated in the 9th International Instrumentalist Concours held in Sankt-Peterburg, Russia. In the concours, named *Silver Tuning Fork* meaning it was to assure the correct and perfect tone, she was appreciated as the most distinguished prodigy and an excellent player and awarded the first-prize cup and certificate, and the special-prize cup which was the top prize of the concours by playing wonderfully the difficult compulsory pieces.

The head of the jury of the concours, praising Il Yong's superior performing skills and musical sensibility, said that the talent training policy of the Workers' Party and government of Korea was truly excellent.

Usually engrossed in piano playing in silence, the 12-year-old's speech made in fluent Russian at the closing ceremony gave a glimpse of what she was cherishing in her heart: "Today is the day my dream has come true, the dream of giving pleasure to our respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un."

Chae Kwang Myong

House of Flowers

IF YOU GO TO NEIGHBOURHOOD UNIT No. 17, Yangji-dong, Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province, you can see Kim Chang Hyon's family living in Flat No. 5 on the third floor, which is called "House of Flowers." The house where different flowering and ornamental plants are growing resembles a small flower garden. There are 20-odd species of flowering plants, including Kimjongilia, oleander, *Clivia miniata*, and *Phyllocactus ackermannii*. They are looked after by Kim Jin Song, the only son of the family who is at the junior class of the Yangji Senior Middle School in Phyongsong.

Originally, Jin Song's parents were fond of tending flowers, so he unusually liked flowers from his childhood. On one rainy day Jin Song returned home with a seedling he had found unattended on the street. Seeing the plant the boy covered with his raincoat, his parents felt proud of him and patted him on the back. Now the boy planted the seedling in a pot and tended it for the first time in his life, but he failed to keep it alive. He was sad for several days, just looking at the empty pot.

One day he said to his parents abruptly that he would learn how to cultivate flowers.

Afterwards, Jin Song obtained several species of flowers from greenhouses and grew them with the help of his parents. His parents let him know how to cultivate each of the flowers, and they told him stories associated with them. When Jin Song and his mother, Chae Yong Hui, were transplanting chrysanthemum, she said: "You know, chrysanthemum was cultivated in our country from of old. It's a favourite flower of us Korean people for a long time, because it blooms in a severe frost and symbolizes honesty and purity as it has a straight stem and its bloom is of clear colour." Hearing his mother's story Jin Song was determined to develop a firm will like the flower. Thanks to his parents' effort he developed a good disposition while tending flowers.

Three years ago when he was on a tour of Pyongyang he happened to visit the venue of the Kimjongilia festival on the occasion of the Day of the



Shining Star. He was struck with wonder while looking round the flower stands decorated with rare and beautiful flowers and other ornaments centring on the immortal flower Kimjongilia. When Jin Song heard an explanation about Kimjongilia before one of those stands, he made a determination to cultivate this flower though there would be many difficulties. His parents actively supported his resolve and provided him with necessary reference books, pots, a trowel and a sprayer. His relatives also sent him Kimjongilia seedlings. Reading reference books Jin Song put his heart and soul into the flower cultivation. He presented full-blown Kimjongilia flowers to provincial Kimjongilia exhibitions several times, getting high appreciation.

He has already acquired a good knowledge and skill of floriculture, but he is still devoting his sincere effort to the cultivation of the immortal flower. All of his family also share the same mind with him. Kim Hyon Gyong, chief of the neighbourhood unit, says, "The flowers in Jin Song's family reflect the mind that loves life and future. For this reason they look lovelier. This is the house of flowers, and it's the pride of my neighbourhood unit."

Kim Un Jong

Romance of Weavers

RECENTLY WE VISITED A COOKING practice facility of the workers' dormitory in the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. It had sounded strange when we had heard that a cooking practice shop had gone up in the textile mill, instead of a public catering establishment. So we had felt more curious about it.

Some years ago a modern workers' dormitory was built in the mill, drawing the attention of the whole country, and now the cooking practice facility went up to the admiration of all the people. The facility stood side by side with the dormitory and they looked like sister buildings.

When we stepped into the practice shop we could see girls busy with cooking practice. It was housed in a two-story building, consisting of over ten cooking practice rooms, a food processing room and a food storage. Equipped with thousands of items of kitchen

utensils, it was an excellent establishment for cooking practice.

Kim Rye Yong, a keeper of the cooking practice facility, guided us to a materials shop first. We saw it had all kinds of materials for cooking on sale so that the women workers could buy whatever they want at any time after the day's work.

"Women workers staying in the dormitory are delighted with this cooking practice facility as they can themselves make food as they like and learn different cooking techniques," said Kim.

The practice shop was full of life—delighted girls were hurrying to cooking rooms with materials including meat, vegetables and seasonings; some other girls were already absorbed in cooking with white caps and aprons on. I could smell something sweet.

We saw young weavers engrossed in cooking in ▶



In the cooking practice facility.



Smart Leg (2)

(Continued from the last issue)

PASSING THE BALL TO SANG JIN, HO JUK San jumped into the air in an instance, drawing in his legs, so the Japanese players ran against themselves and screamed, rolling down on the ground. Though the Japanese defenders chased Ho with set teeth, they were unable to catch up.

Ho ran straight forward with his fists clenched. Now he could see the goalposts and the goalkeeper with his arms spread in bewilderment. Running like wind, Ho felt his vision blurred, making it unable to see, but he did not slow down. Losing his temper, the Japanese goalkeeper yelled, "You son of a bitch, shoot it now." But, Ho kept dribbling the ball towards the goal line. As the goalkeeper came forward in haste, unable to endure any longer, Ho kicked the ball to the right upper corner of the goal with all his might.

"Goal!" All the Korean spectators cheered with their arms raised high, throwing up their caps and kerchiefs. "We've won, Korea has won," they declared. Ho leaped into the air, raising his fist. So, that day's game ended with the Korean students'

team winning the match by 2:0. However, the joy of victory did not last long. On the false charge of defiling the spirit of the "great imperial Japan," the school announced Ho Juk San's expulsion from the school. Leaving the school amidst the jeering of Japanese students, he shed tears endlessly. No other schools would accept him. But at last, he was enrolled in the Longjing Middle School by the help of the conscientious Chinese headmaster.

Then, in the school's football team he distinguished himself by playing the leading role in winning all matches for the school. As he scored 2-3 goals in every game, he was awarded a prize as a top scorer. As a result, he earned the nickname of "smart leg." All of his movements were precise just like a machine, but he kept on training himself out of a desire to improve his football skills further. He would repeat one movement more than 10 000 times a day. But he had no motherland to look after him, and so had to leave the school before long under the false charge of match-fixing. But he was aglow with zeal for football.

He changed his arena of activity from Longjing to Seoul and from Seoul to Longjing, and led his team

▶ the first room. It was really admirable—with an analysis table of food elements and visual aids of cooking techniques hanging on the wall. Pak Kyong Ae, twisting worker, was making green-bean pancake while Ri Mi Ae, another twister, was slicing meat to make sauté. On the other hand yarn winders Kim Jin Suk and Jo Kum Ran were cooking rice and preparing steamed pollack.

Meanwhile, girl spinners of the knitting yarn workshop were busy preparing fry-up referring to a cookery book in the tenth room and weavers were taking photographs of their cooking activities in the ninth room. Weavers of the general silk weaving workshop were already preparing a table with white hard-porcelain dishes of a dozen kinds on in the third room. There I could recognize some girls whom I had known during my coverage—they were innovators at that time who had overfulfilled their annual assignment. Their cooking skills were really charming and pretty, the same as their weaving. They said that it was more meaningful and enjoyable that they could offer their friends the foods they prepared them-

selves in the cooking rooms on holidays and birth-days.

"From olden times good cookery is one of the essential qualities of women," Rye Yong said, sometimes praising their cooking skills, and sometimes pointing out their faults. Then she told us that in the food processing room they prepare those kinds of food that need days of fermentation like kimchi.

Saying she had cooked food herself for the first time in her life, Jo Kum Ran added, "I learn both how to produce cloth and prepare food in my factory. My mother tells me that she has never thought of my cooking skill. She feels relieved that I have a good life in the dormitory."

Learning national and world cuisine, the workers were preparing themselves as good wives. I thought there would be many men and their parents who were eager to have such women for their wives or daughters-in-law. I found I was right when I saw a number of men waiting for their girlfriends at the entrance of the dormitory.

Rim Ok

► from victory to victory in matches. But owing to the crafty tricks of the Japanese imperialists, who were afraid of the high spirits of the Koreans because of Ho, he was pressed into labour service in the end. He now regretted his own folly that he had believed he could enhance the national spirits of the people and revenge the enemy by means of football. Further, he keenly realized that without a protector who would take one under his wing, one would only be victimized by the enemy in spite of one's great technical proficiency. Escaping from the labour drafting, Ho Juk San took shelter in a deep mountain, where he met national liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military rule on August 15, 1945. After liberation, he could give full scope to his talent.

In 1947, Ho received surprising news. Though everything was in short supply, the leader Kim Il Sung formed a youth delegation to the 1st World Festival of Youth, and before its departure, called a send-off athletic meet. At the meet, he delivered the historic speech *Korea of the Future Belongs to the Youth*. In an article about it, the newspaper *Jongno* said, "A basket of flowers was presented to the representative athletes. Holding it, they silently made a firm determination to play well at the festival of the world democratic youth."

At the international arena the young sportsmen of Korea who had trained themselves earnestly under the care of the people's power for the two years after liberation displayed their skills to the full. Especially, the Korean footballers defeated all their opponents and won the final match with the team of Czechoslovakia by a score of 6 to 1. Ho was greatly excited to hear the news. He recalled the past days he had spent in the sorrow of a boy of a ruined nation: the straw ball he had used as a substitute for a football, the day he was expelled from the school for the reason of his team winning a match against the Japanese, and his detention in a Japanese police cell after a bloody match in Seoul. *I'll be the best player adding to the honour of new Korea*, he resolved and put heart and soul into training.

At every match, he distinguished himself as a superb player with smart legs, winning the highest popularity among all the Koreans, and his team emerged as the best team. Ho, a member of the football team of the National Defence Ministry, was designated to the national football team that was to take part in the 2nd World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Hungary in August 1949. In answer to the trust placed in him, Ho ran about the

stadium of Budapest, bringing victory to his team and raising the honour of the motherland.

His smart and neat forte of powerful left-foot turn-around kick with his back against the goal line caused a great sensation among the world's football circles and fans. A foreign coach frankly said that he would like to have Ho, a back-seeing player, in exchange for his three able players, and coaches of other countries, too, cast wistful eyes on him. After that, Ho was known to the world as a football player with machine-like legs. When a sports delegation of Korea visited France in 1969, a person of the French sports circles who had seen the football match during the festival asked them about Ho Juk San, football player No. 10 of Korea who had astonished the world with his superb football skills, in the hope of finding out what he was doing.

Well aware of the worth of his life which depended on his motherland that placed trust in him and boosted him, he volunteered for military service when the Korean war (1950–1953) broke out. As an officer in charge of naval transportation, he courageously went through war flames and died a heroic death after honourably fulfilling important transportation duties. A football player with legs like a machine, Ho added to the glory of the motherland with his unique football skills in time of peace and sacrificed his youthful life for the country and people in the grim days of war. He now lies at rest in the Cemetery of the Fallen Soldiers of the Korean People's Army in Mt. Naphal, Wonsan, Kangwon Province.

One day in August 1995 Chairman Kim Jong Il told an official of the sports sector to improve the country's sports techniques to the world standard, and said that there was a football ace in the past called "smart leg." In February 1996 the Chairman saw Ho's photo in naval uniform and watched the video showing his single breakthrough while dribbling past Hungarian players during the 2nd World Festival of Youth and Students. Then, he gave instructions to launch a dynamic campaign to train sports stars like Ho Juk San, setting him up as a model of sportsmen having special forte. Then, highly praising Sub-Lieutenant Ho for the self-sacrificing spirit he had displayed in the war, the Chairman saw to it that a certificate of Patriotic Martyr was conferred on his children.

Today Ho Juk San is enshrined in the hearts of the Korean people as a 26-year-old eternal youth.

(The end)

Acupuncture for Treatment of Deformed Spine



ACUPUNCTURE IS A KIND of Koryo medicine with a long history. The Koreans began to make stone needles by grinding stones and use them for treatment of abscess in the Stone Age, and even exported them in 652.

In its first part, *Hyangyak-jipsongbang* compiled in 1433 indicates the spots for acupuncture and explains methods of acupuncture to be applied in accord with diseases. Methods of acupuncture are described in detail in *Uibangryuchwi* compiled in 1445 and *Tonguibogam* compiled in 1610. The special book on acupuncture, titled *Chimgugyonghombang* (Book on Experience of Acupuncture and Moxibustion), was compiled in 1644.

Acupuncture has now developed onto a higher level. Typical

is the needle-used remedy to treat refractory diseases related with deformed spine. Backbone arcuation, lateroversion, slipped disk are typical kinds of diseases of deformed spine. Although there are methods of treatment on deformed spine in the world, they are known to be low in effectiveness.

Kim Mi Hwa, doctor of the Rungna Polyclinic in Taedonggang District, made a success in treatment of congenital and acquired diseases of deformed spine as well as ordinary diseases by means of acupuncture. She put acupuncture for treatment of deformed spine in each physical constitution on a scientific basis and treated many cases of backbone arcuation and lateroversion by her special method of acupuncture.

Even the cases of backbone arcuation who had been refractory even after relevant operations were fully cured by her method of acupuncture.

Acupuncture for treatment of spine-deforming diseases is done by piercing the needle into a man's body at certain places. Acupuncture for treatment of deformed spine was highly appreciated at several seminars of medical science for its value and vitality, and registered as national intangible cultural heritage of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea last year.

Different medical establishments across the country are actively introducing the technique in their medical service.

Rim Ok

A Koguryo Cemetery Newly Unearthed



SOME TIME AGO A LARGE group of tombs from the Koguryo period (277 BC-AD 668) was unearthed in Chondok-ri, Pongsan County, North Hwanghae Province. A research team of the Archaeology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences engaged in investigation and excavation of the relics of the Koguryo period, discovered about 30 tombs arranged in a neat order in four lines underground in an area of 185 square metres on a hill about two kilometres to the northeast of the Chondok-ri village. In view of individual tombs found around the area, it is presumed that originally it was a large cemetery comprising hundreds of graves. Most tombs are about 10 metres across and some 2 metres high. The diameter of the biggest tomb is about 17 metres and its height 2.4 metres. And intervals between the tombs are about 10 ~ 20 metres.

The grave mounds are of single or two stone chambers. The floors of the stone chambers are covered with hardened clay, gravel or slates and plastered, and their walls are built up with pebbles and slates. The ceilings are vaulted or inclined on four sides, but most of them have crumbled. The double stone-chambered graves are the same-style buildings with the single-chambered graves. In the cemetery are found bones of men and horses as well as remains like bronze spoons and ornaments, silver-coated iron coffin nails, ring-shaped iron coffin handles and grey ceramics. The newly unearthed Koguryo tombs and the relics discovered there are of great significance in clarifying the developed culture of Koguryo, a great Asian power that existed for a thousand years.

Pak Thae Ho



Mt. Myohyang (5)

Relics in Mt. Myohyang

THE REMAINS IN MT. MYOHYANG ARE important national heritage that show the history of the Korean nation. In the mountain of superb scenic beauty are well preserved lots of relics and remains—old hermitages and sculptures, towers and monuments, pictures and craftworks as well as printed materials—which show the creative and artistic skills of the wise and diligent ancestors of the Korean people.

There are various styles of old wooden buildings that show the high standards of architecture. The construction of temples in Mt. Myohyang started around the 7th century. At first, temples were built on the north of Piro Peak and in the deep valley of Naehyangsan, and then, after the 11th century they were built in the area of Sinhyangsan. So, in the past there were many temples in the mountain including those within the main areas of the Ansim Temple built in 1028 and the Pohyon Temple built in 1042 in addition to those in different valleys which belonged to the Pohyon Temple. According to the monumental inscriptions, there were more than 360 temples in the mountain. However, the names of over 150 of them appear in the historical records.

These temples have lots of relics from the periods of the Koryo dynasty (918–1392) and the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910) as well as Buddhist im-

ages and pictures, wooden plates engraved with Buddhist Sutras, articles for Buddhist ceremonies, and household goods. A large portion of the cultural heritage was swept away and lost, damaged or destroyed by the floods of 1915 and the Japanese predatory policy of wiping out the national culture of Korea. And then, during the Korean war (1950–1953), more than 20 buildings and thousands of remains were burnt down or severely wrecked by the indiscriminate bombings of the US imperialists.

Thanks to the state's policy of preserving the cultural heritage, old buildings including the main buildings of the Pohyon Temple were restored to the original state and lots of relics were well preserved. At present, there is cultural heritage in the mountain like the old wooden buildings and hermitages of the Pohyon Temple, towers and pagodas, monuments, the 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures, and printing wooden plates. They show the historical durability of the Korean nation adding beauties to the famous mountain. The building of the Pohyon Temple is of high artistic value representing the architecture of the Korean nation in the early 11th century. It was built in 1042 and subsequently rebuilt many times. The existing main buildings of the temple were repaired time and again between 1441 and 1775. The temple was named after the Bodhisattva of Pohyon. Consisting of 24 buildings and towers at first, it was the biggest



The Taeung Hall in the Pohyon Temple.

- ▶ temple in South and North Phyongan provinces and the centre of Buddhism in the areas north of the Chongchon River. Its main buildings numbering dozens added to the magnificent sight and beauty of Mt. Myohyang, but over ten buildings including the Taeung Hall and thousands of relics kept in them were all burnt up or destroyed by the brutal bombings of the US imperialists during the Korean war.

But thanks to the state's policy of preserving the cultural heritage, the Myohyangsan History Museum was established and old buildings such as the Taeung Hall and Manse Pavilion were restored to the original states. And a house was built to eternally preserve the 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures. As a result, the Pohyon Temple is now a nice place for a visit.

In its main district, you will find old buildings including the Taeung Hall, Manse Pavilion and Kwanum Hall, a 9-storey quadrangular pagoda, a 13-storey octagonal pagoda, a stone monument to the Pohyon Temple and other relics like the Dharani Stone Monument brought from the Puljong Temple in Songdong-ri, Pihyon County, North Phyongan Province, and a bell (2.1 metres high, 4.1 metres round and weighing 7 tons) from the Yujom Temple, Mt. Kungang. The temple buildings at this place constitute a grand architectural group.

The cultural relics, peaks, rocks and waterfalls of the mountain have legends about the building of the ancient state, struggles against foreign invaders, beautiful natural sceneries of the mountain and their mysteries, religious traditions and various other things. The mountain is associated with the patriotic struggles of the Buddhist priests including Saint Sosan and high priest Samyongdang who fought bravely against the Japanese invaders at the time of the Imjin Patriotic War. The Japanese aggressors invaded Korea with a 200 000-strong force in April 1592. After landing at Pusan, they pushed through to Seoul in May and reached Pyongyang in June. Now, as the country was in an emergency, Saint Sosan of the Pohyon Temple, aged 73, turned out in the struggle against the Japanese invaders. Making a nationwide appeal in writing to all the monks across the country to turn out in the volunteers' struggle, he himself formed a righteous volunteers' army of monks with the priests of the Pohyon and other temples in Phyongan Province and joined in the battle to liberate the Walled City of Pyongyang and played a great part in routing the invaders. After that, he returned to Mt. Myohyang and passed away at 85 in 1604.

Paek Yong Nam



The Pohyon Temple house where the 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures are preserved.



Nationwide Movement Essential for Reunification

TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL reunification however difficult it may be—this is the steadfast will of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This year the government of the DPRK exhorted the whole nation to pool their will and efforts to usher in a heyday of the nationwide reunification movement. It appealed for the north and the south to achieve solidarity, make concerted efforts and unite on the principle of subordinating everything to national reunification, the common cause of the nation, and revitalize the reunification movement on a nationwide scale.

The history of the inter-Korean relationship, especially the June 15 era recorded in the history of the reunification movement, shows the Korean people clearly that when the north and the south pool their will and efforts they will be able to pave the road to peace and reunification.

In June 2000 the north-south summit meeting was held for the first time since the nation was divided, resulting in the adoption of the north-south joint declaration the keynote of which was the ideal of “by our nation itself.” It was the grand prelude to the June 15 era of reunification. Now the two sides open-mindedly discussed and solved one problem after another regarding the mutual relations through tens of ministerial talks and seven rounds of general-level military talks. In the course of this they brought about progresses in political, military, economic and all other fields—the Kaesong Industrial Park was constructed and propaganda activities and psychological warfare were suspended along the Military Demarcation Line. On May 17, 2007 trial train operations were conducted successfully in the re-linked railway sections between the north and the south on the east and west coastlines

respectively.

Along the road of the proud June 15 era, the second north-south summit meeting was held in Pyongyang in October 2007. At the meeting the top leaders adopted a declaration for development of north-south relations and peace and prosperity based on the June 15 declaration. They expressed their belief that the north and the south can open up an era of national prosperity, a new era of independent reunification when they independently settle the reunification issue in the spirit of “by our nation itself,” attach importance to the dignity and interests of the nation and orientate everything to this objective.

The June 15 era characterized by reconciliation, cooperation, contact and exchange between the two sides clearly showed that improvement of the north-south relations is the only way to peace and reunification.

The present reality requires that the north and the south promote active contact and exchange with each other irrespective of differences in their ideologies and systems, regions and ideals, and classes and social strata, and hold a pan-national, grand meeting for reunification involving all the political parties and organizations including the authorities in the north and the south, as well as the compatriots of all strata at home and abroad.

From early this year south Korea has been conducting activities hostile toward the DPRK without interruption. On land the puppet south Korean army created the warlike atmosphere by firing various kinds of guns including self-propelled artillery, and in the sea the south Korean warships busied themselves with mobile exercises combined with live firing drills.

Intolerable are these moves that throw a wet blanket over the Korean nation's desire for peace

and reunification.

To put an end to the flunkeyist and treacherous government, improve the north-south relations and advance peace and reunification in the Korean peninsula is just the way for the south Korean people to survive—this is the public sentiment in south Korea at present.

According to the result of the reunification-oriented consciousness survey 2016 made by the reunification and peace research institute of Seoul University, the number of people recognizing the DPRK as the one to cooperate with was 8.5% larger than it was in 2015.

The answers that pointed north-south cooperation as essential for reunification were far more than assertions for US-south Korea cooperation. According to an opinion poll targeting the experts in the studies of the north carried by the research institute of modern economics 97.8% of the respondents said that reunification is needed and 44.1% of them claimed federation-style reunification based on one state and two systems.

The south Korean mass media and experts comment that the view of recognizing the north not as the enemy but as the companion for cooperation is growing further among different strata of the people despite the successive nuclear tests and launches of ballistic missiles. It is noteworthy that these changes in the view of the north are clearly opposite to the anti-north policy of the conservative authorities, and the general public is feeling tired of the anti-north policy of pressure, the media noted.

It is the invariable stand of the DPRK to readily join hands with anyone who prioritizes the fundamental interests of the nation and is desirous of improving inter-Korean relations.

Rim Hye Gyong

Disaster Caused by Sycophantic Policy

THE HISTORY OF THE south Korean regime is simply the continuation of sycophancy with big powers and treachery to the Korean nation. It has brought unprecedented disgrace and shame to south Korea, which is currently the laughing stock of the international community.

The Washington Post and other media of the world made such comments as “south Korea is a colony politically subjected to the US while north Korea is a true Korea,” “most young people of south Korea admire north Korea while regarding south Korea as an American colony with no political power,” “south Korea remains a satellite of the US,” and “south Korea is a military base that the US set foot on for aggression of the Asian continent.” This is a due outcome of the policy of the Park Geun Hye regime that has turned south Korea into a prey of, and theatre of confrontation between, big powers through a sycophantic attitude towards big powers and a treacherous, confrontation-oriented stand towards the fellow countrymen.

The moves of the authorities to deploy a THAAD in south Korea despite strong opposition of the Korean nation and neighbouring countries, have backfired terribly. If the Americans’ high-altitude interceptor missile system is deployed, south Korea will turn into a dangerous theatre of showdown between foreign forces because strategic means in the Korean peninsula and in the neighbouring countries will fall into the range of watch and strike of the US.

Nevertheless, Park, clamour-

ing about the so-called “extremely grave situation beyond the national emergency,” argued that “the deployment of THAAD is an inevitable choice”—this is a challenge against the public opinion and the international community. Her stooges have run amuck for the scheme, making absurd claims that “the north’s nuclear test has boosted the necessity for deployment of the THAAD,” and “we have to bring in one more THAAD unit.”

As a sign of protest against the deployment of a THAAD, China has launched an economic retaliation measure against south Korea. Russia is also manifesting a strong rejection, stating that it will pose an immediate threat to the strategic balance of forces.

The same can be said of the problem of the sex slavery of the old Japanese army. In the past the Japanese imperialists forced horrible sex slavery on 200 000 Korean women and inflicted disgrace and death on them, which was an extravillainous anti-human crime. But Japan has not yet recognized its past crimes, and has been crazy about distortion of history and moves for reinvasion.

In late 2015 the south Korean authorities made a humiliating “agreement” with the Japanese counterpart on covering up the crime of sex slavery of the old Japanese army in return for a sum of money. Enraged at this, south Koreans set up a statue of a young sex slave in front of the Japanese consulate general in Pusan. The Japanese are behaving outrageously over the matter. The Japanese chief executive himself showed up on the media, arguing that south Korea has to

act sincerely now that Japan paid a billion yen, that the withdrawal of the statue of a young woman is a matter of course, and that the “agreement” has to be implemented even if the “government” changes in south Korea. Despite all those insulting practices, the south Korean authorities are still worrying about the Japanese smile or frown.

The Americans’ treatment is no less humiliating, although the south Korean authorities are kowtowing to them. The new American administration did not discuss about the nomination of their ambassador to south Korea even when they appointed their ambassadors to China and Japan. At present they are pressing south Korea to increase the expense for the upkeep of their local aggression forces.

Referring to the situation, the media are ridiculing the south Korean authorities, saying that “the south Korean diplomacy has been reduced to an object of wrath at the outset of the year as China kicks this side when Japan kicks that side while the US is paying no regard,” and that “south Korea has already become a drum which China, Japan, Russia and the US can beat at will to attain their own interest.”

The south Korean people will never be able to avoid such disgrace and humiliation as long as they leave intact the moves of the traitorous and sycophantic anti-reunification forces that, failing to see clearly who is the real arch-enemy of the nation, are trying to find a way out in confrontation with the fellow countrymen.

Mun Pong Hyok

Brazen and Disgusting Habit

THESE DAYS THE Japanese politicians are vying to fan hatred for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by stoking up the so-called kidnap issue. This is a brazen practice, for Japan has suffered shame whenever those who had been believed to be kidnapped by the DPRK were found out one after another in the country. Last year alone several "missing people" appeared, who had been announced to have been "taken to north Korea."

In June last year the Fukui Prefecture police announced that Gazuya Miyautsi who the police had declared was most possibly "kidnapped" by the DPRK in 1997 when he was 32 was found out in the territory of Japan. On December 1 last the Tokyo Police Office's public security department made a statement that Masanori Gatsuki who had disappeared in Edogawa District in Tokyo in February 1985 when he was 36 and the possibility of whose "kidnap by the DPRK" had been recognized as not to be excluded was found in the territory of Japan in late November at the age of 68.

Despite the facts, the Japanese politicians are making another racket about the "kidnap issue" which has already been settled—it is no more than a brazen manoeuvre to cover up their society's crime of kidnapping and make the most of the "issue" as means to shirk their duty to settle the past.

Japan is doing its best to cover up its past crimes. Last year civilian organizations from different countries and regions of the world applied for registration of the data on the Japanese army's criminal past related to forced sex slavery. At the time Japan set it as its immediate foreign policy to check registration as UNESCO heritage of the materials on its past crime of sex slavery arguing that it would do all what it could to prevent UNESCO from being abused for a political purpose, including the reform of its system. The Liberal Democratic Party, the ruling party of Japan, made a reckless remark that it was necessary to put pressure by even shelving its share of expenses for UNESCO. The Japanese authorities are still refusing to pay their share for 2016 to UNESCO. Public opinions are now commenting that the Japanese government is causing a financial difficulty of UNESCO intentionally to foil the registration of the data on their past crime of sex slavery in the world list of heritage.

The more Japan denies its past crime while covering up its history of aggression and plunder, the deeper grudge the Korean nation, victim of the crime, bears against Japan. In the past imperialist Japan committed extrajudicial crimes occupying Korea militarily for over 40 years. According to a cursory study, 8 400 000 Koreans were forcibly

taken and kidnapped for slave labour for aggression war, and more than a million were killed. In an attempt to stamp out the Korean nation, Japan forced 200 000 Korean women to be sex slaves for its soldiers, and mercilessly killed them when they didn't obey. Koreans have to obey the Japanese law or die—this was the logic of the war criminals who were crazy about stamping out the Korean nation.

The present Japanese authorities consist in the criminals' descendants. That is why they resort to all means to break the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, or Chongryon, an organization of overseas citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As for the members of Chongryon, they are descendants of those Koreans who were taken by the Japanese imperialists to the exotic islands for all sorts of drudgery, so they deserve care in view of the international law. Nevertheless, the conservative Japanese rulers are indulging themselves in oppression and persecution of Chongryon and other Koreans in Japan. Mobilizing numbers of armed police and even armoured vehicles, they forcibly ransacked many branch organizations and schools under Chongryon, and committed random violence against and arrests of the Koreans. They instigated social scums including the rightist gangs to create a warlike climate across

The US Had Better Be Prudent

THESE DAYS THE Americans and their blind lackeys are misleading the world by making false and wrong arguments about the self-reliant defence capabilities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

A scrutiny of last year's events, however, brings an immediate conclusion that their assertions are nothing but sophistry which reveals their vicious hostile policy towards the DPRK based on inveterate antipathy.

Reviewing the situation of the country in 2015 when a touch-and-go critical moment arose in the Korean peninsula, the DPRK reiterated its proposal for a peace treaty to the US that is a party to the Armistice Agreement in order to remove the root cause of war and achieve lasting peace in the peninsula.

In the early 2016 it reaffirmed its principled stand that it will be faithful to the responsibility it assumes in the effort to ensure peace and security in the penin-

sula and the rest of the world. It also strongly demanded that the US and the south Korean authorities stop their dangerous rehearsals for aggressive war and other military provocations that would aggravate the tension in the Korean peninsula.

Ignoring the demand, however, the US drove the situation in the region into ever greater tension and instability throughout the year. Misleading the world opinion with a false claim that the DPRK was to blame for the worse tension in the peninsula, it escalated the campaign for sanctions and pressure in the international arena while making nuclear threats against Pyongyang. At its instigation the vassal forces and mouthpieces talked much about the so-called "threat from north Korea." The Pentagon announced at the end of 2015 the 4D O-Plan aimed at launching a preemptive attack against the DPRK—for the underhand purpose of starting a nuclear war—

and integrated it in the O-Plan 5015, a new war scenario. Soon it carried out the test of B61-12 which is a gravitational nuclear bomb to be used exclusively in its war against Pyongyang. These developments took to extremes the danger of a new nuclear arms race and a nuclear war in and around the peninsula.

Despite the reality, the US found fault with the DPRK's launch of an artificial earth satellite which is execution of the lawful right of a sovereign state, to say nothing of its self-defence measures to cope with the former's provocations.

The American military made a test launch of the ICBM Minuteman-3 on February 25, which they openly claimed was aimed at sending a signal of a "possible use of nuclear weapons against north Korea." Earlier on February 18, the White House formally brought into effect the "2016 act on stricter sanctions and policy towards north Korea" in order to

Japan in order to strike terror in the Koreans.

The Japanese police and other law enforcement officers, instead of removing evils of their own country, watch Chongryon workers and other Koreans on their return from their homeland, putting them under surveillance, dogging and bribing them, and inflicting persistent persecution.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education and Science is ratchet-

ing up pressure by sending local autonomies orders to reconsider the system of granting subsidy to Korean schools, and examining the implementation of the orders. The right-wing gangsters are going so far as to bring dangers to Korean schoolchildren on their way to school. And they intrude their schools to destroy facilities and equipment. The vicious campaigns against Chongryon committed under the Japanese au-

thorities' active protection and instigation are causing great apprehension and anger at home and abroad.

The more viciously Japan resorts to plots to cover up its past crimes by making propaganda of "inferiority" of the Korean nation, the more clearly it reveals its brazen face and immorality to the international community.

Choe Kwang Guk

► stifle the DPRK economically. On March 3, it, abusing the UN Security Council, cooked up Resolution No. 2270 on sanctions against the DPRK, which was a grave violation of the UN Charter and international laws. Still, it felt little satisfied, for it announced measures of its own for sanctions.

The Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 16 joint military rehearsals from March 7 to April 30 last year are a clear indication of the extent of the Americans' moves to start a nuclear war against Pyongyang. For those rehearsals they mobilized a huge force including 27 000 GIs, 300 000 puppet south Korean troops and armies of their vassal nations, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Stennis*-led target force, B-52, B-2 and all other kinds of equipment for nuclear war—over three times larger forces than those hurled into the previous year's exercises. In the earlier years the Pentagon conducted in top secret different sorts of special drills for removal of the DPRK leadership and destruction of its system, but in 2016 it went so far as to make it open that it was planning to get rid of the Korean leadership. On April 26 when the joint exercises reached the zenith, Obama blasted that “we can obviously destroy north Korea with weapons,” thus driving the situation in the Korean peninsula swiftly to the brink of war. The 55 days when the DPRK as one party and the US and its followers as the opponents were fiercely confronted was little different from wartime, a time of confrontation between nuclear powers accompanied by demonstration of mili-

tary capabilities.

The moves of the US military for war reached extremes with the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint exercise from August 22 to September 2, which was the largest in its history. A tremendous force of aggression conducted smoke-reeking games on the land, in the sky and sea with the mobilization of more than 30 000 GIs and strategic means of war like B-1B and B-2A strategic bombers deployed in the forward base in the Guam. Due to the drills the situation was on the doorstep of war. Besides, the US carried out different names of anti-DPRK war games like the Vigilant Ace by mobilizing the Japanese Self-defence Force and the puppet south Korean army—as many as 40 exercises throughout the year 2016.

Action is inevitably followed by reaction. The American moves for war and nuclear blackmail pushed the DPRK steadfastly to the effort to build up its war deterrent and take more offensive and stronger measures in succession.

On January 6 last year Pyongyang successfully carried out the first H-bomb test and a nuclear warhead blasting test in September. And in August it made a stride in developing its nuclear force up to an advanced level by succeeding in a higher-level underwater launch test of ballistic missile from a strategic submarine. The air and sea routes in the Pacific region used by the Americans in the past for aggression of the Korean peninsula are now to be followed by the retaliatory weapons of the DPRK aimed

at the lifeline of the US. With this the DPRK-US confrontation has changed into a completely different strategic structure.

The incomparably strengthened war deterrent of the DPRK demonstrated its power during the enemy's joint military exercises of all names in the Korean peninsula and the surrounding waters. It is truly right for the DPRK to choose the road of self-reliant defence to defend its own state and system against the constant threat of nuclear war. The country is determined to crown its cause with victory by dint of self-reliant defence, the cause which it started and has pursued with its own efforts.

Referring to this fact, American experts of the Korean studies say: The policy of pushing ahead with the nuclear buildup and economic construction simultaneously has turned out successful in reality. In the DPRK the national economy is getting more and more vitality thanks to the line of attaching importance to sci-tech development in economic construction, and the cultural sector is also making radical progress. The strategic position of the DPRK in Northeast Asia has changed completely.

It is high time the US had a proper view of the completely different strategic position of the DPRK and behave itself, shaking off its congenital antipathy against the latter. It would be wise for the White House to be cautious and prudent regarding matters of the DPRK's prestige and security.

Kim Yong Un

Anbul Temple and Kumya Gingko

THE ANBUL TEMPLE, ONE OF KOREA'S historic relics built in 1393 and rebuilt in 1843 during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), is situated in Tonghung-ri, Kumya County, South Hamgyong Province. Its main building Kuknakbo Hall is a valuable historic relic showing the Korean people's excellent architectural skills and talents at that time with its gorgeous painting, exquisite formation of brackets, and unique architectural structure. It is a small-size gable roof house, but characteristic of gallant decorations.

The temple is also noted for the Kumya gingko, a natural monument, that grows outside it. The tree,

over 2 130 years old, is 41 m tall, 16 m round at the root, 15 m round at the breast height, 4.8 m across at the root, and 4.6 m across at the breast height. The diameter of the crown is 40 m from east to west and 50 m from north to south, looking like a huge umbrella. The area of the tree's shadow is 1 800 m². The trunk divides into three boughs at the height of 1.5 m and many branches shoot out from them while two young boughs grow out from the lower part of the tree. On the main trunk two processes like nipples have come out at the height of three metres. A process is said to arise in one thousand years. The tree also bears fruit every year. Seen from a long distance, it looks like a small hill, and coming under the tree, people are interrupted from the view of the sky and feel as if they were in a deep forest. This adds to the charming scenery of the historic relic.

As the largest and oldest gingko in the country, the tree has scientific importance, and so has been designated as a precious natural monument and is preserved with special care.

Choe Chol



