

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 6 (2 990) weekly <http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp> e-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp Sat, February 10, Juche 107(2018)

Kim Jong Un delivers a congratulatory speech at the military parade

Officers and men of the heroic Korean People's Army,

Commanders and combatants of the units participating in the parade to be held in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army,

Dear Pyongyang citizens and other people across the country,

Today, marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army, revolutionary regular armed forces, by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, we are holding a grand parade of the combat units of the Korean People's Army.

The first parade of the regular armed forces held 70 years ago in the square in front of Pyongyang Railway Station demonstrated the proud image of a newly-emergent Korea, and today's military parade will demonstrate the mettle of the powerful Democratic People's Republic of Korea which has developed into a world-class military power.

Availing myself of this opportunity when we are looking back with deep emotion on the proud militant course of history of the heroic Korean People's Army, and reflecting the great emotion overflowing in the hearts of all our service personnel and people, I would like to extend noblest respect and infinite glory to the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who founded and built up the Juche-oriented revolutionary armed forces.

I also would like to extend noble respect to the fighters of the anti-Japanese revolution and soldiers of the People's Army who fought with revolutionary arms in their hands, dedicating their youth and even lives without hesitation, for the reunification and sovereignty of their country, for the liberation of their fellow people and for socialist construction, and greeting the army founding day, I offer my warm congratulations and militant salute to the war veterans, discharged soldiers and all the officers and men of the army.

My heartfelt thanks go to the working class, agricultural working people and other people across the country, who readily placed their sons and daughters, whom they had brought up with great care, at the posts of national defence, and have provided on a top priority basis, even in the face of difficulties and trials, everything needed for increasing the combat capabilities of the army.

Comrades,

Together with April 25, when Comrade Kim Il Sung founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, February 8, when he founded the Korean People's Army, revolutionary regular armed forces, is a day of historic significance in building up the revolutionary armed forces and accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Our people, who had to experience the miserable fate of a ruined nation for lack of an army worth mentioning, ardently desired for a powerful army of their own.

This centuries-old desire of our people was achieved this February 8 seventy years ago under the wise leadership of the great Comrade Kim Il Sung.

After the country's liberation the great Comrade Kim Il Sung set the founding of a powerful regular army as a prerequisite for developing the country into



an independent and sovereign state. He stepped up the cause of army building by dint of his outstanding ideas and energetic leadership, thereby founding the Korean People's Army, the revolutionary regular armed forces of the Juche type, in a matter of less than three years.

The Korean People's Army is, both in name and in reality, a revolutionary army that inherited the traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle—the indomitable revolutionary spirit of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and its rich fighting experience and adroit art of warfare.

Thanks to the birth of this Juche-oriented regular army, our Republic, from the very beginning after its founding, enjoyed the prestige of being a dignified people's country with its own strong armed forces; it defeated the imperialist aggressor forces that had been boasting of being the "mightiest" in the world and achieved a great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

April 25, 1932, the day when our revolutionary armed forces began to take historical roots, was fundamental to vanquishing the brigandish Japanese imperialists and realizing the sacred cause of national liberation; February 8, 1948, the birthday of our regular armed forces that inherited the traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle, was crucial to the great victory of the Fatherland Liberation War and the successful advance of our socialist cause.

The whole course of historic development of the Korean People's Army has been accompanied by constant tension and intense confrontation in the world's largest powder-keg and hottest spot which is pregnant

with the danger of outbreak of a war.

Being faithful to its mission of defending the country, the revolution and the people, our army has smashed the enemy's adventurous provocations at every step, upholding the military line of self-reliant defence and the banner of "a-match-for-a-hundred". In the course of this, it has been developed into an invincible combat force capable of defeating any enemy, however formidable, at a stroke.

In the grimmest and most difficult period when it had to fight against the allied imperialist forces of the world single-handed, with no flanks and with no support from outside, our People's Army performed remarkable exploits by waging a heroic, do-or-die struggle in the first line of the revolution under the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Jong Il.

As this elite revolutionary army played the role of the standard-bearer and solid cornerstone for defending socialism and the revolution at the forefront of the anti-imperialist military front and the construction of a prosperous country, our Republic has won one brilliant victory after another in the battle to safeguard socialism and gained the high reputation of a world-class military power.

In world history cannot be found any other nation that accomplished the great cause of army building from scratch by relying on its internal forces and built an elite army in spite of the protracted, worst-ever challenges and blockade; such brilliant exploit of building a powerful army for the sake of national prosperity is a miracle that can be wrought only by the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the peerless patriots and iron-willed commanders.

Officers and men of the People's Army,

The Korean People's Army, which made its first fine appearance through a magnificent parade 70 years previously, has become what it is today, hoisting the flag of victory in the fierce battlefields in defence of the country and people.

Our army, which has grown up into a world-class powerful army, is a stout pillar in preventing the catastrophe of war and defending peace on the Korean peninsula and in the region and a force that makes breakthroughs in the vanguard of the grand march of our people towards final victory for the socialist cause.

Now our people regard as their great pride our brave People's Army which is struggling with the spirit and stamina of Paektu, and are gaining fresh strength and courage from the militant might of our army which is growing stronger day by day.

The People's Army has won the sincere affection and trust of the people at the cost of blood, sweat and death-defying devotion, achieved oneness with them enjoying their enthusiastic support and assistance, and performed feats on the fronts for defending the country and building socialism.

It is a source of pride for our Party and state and a great

KPA's 70th anniversary highlighted with the military parade

A military parade was held with splendour in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army in Pyongyang on February 8.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, acknowledged the salute of the honour guard of the KPA services.

Amid the playing of the welcome music, the Supreme Leader, together with Ri Sol Ju, appeared on the platform.

Thunderous cheers rocked the sky while lots of balloons and fireworks soared up.

The platform was also taken by KPA Vice Marshal Kim Jong Gak, director of the KPA General Political Bureau; KPA Vice Marshal Ri Myong Su, chief of the KPA General Staff; Army General Pak Yong Sik, minister of the People's Armed Forces; other commanding officers of the KPA General Political Bureau and General Staff and the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces and commanders of large combined units.



SEE PAGE 3

FROM PAGE 1

fortune of our people that they have such a dignified and powerful revolutionary army, an army of the people.

I deem it the highest honour to have assumed the heavy responsibility of supreme command of the courageous revolutionary army.

On behalf of the Workers' Party of Korea, the government of the Republic and all the people, I once again warmly congratulate all the officers and men on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army, and extend militant greetings to them.

Combatants of the units participating in this parade and all the other officers and men of the People's Army,

As the Party and the country have high expectations of it and the people are sincere in their affection for it, the People's Army must defend the country and the people reliably through faithful service and devoted struggle as befits the army of the Party and people.

The People's Army should increase its political and military capabilities to the maximum as suited to the status of our dignified state to meet the demands of the times and the developing revolution, and firmly guarantee by force of arms the struggle of our Party and people to accomplish the socialist cause.

The central task facing the People's Army at present is to perfect its combat capabilities as befitting a revolutionary army by holding aloft the banner of modelling the entire army on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and implementing to the letter the strategic lines and tasks for increasing the military strength put forward by the Party.

The People's Army should be boundlessly loyal to the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Korean People's Army is the army of our Party which was born and built up in the embrace of the Party; the source of its mightiness lies in the Party's revolutionary ideas and leadership.

It should become the first death-defying corps, the first guards unit, sharing its destiny with the Workers' Party of Korea and defending its Central Committee with arms.

It should firmly establish the unified leadership system of the Party within itself, create a revolutionary military climate in which all its service personnel move as one under the command of the Party, and organize

and conduct all types of military work on the basis of the Party's lines and policies.

It should maintain strengthening itself politically and ideologically and making itself morally sound as its two major tasks, and concentrate all its efforts on preparing itself as an army that is strong in ideology and faith like the 7th Regiment during the anti-Japanese war and the Guards units during the Fatherland Liberation War.

It should raise more fiercely the flames of the revolution in training to improve its capability of fighting a war.

Training is precisely the way to defending the socialist country and the people, and the short-cut to turning the People's Army into a powerful army is to make the most exacting demand upon its soldiers under training.

It should steadily improve the content, style and method of training in line with the Party's ideas on military strategy and tactics, with the demands of the Juche-oriented tactics and with the demands and features of modern warfare, and should not stop even a day practical training in a virtual combat environment.

In the present situation, in which the United States and its vassal forces are making a fuss around the Korean peninsula, the People's Army should remain on full alert and give a spur to perfecting its combat preparedness.

Thus we must prevent any aggressive forces from violating or offending the dignity and sovereignty of our sacred country in the slightest.

Units of all services, arms and corps must intensify training aimed at having a command of their military hardware and improving their specialist levels, so as to make full preparations for waging hi-tech warfare in any operational space.

In particular, the People's Army must present building itself up into an army, which is excellent in all aspects, as an important strategic task in line with the requirements of the new, higher stage of turning the entire army into an army of cadres and modernizing it, and give top priority to its implementation.

The People's Army must establish rigid ethos and assume the appearance of a perfect regular army.

All the service personnel, from privates to generals, should be well versed in military regulations and manuals, and make it part of their habit to abide by them, thus ensuring that all units, sub-units and other places

where there are soldiers always present regularized features.

All the officers and men of the army, always bearing in mind that the People's Army cannot exist even a moment separated from the people, must boundlessly respect and love them, and constantly sustain the fine traits of the revolutionary army, whose soldiers defy death if it is for the sake of the people.

The People's Army must not weigh the importance of undertakings intended for the people, but regard it as a revolutionary military climate to devote all its sincerity with the most honest attitude.

Holding higher the patriotic, revolutionary slogan "Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction," it should give free rein to its unexcelled heroism in all places for translating the people's dreams and ideals into reality by displaying fortitude and creativity, not knowing the word impossible, and continuously take the lead in the struggle for transforming the country into a more beautiful land.

Comrades,

As long as imperialism exists on the globe and the United States persists in following its hostile policy against our country, the mission of the People's Army, as a powerful sword for defending the country, people and peace, can never be changed.

Final victory belongs to our Party and people with a firm grip on the arms of the revolution.

Our Party and people are fully convinced that the Korean People's Army, which has provided a military guarantee for the revolutionary cause of Juche, will continue to reliably defend the Party and the revolution, the country and the people, and increase its strength in every way possible to safeguard justice and peace.

As long as we have the Korean People's Army that is unfailingly loyal to the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, our glorious motherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—will grow more powerful and more prosperous.

All the service personnel of the People's Army, The flag of the ever-victorious Workers' Party of Korea will always lead the way ahead of you, giving you a great encouragement and rousing you to fresh struggle and victory.

Let us fight bravely for the Party and the revolution, the country and the people!



FROM PAGE 2

The special seats on the platform were occupied by Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Choe Ryong Hae, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Pak Pong Ju, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and premier of the Cabinet, who are all members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, other senior Party and government officials and Kim Chol Man who made a contribution to the strengthening of the revolutionary armed forces.

The flags of the DPRK and the WPK were hoisted as songs *Patriotic Song* and *Fly High, Our Party Flag* were played solemnly.

The commander of the parade reported to the Minister of the People's Armed Forces that the troops lined up to undergo a preparatory inspection for the parade.

And the minister reviewed troops to congratulate them on Army Day.

He then reported to DPRK Marshal Kim Jong Un that they would start the military parade.

Amid the playing of *Song of General Kim Il Sung* and *Song of General Kim Jong Il*, a 21-gun salute was fired.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un delivered a congratulatory speech.

After the speech, flags bearing the beaming images of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il entered the square escorted by KPA officers.

The honour guard of the KPA services and all the paraders paid a high tribute to the flags of the great leaders, before the march-past began.

As the music of *Song of National Defence* was played, columns symbolizing those in the initial

period of the regular armed forces marched past with lively steps.

They were followed by the vehicle carrying the parade commander and columns of KPA services, army corps-level units, arms and corps including medical corps.

Columns of large combined units marched through the square in a stately manner, including 1st, 2nd and 5th army corps, the Navy, Air and Anti-aircraft Force, Strategic Force, Special Operations Force and the 4th Army Corps defending the southwestern front of the country.

Among the valiant paraders were those from the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division and other KPA combined units as well as scouts, river-

crossing sappers, communications men, radar operators and medics.

The Supreme Leader raised his hands in salute as the columns marched past, demonstrating the features of regulars as a strongest revolutionary army.

Fighters flew past in the formation of "70" symbolizing the history of the heroic Korean People's Army replete with victories and glory, while setting off fireworks.

Then the mechanized columns rumbled past, showing off the invincible might of the powerful revolutionary army.

A command vehicle was followed by columns of tanks, armoured vehicles, self-propelled guns and multiple launch rocket systems flying the flags of the

WPK, the DPRK and the Supreme Commander.

The units of the KPA Strategic Force representing the military capability of the DPRK also rolled past in high spirits.

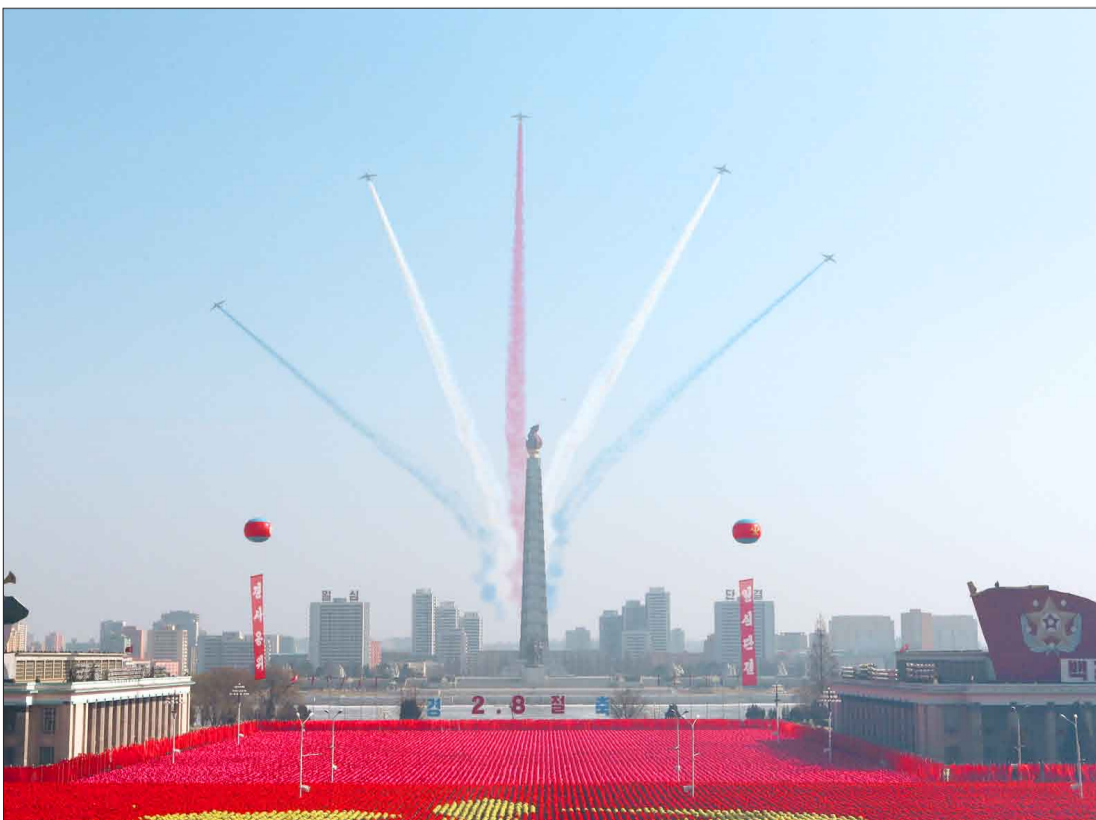
The military marching band formed the letter "Victory", when aircraft adorned the sky above the square with five-colour vapour trails to wind up the military parade.

All the participants burst into thunderous cheers again while fireworks were set off and balloons released.

The Supreme Leader went along the balcony to wave back to the cheering crowds.

By PT staff reporter





KPA'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Nation congratulates soldiers on 70th army day

On the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un received a congratulatory message from the Syrian President, a basket of flowers from the Nigerian President and a basket of flowers and congratulatory letter from Pyongyang-based military attachés corps.

The commanding officers of the KPA visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on February 8 to pay their respects to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The Korean people paid homage to the President and the Chairman at their statues and beaming images across the country with profound yearning for the founder and builder of the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK.

Wreaths were laid at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong, Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery

in Sinmi-ri and Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery.

Seen on the stands of the cemeteries were wreaths sent by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the KPA.

Wreaths were also placed at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery and Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in the joint name of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK SAC, the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and the DPRK Cabinet, while a wreath was presented to the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery in the joint name of the Central Committee and Central Military Commission of the WPK and the DPRK SAC.

Wreaths also came from the Ministry of the People's



Wreaths are laid at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong.

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Armed Forces, Ministry of People's Security and other ministries, working people's organizations, national agencies, units of the KPA and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces, institutions of science, education, literature and the arts, public health and media, and Party and government organs, enterprises and farms in Pyongyang.

Wreaths were laid at statues, cemeteries, graves and memorial towers

for the fallen soldiers of the KPA in different parts of the country.

People's delegations visited army units.

The Korean People's Army Song and Dance Ensemble gave a celebratory performance at the April 25 House of Culture on February 8.

The entertainers impressively depicted the sacred history of the KPA which has been developed into an invincible army while recording only victory and glory in its 70-year-long course as the revolutionary regular armed forces of a Juche type by carrying on the anti-Japanese tradition.

That day, a joint music and dance performance was given by the State Merited Chorus, Moranbong Band and Wangjaesan Art Troupe in Pyongyang.

Art performances were also given by artistic motivational

teams of the central committees of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea and Socialist Women's Union of Korea.

Pyongyang youth and students had a meeting with a combat hero at the Central Youth Hall.

Young people and students held dance parties throughout the country on February 8 to add more to the festive mood.

Resident military attachés corps and economic and trade counsellors corps visited the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, and the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces hosted a reception in honour of the military attachés corps.

The State Stamp Bureau issued stamps.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



Young people in Pyongyang dance on the 70th army day.

KCNA

Pyongyang people give welcome to paraders

A procession of military trucks and equipment passed through streets of Pyongyang on February 8 after they took part in a military parade which was held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Korean People's Army with Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in attendance.

Dozens of kilometres of roads were lined by crowds of people who were eager to welcome the paraders as they demonstrated again the militant spirit and invincible strength of the elite revolutionary armed forces.

Working people and students waved flowers towards the procession of trucks of paraders,

tanks and armoured vehicles.

The service members responded to the hearty welcome hardening their resolve to carry on the tradition of victory in the current campaign of defending socialism as the old generation of guards who created a great miracle of heroic Korea winning the Fatherland Liberation War.

Foreigners and overseas Koreans joined the welcome and admired the militant spirit of the service personnel and the single-minded unity between the Korean army and people that cannot be found in other places of the world.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



Paraders respond to hearty welcome of Pyongyang citizens.

KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

SPECIAL FEATURE

Kimjongilia shines with the name of great man

Innumerable are species of flowers growing on the globe.

Among them are those that are symbolic of the countries and nations and tell impressive stories or carry significant meanings.

But viewers of Kimjongilia as big and red as the rising sun lavish praise on it, giving the thumbs up to it and describing it as the “king” of flowers.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the naming of Kimjongilia. And looking back on the past decades, both local people and the world’s progressives say in unison that the flower has charmed so many people as it not only is beautiful but also mirrors the spirit and traits of the great man.

Kimjongilia is the most beautiful red flower of begonia family Kamo Mototeru, renowned Japanese floriculturist, bred after 20-odd-year-long painstaking efforts. It was his ideal to cultivate a flower of the “guardian” who would defend justice and peace, truth and beauty, and the future, and he put his heart and soul into breeding it. And he named it after Chairman Kim Jong Il by reflecting the boundless reverence and trust of himself and the world progressive humankind. He visited the DPRK on the occasion of the Chairman’s birthday in February 1988 and presented the flower to him together with a letter.

Over the past three decades since then the immortal flower has been spread across the country, backed by the fervent zeal of all service personnel and people in the DPRK to hold him in high esteem forever as the eternal sun of Juche.

Their profound reverence for the Chairman and firm will to demonstrate to the world the image of him as a peerless great man by growing the flower more beautifully and healthier have heightened with the annual Kimjongilia festival as an important occasion.

The Kimjongilia exhibition opened for the first time in

February 1997 and took place on a large scale every year, developing into an annual festival and turning 21 rounds last year.

The festivals drew commissions, ministries and national agencies, military organs, resident diplomatic missions, international organizations, overseas Koreans and many other units and individuals. They displayed well over a million Kimjongilias they had grown with utmost care and profound reverence for the Chairman, unfolding a spectacular display of flowers.

The flower gained dignity as the flower of the sun bearing the name of the peerlessly great man, causing a sensation in the world floriculture, and the craze for growing and disseminating the flower swept the world.

In March 1995 the Nordic Kimjongilia Association was inaugurated in Sweden, heralding the formation of an international organization aimed at disseminating and publicizing the flower for the first time in history.

At the instance of the association vigorous activities were conducted to grow and disseminate the flower in an organized way in various countries. In the course of it, Kimjongilia associations and fanciers societies were organized, Kimjongilia greenhouses opened one after another and Kimjongilia exhibitions took place in many countries and regions, attracting keen interest of their political and public circles.

The 12th International Flower Exhibition took place in May 1991. The venue was literally a large flower garden as it drew hundreds of species of flowers including the most renowned and beautiful flowers and newly-bred rare ones from many countries throughout the world.

In this flower competition Kimjongilia was awarded the special prize and gold medal.

It won top prizes in succession including special prizes, gold

medals and diplomas at many other international flower shows including the 1999 China Kunming world flower expo, 2004 begonia exhibition in California, the US, 2012 Venlo World Horticultural Expo in the Netherlands and 2014 Mongolia international flower show, and the International Society for Horticultural Science officially listed it as a new variety of begonia family.

The American begonia association, in the November-December 2004 edition of its journal Begonia, said that Kimjongilia, forming good harmony in ornamental terms, looks elegant and beautiful, and it is named after the DPRK’s great leader Kim Jong Il.

So far Kimjongilia shows were held over 150 times across the world, with nearly 45 000



Full-blown Kimjongilia.

Kimjongilias on display and more than 300 000 spread to other countries and regions.

More Kimjongilias, a flower of great charm and love of humanity, will be grown in

full bloom, fully supported by the infinite reverence for the Chairman of the local and world’s progressive peoples.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



Prizes, medals and certificates awarded to Kimjongilia at international flower shows.

Symposium on Kimjongilia held

A national symposium on Kimjongilia took place on February 6 at the Sci-Tech Complex to mark the 30th anniversary of the naming of immortal flower Kimjongilia.

It was attended by Vice-Premier Jon Kwang Ho, Choe Tong Myong, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, Jang Chol, president of the State Academy of Sciences, Kim Chang Do, chairman of the Korea Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Committee, officials, lecturers and researchers in the relevant sectors.

Presented at the symposium

were papers which dealt with the achievements and experience gained in scientific research into the ecology, cultivation and dissemination of Kimjongilia, which was born as the flower of the Sun amid the profound reverence of the people across the world for Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Speakers said that they studied cultivation methods to suit the natural climate of the country and conditions of greenhouses, directed primary efforts to providing conditions for its growth and brought it into full bloom by cultivating it in a scientific and technological

manner.

They referred to the fact that they improved the tissue culture method to suit biological qualities of the flower and developed a new compound fertilizer needed for its growth, an additional lighting method by colour LED lamps with better effect on its growth and vegetable agrochemical which kills various blights that occur during its cultivation and which is safe for both human body and plants.

Most attractive was the method of growing the flower to be bigger and more beautiful while acclimatizing its seedlings to outdoor conditions and making its growing period more than one month earlier than before for the successful holding of the Kimjongilia festival.

Compiled from KCNA



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A gardener of the Ministry of External Economic Relations takes care of Kimjongilias to be presented to the upcoming 22nd Kimjongilia Festival.

US

Sprinkling ashes on Koreans' feast

There are growing signs of rapprochement in the Korean peninsula.

The international community, as well as Korean nationals at home and abroad, is warmly supporting and welcoming it.

But the US, much upset by it, is trying in every way to check the trend toward inter-Korean rapprochement.

Soon after the New Year Address was delivered in the DPRK, the Americans uttered perverse remarks such as a "tactic of opening to the south and shutting out the US" and "act of driving a wedge" into the alliance between south Korea and the US.

They misled the public to believe that the unexpectedly successful north-south high-level talks are the direct result of their anti-DPRK pressure, while bragging they would not loosen the maximum sanctions and pressure before north Korea abandons its nuclear and ballistic missile programme.

In the run-up to the 23rd Winter Olympic Games in south Korea's Pyongchang, American bigwigs at the White House, state and defense departments, CIA and Congress are making

much ado, asserting that they should intensify sanctions and pressure lest the US should lose the initiative in the Korean peninsula issue and that the Olympics should never be reduced to a theatre of propaganda campaign for the north Korean system.

Accordingly, the US announced additional independent sanctions against the DPRK on January 24 and an undersecretary of the Treasury flew to south Korea on January 25 to urge it to maintain close cooperation in the sanctions.

The US is also resorting to military threat.

Though it announced that it would postpone joint military exercises with south Korea until the Winter Olympics are over, it is dispatching huge armed forces to the vicinity of the Korean peninsula.

Its three nuclear-powered carrier task groups, which are more than enough to fight a war, are heading for the environs of the peninsula, while three amphibious assault helicopter carriers, which are tantamount to an aircraft carrier, are busy preparing to depart with marines on board.

Three B-2 strategic nuclear

bombers were urgently deployed on Guam for reinforcement and seven US airbases in south Korea and Japan are said to be saturated with fighters and troops unexpectedly sent from the US mainland.

These military actions are bringing back tension to the peninsula.

The US claims that the large-scale arms buildup in and around the peninsula is aimed at "preventing terrorism" and "maintaining security", but it is obvious to anyone that such huge armed forces are enough to start a war.

This shows clearly that Trump paid lip service only by saying that he wishes north and south Korea success, he hopes they would cooperate beyond the Olympics, he supports their dialogue 100 percent and there will be no military action during their dialogue. And it also fully reveals what the US' much-hyped "peace" is like.

To deliberately strain the improving peninsula situation is hooliganism of sprinkling ashes on other's feast table.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

COMMENT

Despicable meddling

At the time when inter-Korean relations have taken a turn for the better due to the DPRK's overture and positive measures Chinese media outlets are playing up imprudent arguments of some experts as if vying with the US and Japan, seriously spoiling the atmosphere of the inter-Korean feast.

An assistant fellow at the Institute of Asia-Pacific and World Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a senior fellow of the Chinese Institute of International Studies and others argued that the DPRK calculated to show a sign of its opening and improve the international image through the south Korea visit of the president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, the international community expects the DPRK would show more sincerity and concessions in the issue of denuclearization if it really wants to promote detente in the Korean peninsula and, if not, it is difficult for it to achieve the purpose, and the thaw in the north-south relationship without dealing with the nuclear issue cannot last long and will be easily ruptured. They also made such malicious remarks that the continuation of the eased peninsula situation is closely associated with the "DPRK's nuclear issue" and "without common recognition of denuclearization detente will not last long".

These nonsensical remarks cannot but be denounced as an imprudent action aimed to poke their nose into the internal affairs of other nation and a stupid logic and sophistry ignorant of the essence of the Korean peninsula nuclear issue. An expression of discontent of those who are unhappy with the moves of the north and south of Korea towards detente and peace, it is apparently evil-minded behaviour designed to disperse the focus of the international community on

the atmosphere of inter-Korean rapprochement.

The DPRK's possession of nuclear deterrent is an open and aboveboard self-defensive option and the Winter Olympics have nothing to do with "denuclearization".

They try to create a space for interference by taking the issue of inter-Korean relations hostage for the nuclear issue.

All in all, the "proactive and positive diplomacy with neighbours" is an overt intervention in the internal affairs of other country and nation, only incurring an unpleasant reaction of the international community.

They recently found fault with the DPRK's self-defensive steps describing them as an "act based on narrow-minded understanding of the outside and a self-opinionated act in the nuclear and missile issue" and downplayed its military capability in its "conclusion after observing from the position south of Panmunjom". And not content with it, they have now gone to this length.

Fully occupied with giving instructions to others, some Chinese experts and media outlets play the same as the Trump administration and Abe clan that have been placed under worldwide protest and denunciation and the south Korean conservatives who have become estranged from the mainstream of society.

They should be aware that if they continue to blindly judge the times, they would go for nothing.

Indiscreet meddling is unbecoming to a "major power".

This is an abridgment of the article titled "Despicable meddling for what?" Jong Phil contributed to Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on February 8.

JAPAN

Desperate attempt of political dwarf

Japan is so anxious about the DPRK's rise to the status of a strategic state it is behaving impudently.

Prime Minister Abe in a policy speech described the DPRK's nuclear and missile development as an "unprecedentedly grave and urgent threat", blustering that he "will make north Korea give up its nuclear and missile programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible way and solve the most pressing task of abduction issue and will not yield to any of its provocation".

In his parliamentary speech and interview on January 23 he made a volte-face from his previous ambiguous attitude towards the participation in the Pyongchang Winter Olympics, revealing his sinister intention. He said he would clearly notify the south Korean chief executive that they should not waver even a bit in the "principle" of maximum pressure on north Korea and that Japan opposes the south Korean authorities' decision to resume humanitarian assistance to the north as it might give a wrong signal to Pyongyang.

And Japanese Foreign Minister Kono clamoured for continued pressure on the DPRK.

The January 22 issue of *The Japan Times* quoted Kono as saying that "dialogue without pressure cannot move north Korea toward denuclearization and Pyongyang held the recent inter-Korean talks to play for time for the development of weapons" and "Japan will never hold dialogue that tolerates north Korea's nuclear possession".

Theirs are really officious remarks.

Speaking of Japan, it is in such a miserable plight as to be unable to live on without studying the US' face. Moreover, it is the sworn enemy of the Korean people as it committed indelible crimes against them in the past century.

Nevertheless, it has not yet made an apology and reparations to them. Rather, it is giving rising generations nationalist education that distorts history.

There is no justification for the crime-ridden country to argue about the DPRK's denuclearization.

The DPRK's access to nuclear weapons is a just measure that cannot be questioned as it is geared to safeguarding its sovereignty and security from the US' ever-growing nuclear threat.

The abduction issue raised by Japan was, in fact, resolved already and is beyond debate.

The same is the case with the Olympic issue.

Having invented one excuse or other not to participate in the Olympics, Abe showed a disposition to take part in the event all of a sudden. Underlying the about-face is the wicked intention to spoil the positively developing atmosphere of inter-Korean dialogue.

The Abe clique is going to bring a sharp dagger with them, rather than a bunch of flowers, to a neighbour's auspicious event, which showcases the shabbiness of Japan devoid of elementary ethics and morality.

Japan is trying to put a damper on the good atmosphere of dialogue which has been created with so much effort, not content with crying for the DPRK's denuclearization, and



Indonesians stage an anti-Trump demonstration.

its behaviour is nothing but a last-ditch attempt of those who have been agitated by the spirit of the DPRK which has emerged as a strategic state recognized by the world.

It should behave itself, well aware that its imprudence only adds to the Korean people's pent-up grudge and its crimes.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

SPORTS

Paektusan Prize Games get into a start

The Paektusan Prize Games that kicked off on February 1 in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star are running under the gaze of many spectators.

They are held in Pyongyang, the sports village in the Mt Paektu area, Kowon and Pujon counties and other parts of the country, divided into over 70 events of 11 sports such as football, basketball, volleyball,

table tennis, handball, speed skating, ice hockey and skiing.

The basketball contest is going on at the Basketball Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang.

Drawing seven teams including Pyongyang, April 25, Kigwancha and Amnokgang, it is played on a round-robin basis.

On February 7 there was a match between Pyongyang and Amnokgang.

Amnokgang which came second in last year's rankings has an eye to the first place this year.

But as it was beaten by April 25 in the opening match, that may be possible only when it wins all the remaining matches.

On the other hand Pyongyang is not so successful though it aims for the rankings.

In the

previous three matches it was overpowered by April 25 and Kigwancha, and therefore the fourth game with Amnokgang was a crucial one which could be said to be the last chance.

As both teams got familiar with each other through several rounds of previous games, the match was fierce from the beginning.

Amnokgang employed tactics of gaining the upper hand with fast break backed by long pass and rebound by relying mainly on comparatively tall players Nos. 10 and 14, while Pyongyang tried to score with swift set-play lay-up and long-range shooting.

The seesaw first round drew 23-23.

Amnokgang led in the second round 71-38 by increasing the success rate of shooting while reducing losses by dint of staunch man-to-man defence.

Though Pyongyang made repeated offensive in the third and fourth rounds, it almost failed to break through the opponent's defence and the match ended 102-76 in favour of Amnokgang.

In an earlier match between Kigwancha and Ministry of External Economic Relations, the former won 72-37 by employing protean tactics.

By Jong Tang Song PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Men's basketball match between April 25 and Pyongyang teams.

SPORTS

Civil servants games at its height



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Mixed doubles of badminton at the 23rd Paektusan Prize Games of Civil Servants.

The 23rd Paektusan Prize Games of Civil Servants grew fiercer as they are coming to a close.

Most attractive was tug-of-war.

The tug-of-war final match between the State Planning Commission and the Ministry of Railways on February 5 at the Taekwon-Do Hall drew particular interest of the spectators as they had already met in the Group A final last year.

In the first round the former beat the opponent by employing a tactic combining pulls at high and low postures and yanks.

The latter tried counterattack from defence while maintaining stable posture in the second round.

The commission's team played the game dynamically by ensuring the unity of action with flexible change of tactics according to the flag signal of its leader.

It won the seesaw battle in one minute and 12 seconds.

There were badminton games on February 6-7 at the Taekwon-Do Hall in Pyongyang.

The breathtaking match between the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry and the State Planning Commission left a deep impression on the audience.

The two teams won each the doubles and the mixed doubles, with 1-1 tie in aggregate. The third was the singles match to decide the winner. So it greatly excited not only the players but also spectators.

The thrilling scenes of scoring from the front and rear and with adroit employment of various game tactics won thunderous applause from the audience.

Kim Sung Gwon, 53, department director for light industry of the State Planning Commission, won the match.

As a result, the State Planning Commission beat the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry 2-1 in total.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

PERFORMANCE

Samjiyon Orchestra premieres for winter Olympics

Under the unusual gaze of people at home and abroad, a prestigious art troupe of the DPRK raised the curtain of its celebration performance in south Korea's Kangnung on February 8 just before the opening of the 23rd Winter Olympics.

The troupe is led by Kwon Hyok Bong, a department director of the Ministry of Culture, and Hyon Song Wol, chief of the Samjiyon Orchestra.

The performance was a sellout with the audience coming from across south Korea.

The audience included south Korean officials including Jo Myong Gyun, minister of Unification, Chu Mi Ae, representative of the ruling Democratic Party, and Choe Mun Sun, governor of Kangwon

Province.

Seen at the platform were Kwon Hyok Bong, Hyon Song Wol and other leading members of the art troupe, as well as south Korean figures.

Starting with songs *Glad to See You* and *White Snow Falls*, the entertainers performed a variety of pieces including light music *My Country Is Best* and string ensemble and female solo *Morning Star*.

With rich voice and fine rendition they fully demonstrated the musical sentiment of the Korean nation that boasts a time-honoured history of 5 000 years and brilliant culture.

They played *Arirang* and other world-famous songs for orchestral music *Familiar Melody* with panache, showing off a harmonious ensemble and

passionate rendition.

Put on the stage were also south Korean songs.

The performance steeped in national elements and originality held spellbound the audience who burst into cheers and applause each time a piece was over.

Female trio *Paektu and Halla Are Part of Our Country* and finale *Our Wish Is Reunification* and *See You Again* reflected the Korean people's determination

to make concerted efforts to put an end to the tragedy of national division and hasten the country's reunification.

The performance received a standing ovation.

Compiled from KCNA



The south Korean audience give a standing ovation to the entertainers of Samjiyon Orchestra.