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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un pays unofficial visit to China

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, paid an unofficial visit to the People's Republic of China between March 25 and 28 at the invitation of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, president of the PRC and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

He was accompanied by his wife Ri Sol Ju, and his suite included Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee; Pak Kwang Ho, Ri Su Yong and Kim Yong Chol, members of the Political Bureau and vice-chairmen of the WPK Central

Committee; Ri Yong Ho, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of Foreign Affairs; and Jo Yong Won, Kim Song Nam and Kim Pyong Ho, deputy department directors of the WPK Central Committee, as well as members of the DPRK State Affairs Commission.

Chinese Party and state leaders warmly welcomed and accorded

utmost hospitality to the DPRK leader, who paid his first visit to their country in order to inherit and develop the traditional DPRK-China friendship with deep historical roots onto a new higher stage in line with the requirements of a new period.

On the arrival of his special train in China's border city of Dandong, he was greeted by Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department

of the CPC Central Committee, Chen Qiufa, secretary of the Liaoning Provincial Party Committee, Lu Dongfu, general manager of the China Railway Corporation, Li Jinjun, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, Liu Huanxin, member of the Standing Committee and secretary-general of the Liaoning Provincial Party Committee, and Ge Haiying, secretary of the Dandong City Party Committee.

Women presented



fragrant bouquets to the Supreme Leader and his wife.

He expressed thanks to Song Tao and his party for having come a long way from the capital to the border city to meet him.

Song Tao warmly welcomed the DPRK Supreme Leader and his wife to China, saying he came from Beijing upon authorization by Xi Jinping.

Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing on March 26.

Beijing Railway Station was brimming with a warm feeling of friendship and

welcome mood as balmy spring was felt everywhere.

He was received by Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, Ding Xuexiang, member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, Song Tao, Lu Dongfu and Li Jinjun.

Amid the playing of welcome music the DPRK leader and his wife alighted from the train and women presented them with fragrant bunches of flowers.

He exchanged warm greetings with the leading Chinese Party and government officials.

His motorcade headed for the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, escorted by 21 motorcycles.

On his arrival, women employees of the guesthouse warmly welcomed him as they presented him with a bouquet.

A welcoming ceremony took place with splendour at the Great Hall of



SEE PAGE 6

China gives red-carpet welcome to DPRK leader

A grand ceremony took place at the Great Hall of the People on March 26 to welcome 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, and his wife Ri Sol Ju, on an unofficial visit to the People's Republic of China.

As Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue together with his wife, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, president of the PRC and chairman of the Central Military Commission, and his wife Peng Liyuan warmly greeted them.

The two leaders shook hands firmly. The Chinese President warmly welcomed the DPRK leader who visited China as his maiden foreign visit.

The latter thanked him for showing meticulous concern for his visit and according him warm hospitality.

The DPRK leader and his wife had a photo session with their Chinese counterparts.

He exchanged greetings with the Chinese Party and government officials at Beidating, shaking hands with them.

When the leaders of the two countries stood on the platform, their national anthems were played.



The DPRK leader appreciated a salute from the chief of the honour guard.

He reviewed the guard of honour, conducted by the Chinese President. The military band played light and

soft music in a show of their joy of greeting the esteemed man from a friendly neighbour.

The venue, Beidating at the Great Hall of the People, was bedecked with the flags of the two countries and

beautiful and rare flowers, with the guard of honour of the three services of the Chinese People's Liberation Army lining up.

Compiled from KCNA



DPRK and Chinese leaders sit face to face for talks

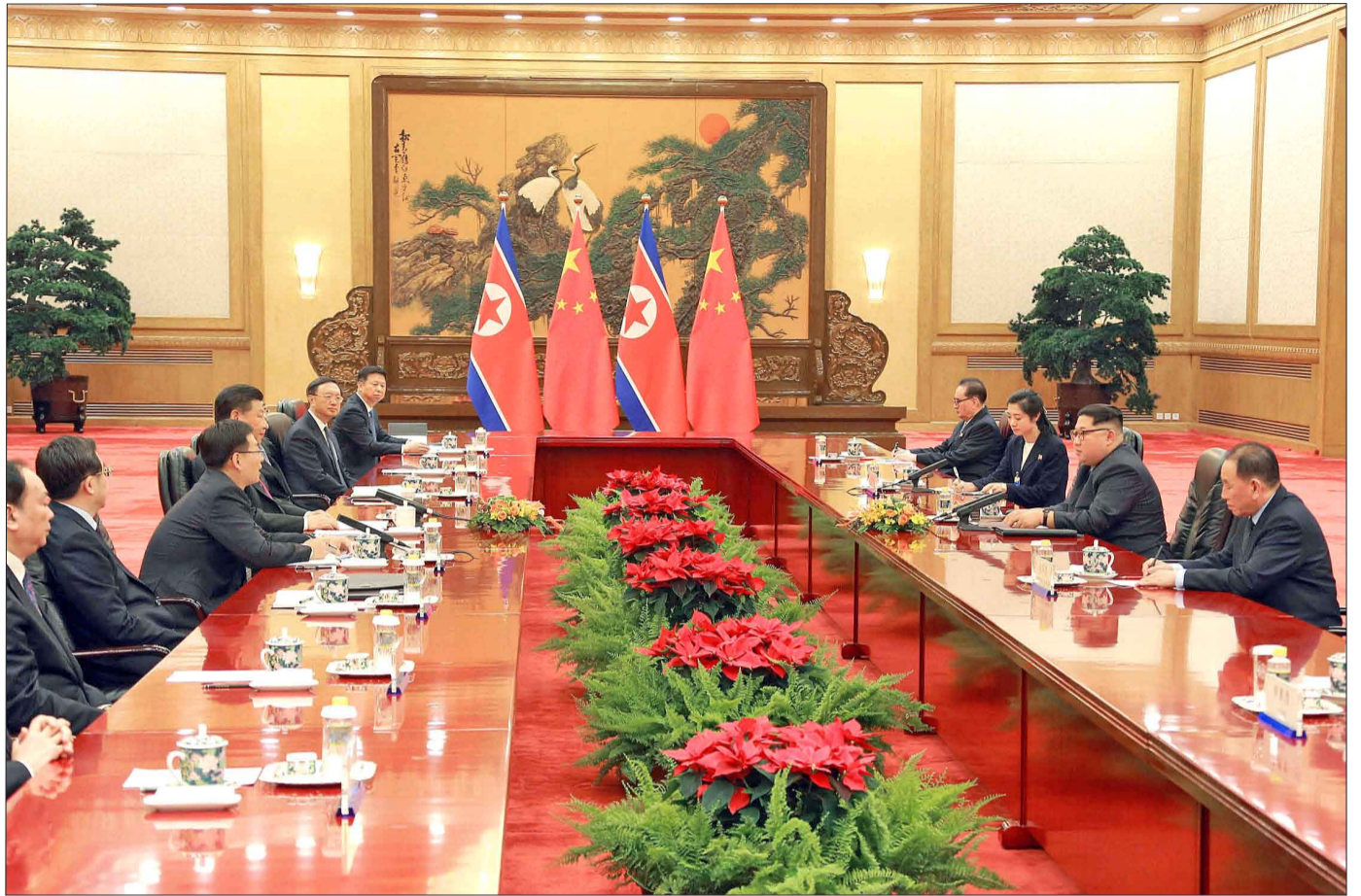
Talks were held on March 26 between Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, and Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, president of the People's Republic of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission, at the Great Hall of the People.

Present at the talks from the DPRK side were Ri Su Yong and Kim Yong Chol, members of the Political Bureau and vice-chairmen of the WPK Central Committee, and Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Present from the Chinese side were Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, Ding Xuexiang, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat and director of the CPC Central Committee General Office, Huang Kunming, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, member of its Secretariat and head of its Publicity Department, Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Wang Yi, state councillor and minister of Foreign Affairs, and Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee.

The top leaders of the two Parties and two countries shared views on important matters including the development of the DPRK-China friendship and handling of the situation of the Korean peninsula.

Kim Jong Un said that he was pleased to have the first significant



meeting with Xi Jinping.

He said that it is the fixed determination of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government to carry forward the precious tradition of the DPRK-China friendship, which was provided and strengthened by the leaders of older generations of the two countries, and take it to new heights as required by the developing era.

He pointed to the need to meet often Chinese comrades including Xi Jinping to build up rapport and strengthen the strategic communication and strategic and tactical cooperation so as to consolidate the unity and cooperation between the two countries.

He expressed belief that the Chinese people would achieve brilliant successes in the cause of building a modern and powerful socialist

country in the new era and in the struggle to realize China's dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China with Xi Jinping as the core.

Xi Jinping warmly welcomed Kim Jong Un who visited China as his maiden foreign trip.

He stressed that it is the strategic option and unshakable will of the Chinese Party and government to attach importance to and steadily carry forward the Sino-DPRK friendship which the leaders of older generations provided and nurtured with sincerity in the course of contributing to the victorious advance of the socialist cause, out of common ideal, faith and deep revolutionary friendship.

The current positive change of the situation on the Korean peninsula is

a fruition of the strategic decision made by Kim Jong Un and the efforts exerted by the Korean Party and government, he said.

He expressed the conviction that under the leadership of Kim Jong Un the Workers' Party of Korea would register fresh successes in steadily advancing along the socialist path, developing the economy and improving the people's living standards by guiding the Korean people.

Kim Jong Un invited, on behalf of the Korean Party and government, Xi Jinping to make an official visit to the DPRK at a convenient time and the invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The talks proceeded in a candid, constructive and serious manner.

Compiled from KCNA



Chinese President hosts grand banquet for DPRK leader



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, president of the People's Republic of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission, hosted a grand banquet in honour of Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who was on a China tour, at the Great Hall of the People on March 26.

Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju entered the banquet hall, guided by Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan.

All the participants warmly welcomed the top leaders of the two Parties and countries, who are carrying on and boosting the tradition of bilateral friendship onto a new higher level as required by the times.

Prior to the banquet, they watched a video showing the activities of the leaders of the two Parties and countries who had provided and nurtured the roots of the friendship.

The viewers were impressed by

scenes showing the noble careers of the leaders of the older generations including President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Zhongxun.

At the banquet Xi Jinping made a congratulatory speech and Kim Jong Un addressed in reply.

The banquet proceeded in a comradely, fraternal and amicable atmosphere.

At the banquet there was an art performance Chinese artistes had specially prepared to welcome the DPRK leader.

The entertainers staged such Korean songs as *Song of General Kim Il Sung*, *The Blue Sky over My Country* and *The Flower Girl* as well as Chinese songs.

They also made the stage more conspicuous with a variety of numbers including the ballet *Swan Lake* and music for violin and piano *The Butterfly Lovers*.

The DPRK leader and his wife sent

a basket of flowers to the performers, who gave an excellent performance in a show of hospitality, and mounted the stage together with the Chinese counterparts to have a photograph taken with them.

Present there at invitation were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee; Pak Kwang Ho, Ri Su Yong and Kim Yong Chol, members of the Political Bureau and vice-chairmen of the WPK Central Committee; Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; and other suite members.

Ji Jae Ryong, DPRK ambassador to China, and his embassy staff were also invited to the reception.

Also present there were Li Keqiang, premier of the State Council of the PRC, and Wang Huning, member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, who are members of the Standing Committee of the Political

Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Wang Qishan, vice-president of the PRC; Ding Xuexiang, member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and director of its General Office; Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Guo Shengkun, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee of the CPC Central Committee; Huang Kunming, member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and head of its Publicity Department; Cai Qi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee; Wang Yi, member of the State Council and minister of Foreign Affairs; Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; and other senior Chinese Party and government officials.

Compiled from KCNA



DPRK leader invited to luncheon hosted by Chinese leader

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju were invited to a luncheon Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan arranged at Yangyuanzhai of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse on March 27.

When the Supreme Leader arrived at Yangyuanzhai together with his wife, Xi and his wife greeted them warmly.

Yangyuanzhai, a time-honoured heritage site built in 1773 as a royal villa of emperor Qianlong in Qing dynasty, is a historic place where President Kim Il Sung had deepened the feeling of friendship with the preceding Chinese leaders.

The Supreme Leader and his wife exchanged warm greetings with the Chinese counterparts and posed for a photograph in celebration of their meeting.

He expressed thanks to the Chinese leader for arranging and inviting to a special luncheon in a family atmosphere, and had a meaningful talk with the Chinese President.

At the talk that proceeded in a cordial atmosphere, the top leaders of the two Parties and countries deepened rapport as they shared candid views and opinions on various issues.

The Chinese leader and his wife introduced Chinese tea culture to



their counterparts, before guiding them to the venue of luncheon.

The reception, in which the leaders of the two countries sat on together with their wives in a family atmosphere, was filled with

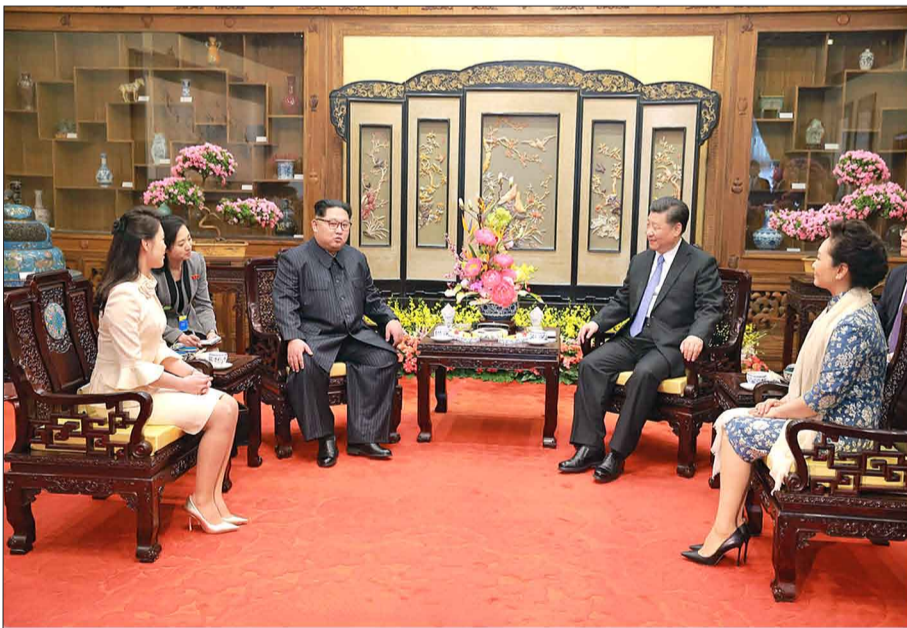
amicable, kindred feelings all the way.

That day, Kim Jong Un and his wife presented gifts to the Chinese counterparts.

After the luncheon, the Supreme

Leader expressed his thanks once again to the Chinese leader for according a hearty welcome during his visit and said goodbyes.

Compiled from KCNA



Kim Jong Un pays unofficial visit to China

FROM PAGE 1

the People.

Talks were held between the leaders of the two countries.

After talks Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan presented Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un with gifts they had prepared with sincerity.

He expressed thanks in return.

Xi Jinping hosted a grand banquet at the Great Hall of the People in a show of hearty welcome.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un on March 27 visited an exhibition house showing the innovative achievements the Chinese Academy of Sciences has made since the 18th CPC Congress.

He was accompanied by Choe Ryong Hac, Pak Kwang Ho, Ri Su

Yong, Kim Yong Chol, Ri Yong Ho and other suite members.

Also present there were Wang Huning, Ding Xuexiang, Cai Qi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee, and Song Tao.

He looked round the exhibits as he was briefed on the successes made in the fields of natural science and technology such as nuclear physics, outer space, agriculture and energy.

He made the following entry in the visitors' book: **"We can see the mightiness of China, our great neighbour. More excellent scientific successes will be achieved under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of China.**

Kim Jong Un. March 27 2018."

That day the Supreme Leader and his wife were invited to a luncheon hosted by the Chinese President and his wife at Yangyuanzhai of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

After the luncheon, the two leaders exchanged good-byes.

The DPRK leader's suite also visited Tiantan Park, a world heritage site.

Kim Jong Un left Beijing late on March 27 after winding up his unofficial visit to China.

He was given a warm send-off by Wang Huning, Ding Xuexiang and Song Tao at Beijing Railway Station.

Song Tao, Lu Dongfu and Li Jinjun accompanied the DPRK leader to

Dandong Railway Station to see him off.

As he left the railway station, he sent a message of thanks to the Chinese leader for having accorded him cordial hospitality with utmost sincerity as a token of warm comradeship and amicable feeling during his China visit.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's unofficial China visit marked a milestone in carrying forward through generations the laudable history and tradition established by the older generations of leaders of the two countries and bolstering up the bilateral ties forged in the sacred joint struggle for socialism.

Compiled from KCNA



Kim Jong Un's speech at banquet

This is the full text of the speech made by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un at the banquet held for him.

Esteemed Comrade General Secretary Xi Jinping,

Esteemed Mmc Peng Liyuan,
Dear Chinese comrades,

In the midst of the new situation on the Korean peninsula, which is changing as never before, we are now on a lightning visit to the People's Republic of China with a desire to remain true to the long-standing, historic traditions of great friendship and revolutionary obligation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the PRC and to inherit and develop the bilateral relations in a wonderful way down through the generations.

First of all, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to esteemed Comrade General Secretary Xi Jinping, as well as Mmc Peng Liyuan, who has managed to find time despite the demanding duties of leading the Party and state and is according a warm welcome to us like their own brothers and sisters.

I have been deeply impressed by the sincerity and solicitude shown by Comrade Xi Jinping and other leading Party and state cadres of China in accepting the proposal for our lightning visit with pleasure and in ensuring a success of our short visit, and I feel very grateful for this.

Availing myself of this meaningful opportunity, I extend warm congratulations on the successful conclusion of the two major meetings following the grand 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China and the election of Comrade Xi Jinping as president of the PRC and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the PRC.

I also tender warm greetings of members of the Workers' Party of Korea and other Korean people to members of the CPC and other Chinese people.

Dear Chinese comrades,

This is my first visit to China.

That the first place of my foreign visit is the capital city of the PRC is too natural for me, and it is an expression of my ennobling obligation to prize the DPRK-PRC friendship like my life itself and carry it forward.

I deem it a high honour to visit my country's great neighbour, and this visit has given me another opportunity to comprehend the preciousness of the DPRK-PRC friendship, a priceless legacy left by the preceding leaders of the two countries and a treasure common to the



two peoples.

For long years the Korean and Chinese peoples supported and cooperated closely with each other, shedding blood and dedicating their lives to the joint struggle. Real life has taught

them that their destinies are inseparable. They are now clearly aware that for the two brotherly neighbours with rivers in between, peaceful environment and stability in the region are critical, and it is costly to secure and defend them.

General Secretary Xi Jinping and I have just exchanged in-depth opinions on such important issues as the promotion of bilateral friendship and coordination of the pressing problems concerning the situation on the Korean peninsula, reaffirming our common commitment to consolidate the socialist systems of the two countries and ensure wellbeing and a bright future for the two peoples.

It is the steadfast stand of the WPK and the government of the DPRK to develop, true to the ennobling intentions of the preceding leaders, the friendly relationship between the two countries at a new, higher level, the relationship which was established through the sacred joint struggle for the cause of socialism and retained its original features even in the whirlwind of history.

Comrades,

Thanks to the leadership of the CPC with General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core, the Chinese people are achieving brilliant successes in accomplishing their cause of building a modernized socialist power in the new era, and their country is enjoying ever-improving international prestige. The WPK and the Korean people feel very pleased with this as if it is their own.

We sincerely hope that the Chinese people will achieve great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation under the wise leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping by fully implementing the tasks put forward by the 19th Congress of the CPC.

Last, with the belief that my meaningful first meeting with General Secretary Xi Jinping in this spring, full of joy and hope, will constitute a significant occasion in bringing rich fruition in the development of friendly relations between the two countries, I propose a toast,

To the development of the great CPC and the prosperity of the PRC,

To the good health and happiness of respected General Secretary Xi Jinping and Mmc Peng Liyuan, and

To the good health of all other comrades present here.

Xi Jinping's speech at banquet

This is the full text of the speech made by Xi Jinping at the welcoming banquet.

Esteemed Comrade Chairman Kim Jong Un and Mmc Ri Sol Ju,

Dear Korean comrades,
Comrades and friends,

As spring comes heralding the fecundity of life, Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, has paid an unofficial visit to China, together with Mmc Ri Sol Ju.

On behalf of the Chinese Party, government and people, I'd like to extend warm welcome to you.

As a momentous event that happens at a special time, Chairman Kim Jong Un's trip illustrates that he and the WPK Central Committee attaches great importance to the relationships between the two Parties and two countries. And the trip also carries paramount significance in deepening bilateral communication, boosting collaboration and promoting cooperation.

This visit will make a remarkable contribution to taking the bilateral ties between the two Parties and two countries to a new level in a new historic period and to promoting peace, stability and development in the region.

The traditional Sino-DPRK friendship was forged and fostered by the leaders of the older generations of the two Parties and two countries.

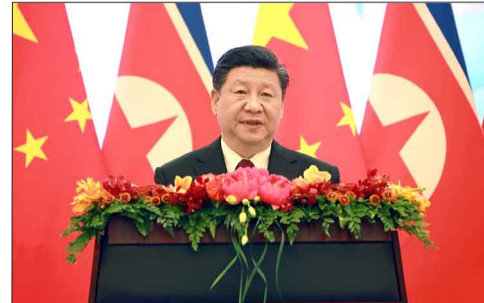
Throughout those tumultuous years the preceding leaders had cultivated deep friendship and fraternity while sharing feelings and treating each other as sincerely as brothers did.

This has laid a foundation for us to understand and develop bilateral relations, and it has also set an example and direction for us to follow.

In his lifetime President Kim Il Sung visited China over 40 times to establish rapport with Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and other preceding Chinese leaders.

My father Xi Zhongxun greeted President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il on their China visits and maintained close connections with the Korean leaders.

If my memory serves, when Comrade Kim Jong Il paid his first visit to China



in June 1983, it was my father who greeted him at the station and accompanied him on a tour of the Imperial Palace despite torrid heat.

Comrade Kim Jong Il

was greatly impressed enough to recall it time and again afterwards.

During my 2008 visit to the DPRK he particularly told me about the story.

There is a Korean saying, "A deep-rooted tree does not wave in the wind, and a spring welling up from the depths does not run dry."

As a blood-tied relationship, the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship is one and only in the world, and it brings sunshine to our two Parties and peoples of the two countries like a deep-rooted, luxuriant tree and an inexhaustible source of spring.

Such friendliness is our common wealth which must be valued, safeguarded with care and upheld steadily by both sides.

On his May 2010 China visit General Secretary Kim Jong Il said the bilateral friendship was forged and passed on to us by the preceding revolutionaries, adding that to carry on the ties from one generation to the next is our historic and strategic choice and our firm stand.

I have just held candid talks with Chairman Kim Jong Un in an amicable atmosphere.

We have agreed that to inherit and carry on the traditional ties is in the common interests of both sides and that it is their shared strategic choice as well.

Whatever the situation, international or regional, we are hopeful that both sides would bring well-being to their own country and people by exchanging high-level visits, deepening strategic communication and bolstering up exchange and cooperation—in line with the bigger picture of the world's development and the overall situation of improved bilateral relations.

At present the Chinese Party, government and people are striving to achieve the "two centennial goals" and realize the Chinese dream, namely the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, according to the strategic measures set forth by the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

The Korean people, diligent and resourceful, are working hard to build a socialist economic power under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Chairman Kim Jong Un.

As friendly neighbours and close comrades, we fully support the Korean fellows in their effort to protect political stability and propel economic growth. We also wish the DPRK fresher and bigger successes in the future, too, in its bid to build socialism. And we are sure of it.

In conclusion, I propose a toast,

To the steady development and inheritance of the traditional ties,

To the prosperity of the two countries,
To the good health of Chairman Kim Jong Un and Mmc Ri Sol Ju,

To the good health of all comrades present here from both sides.

Message of thanks

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent a message of thanks to Chinese President Xi Jinping on March 28. The full text:

Leaving for home after winding up my first successful visit to the People's Republic of China, our friendly neighbour, I express deep thanks to you, cadres of the central authorities and Beijing and other people for the warm reception and cordial hospitality they have accorded to us.

Our first-ever meeting held in an important period, when the socialist cause of the two peoples has entered a new stage of its development, proved a wonderful occasion in setting up a new milestone for the development of traditional friendship between the two countries in line with the demands of the new era.

Feeling satisfied for having achieved a consensus of views on matters of mutual concern with you during our meeting

and talks, I believe that the DPRK-PRC friendship, a valuable legacy left by our revolutionary forerunners and a treasure common to us, will be strengthened and developed continuously to meet the interests of peoples of our two countries in the future.

I sincerely hope that the fraternal Chinese people will achieve great successes in their efforts to build socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era under the leadership of the Central Committee of the CPC with you as the core and, at the same time, I wish you good health.

FEST

Pyongyang to host art festival

The 31st April Spring Friendship Art Festival is to open in Pyongyang to mark the Day of the Sun (April 15), a common holiday of mankind.

As an international event, the art festival has been held for over three decades thanks to the fervent reverence of the Koreans and the world's progressives for the DPRK's great leaders, and contributed to promoting cultural exchange and cooperation between countries.

It brings together foreign singers

who have won domestic and international contests and troupes of artistes, dancers and acrobats, as well as overseas Koreans' troupes and local artistes.

Under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship, the participants will celebrate the Day of the Sun with their own programmes including vocal and instrumental music, dance and acrobatics.

Compiled from KCNA

MUSIC

Int'l vocal contest to be held



A poster of the First Pyongyang International Vocal Competition.

The First Pyongyang International Vocal Competition is to be held in Pyongyang to celebrate the Day of the Sun, or birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

The competition, which will draw domestic and international contest winners and other competent singers from at home and abroad, is set to open at the Moranbong Theatre on April 5, divided into the men's and women's categories.

During the 8-day event, there will be the "Pyongyang international symposium on the times and music".

The contestants are to perform such Korean songs as those in the five revolutionary operas of the "Sea of Blood" style, as well as world famous songs.

Compiled from KCNA

SOCCER

DPRK earns berth for Asian Cup finals

The DPRK clashed with Chinese Hong Kong in the second leg of Group B qualifiers final round for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup finals at Kim Il Sung Stadium on March 27 amid great interest of experts and fans.

The first leg at the Hong Kong team's base ended in a 1-1 draw.

Before the second game, the DPRK had two wins, two draws and one loss to obtain 8 points in five matches, with Hong Kong registering one win, two draws and two losses to score 5 points.

The Lebanese belonging to the same group already qualified for the finals and the other qualification would be earned by the winner of that day's match.

"Tomorrow's game is decisive for both teams and it will decide who will advance to the finals. My players are now fully ready," said the head coach of the Hong Kong team.

The game started with the DPRK's kick-off.

As was expected, Hong

Kong players were aggressive from the beginning.

But they allowed the opener to the Koreans, who were seeking a chance to score as they constantly changed the direction of offensive while controlling the midfield.

In the 19th minute, No. 11 Jong Il Gwan, who forced his way through the left wing of the opponent's area by dint of well-knit cooperation, fired a volley home.

The Koreans speeded up as they continued to have the initiative, and scored another goal in the 25th minute.

No. 9 Pak Kwang Ryong, a centre forward, volleyed

a low and fast cross from the left that flew over the opponent's goal.

Hong Kong made several attempts to make up for the loss, but in vain.

John Andersen, head coach of the DPRK team, expressed satisfaction with the performance of his side, saying "our side fully demonstrated its ability by scoring two goals in 25 minutes". The match is especially impressive to me as it is my last game as the head coach of the DPRK's national team, he added.

By Jong Tang Song PT



A scene from the second leg of Group B qualifiers final round for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup finals.

HEALTH

Event calls for TB-free world

An event took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on March 26 to observe World TB Day.

It brought together officials from the Ministry of Public Health and relevant units and members of UNICEF and other country offices of international organizations.

WHO set the theme of World TB Day 2018 as "Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world".

Pak Jong Min, department director of the Ministry of Public Health, said that the DPRK signed the Delhi declaration in March 2017 and clarified the government's commitment to the expansion of financial investment in TB control interventions.

Pushpa Ranjan, resident acting WHO representative, said that the theme underlines the leadership role at all levels springing from mayors, governors, parliamentarians and

community leaders, to people affected with TB, civil society advocates, health workers, and other partners, adding they must bring to a stop this deadly menace hindering social progress.

Murat Sahin, acting UNICEF representative in Pyongyang, said that UNICEF and partners will continue exploring

opportunities to further support the local efforts for control, diagnosis and treatment of TB.

Achievements in the national TB control project were introduced.

The participants looked round the photos showing TB prevention and control.

By Pang Un Ju PT



An event is held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang to mark World TB Day.

Gymnasts bring home glory

Kim Su Jong snatched a gold medal at the 11th FIG World Cup which was held in Qatar between March 21 and 24, with more than 150 athletes from 29 countries and regions including the DPRK, Germany, Ukraine and Britain in attendance.

Kim Su Jong won the women's floor exercise in the individual apparatus competition.

Fellow Pyon Rye Yong finished runner-up in the women's vault.

Compiled from KCNA

Kids successful in int'l piano contest

DPRK children excelled themselves at the 7th International Polish Grand Piano Music Competition-Festival dedicated to Fryderyk Chopin, which was held in Lithuania between March 15 and 17.

The event drew young pianists from the DPRK, Lithuania, Poland, Italy and other countries around the world.

Those from Kyongsang

Kindergarten of the DPRK (6-10 years category) wonderfully performed world-famous music pieces that require high levels of artistic skills and rendition, getting raves from jury members and experts.

Hong Ta Yong won the second prize and Jo Mi Rae the third prize.

Compiled from KCNA