

General Secretary Kim Jong Un has photo session with students and working youths who contributed to successful military parade



Kim Jong Un extended thanks to young people and students who rendered excellent service for the successful military parade with their good teamwork and artistry, strikingly displaying the sense of organization

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, on May 1 had a photo session with the students and working youths in Pyongyang who contributed to the successful holding of the military parade celebrating the 90th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

Attending the session were Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and Kim Yong Hwan, chief secretary of

the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK.

The youths and students were filled with great excitement and joy as they were to have a photo taken with the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un after attending the greatest-ever political and military festival which fully demonstrated the dignity of the DPRK and the might of its great single-minded unity.

When Kim Jong Un arrived at the photo session venue, all the participants broke into stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" for him who has trained young people to be a huge unit of successors and vigorously

guided Korean-style socialism only to victory and glory, always valuing the youth and regarding the youth issue as the top priority state affair.

He warmly waved back to the enthusiastically cheering youths and students, highly appreciating their contribution to glorifying the 90th anniversary of the KPRA as an unprecedentedly grand festival of single-minded unity and as a theatre for demonstrating the national power.

Noting that the spirit of the Korean youths is very high, he said the rosy future of Korean-style socialism is for

the youths and it is the sacred patriotic cause that should be hastened by their efforts.

Our youths have regarded the loyalty to the Party and revolution as their high honour and pride and spent their precious youthful days with ardent patriotism and high enthusiasm for the revolution and struggle, he said, adding it is the proud trait peculiar to the Korean youths that can neither be seen nor be imitated in any other society of the world. And he extended thanks to them who rendered

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excellent service for the successful military parade, the largest-ever in history, with their good teamwork and artistry, strikingly displaying the sense of organization and unity of the DPRK society.

Expressing his deep trust and expectation that the Korean youths and students would become dependable pillars playing a leading role in the struggle for the country's prosperity by studying hard with the same high ardour and revolutionary mettle as were displayed by them in the celebration event, he had a meaningful photo session

with them. When the photo session was over, loud chants of "Kim Jong Un" and "Kyolsaongwi" (devoted defence) shouted by the young vanguard of the WPK resounded throughout the sky of the capital city of Pyongyang. Encouraged by such warm love and trust of the great father, the students

and working youths made their burning pledge to more vigorously advance toward the rosy future of socialism and communism, displaying to the full the strength based on loyalty of all sons and daughters in this country and the honour of being the youths of a powerful country who firmly believe in and follow only the WPK.



Senior officials celebrate May Day with workers

KCNA

Officials of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK commemorated May Day along with working people.

Choe Ryong Hae and Kim Tok Hun, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, and other senior officials of the Party and the government and officials of Party and government organs of different levels visited the State Academy of Sciences, Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes, Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District in Pyongyang and congratulated the working people on their holiday.

Party and government officials who visited factories, enterprises, cooperative farms and other units laid bouquets and paid homage to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at their statues and mosaic murals depicting their images. They congratulated labour innovators and producers celebrating the holiday and watched sports games, including volleyball and table tennis matches, and performances given by mobile artistic motivational teams.

The Party and government officials who visited the construction site of 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area worked with and encouraged the builders who are devoting themselves to the work for realizing the long-cherished desire of the WPK, filled with the pride of having splendidly built Songhwa Street.



Senior Party and government officials commemorate May Day with working people.



HOME NEWS

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Nampho Youth open-air theatre built



The Nampho Youth Open-Air Theatre was completed. The theatre has a 5 000-seat auditorium and rooms for different arts groups, make-up and sci-tech diffusion and is equipped with electronic screens, lighting and sound facilities and others in an area of over 8 000 square metres. It was inaugurated on the occasion of May Day, the international holiday of working people all over the world.

sequence drilling and blasting and constantly enhanced the capacity for coal mining and transport to increase production.

North Hwanghae Hwangju County steps up housing construction

Hwangju County in North Hwanghae Province pushes ahead with the construction of farm houses. The province and county set a goal of building modern houses on the Jangchon Cooperative Farm as a model and are concentrating manpower and means on the project. Builders of the county construction company are expanding their successes as they devise different technical innovation plans for shortening the construction period and ensuring the quality of buildings.

Coal industry Ministry of Coal Industry fulfils April production plan

The Ministry of Coal Industry carried out the production plan for April. The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex generalized the technical innovations of advanced units and improved the technical knowledge and skills of tunnelling workers, thereby making it possible to build up coal reserves. The Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex ensured the sharing of advanced blasting methods and their wide application to increase the tunnelling speed over 1.6 times more than before. Many other complexes expanded successes through

Ryanggang Young people volunteer for major economic sectors

Dozens of young people in Ryanggang Province have volunteered to work at important fields of socialist construction. A meeting took place on April 29 at the Ryanggang Province Art Theatre to congratulate the volunteers. At the meeting attended by Kang Sin Chang, secretary of the Ryanggang Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, youth league officials and young people, certificates of volunteering were awarded to the volunteers and congratulatory and other speeches were made. Officials and young people of the province gave the volunteers a warm send-off.

May Day commemorated across DPRK

KCNA

Working people across the country commemorated May Day, international holiday of the working people around the world. All parts of the country were filled with pleasure and optimism of working people who are leading a worthwhile life as true creators of working life and enjoyers of socialist civilization. An endless stream of people visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the

supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state, with deep yearning for them. The visitors paid homage at the beaming images of the President and the Chairman at the palace. Officials and working people laid flower baskets, bouquets and flowers at the statues and beaming images of the great leaders across the country, including their statues on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang, and made a bow to them.

Party and government officials significantly commemorated the holiday together with working people in all parts of the country. They visited production sites to encourage the workers there who were striving to attain innovative successes in their struggle to implement the five-year plan put forward by the Workers' Party of Korea, and various sports and amusement games took place at industrial establishments and

cooperative farms throughout the country. A horse race that took place in Hamhung drawing the interest of working people in the city added to the festive mood. Various theatrical and outdoor performances were given in the capital city, firing working people with greater zeal for the revolution and struggle. Performances also took place in North and South Hwanghae and Jagang provinces, Kaesong City and elsewhere.



Colourful art performances and sports and amusement games take place across the country on May Day.

Working class put forward as master of country

By **Ri Sang Il** PT

In the DPRK, the working class is master of the country and society.

The working class holds a position as the legitimate master of politics.

All workers have the right to vote and to be elected irrespective of sex, occupation, property status, standard of learning, political view and religion and they are elected as deputies to government organs at all levels including the Supreme People's Assembly to join

in the state administration with equal rights.

Thanks to several laws including the Socialist Labour Law, workers' rights and interests are guaranteed legally and they are provided with stable working conditions, so the words jobless person is strange to all people in the country.

The state spares no investment for workers.

Precedence is given to workers' health and convenience before production in building

even a single factory or workplace and every affair is subordinated to it.

The hostels and welfare service facilities for employees of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill can be cited as an example. Ordinary women workers are masters of the hostels that are called hotels and palaces of workers as they are designed to ensure all living conditions.

In April ordinary working people moved into newly

built 10 000 flats on Songhwa Street and luxury homes built on the banks of the Pothong River.

Over a hundred employees of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station and over 400 workers of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and many other workers in the capital city moved into the new houses on Songhwa Street and those in Kyongru-dong which are called socialist luxury houses.

May Day was celebrated grandly in the country as it is a holiday of masters of the

country—working people.

Visual aids were put up on streets to mark the holiday to add to the festive mood and congratulatory performances and celebratory dancing parties took place at theatres and in plazas.

Senior officials of Party and government organs enjoyed the holiday together with workers, congratulating the latter's labour feats.

The country is exactly the land of workers where all state and social activities are for the good of workers.

Worker deputy



JO RYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Han Myong Hui (middle), worker at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, teaches newcomers how to operate a machine.

By **Sin Pyol** PT

Han Myong Hui is a weaver of the general silk-spinning workshop of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and also a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

She has worked there as a weaver for 24 years since finishing middle school and achieved fame as a high skilled worker and labour innovator.

In 2013 alone, she operated 12 looms, or three times her work norm, to carry out her five-year quotas of the national economic plan before the set time.

The 41-year-old continues to conduct the multi-loom tending campaign to overfulfil her production plan.

She was elected deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly as she led all the workteam members to collective innovation so as to weave a large quantity of

cloth.

"The course of my growth to deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly is unthinkable apart from the benevolent care of the Workers' Party of Korea," said Han Myong Hui.

She attended the national celebration performance and state banquet to mark May Day in 2012 as a representative of workers for the first time, the National Conference of Light Industry in March 2013 and the inaugural ceremony of the Munsu Water Park in October the same year as a delegate of working women to cut the tape. She also participated in a meeting to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea held in October 2015 and other celebration events to mark important occasions including Party and DPRK founding anniversaries.

She also took part in the celebration events to mark the 90th founding anniversary

of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army last April and had the honour of having a photo taken together with General Secretary Kim Jong Un several times.

She was awarded high-class state decorations including a wrist watch inscribed with the name of President Kim Il Sung.

And in April this year, she received for free an over 200-square-metre luxury house in Kyongru-dong, which was built on the banks of the Pothong River in Pyongyang. In the new home, which embodies the requirements of modern civilization and architecture at the highest possible level and which offers every convenience in living, she looked back upon her past on May Day, the international holiday of working people the world over.

"Only when we uphold the leader of the people, we ordinary workers can add lustre to our life," Han said.

Workers' families receive two homes all at once

By **Jong Chol** PT

Now happy episodes can be heard among those who moved into 10 000 modern flats on Songhwa Street newly built at the east entrance to the capital city of Pyongyang.

Some of them are about those families that received two licences to use house respectively.

"I had never expected that I would have one such happy event after another like this. Not only my family but my sister's moved into new houses on Songhwa Street," said Pak Song Chol, worker at the repairs workshop of the printing plant under the Foreign Languages Publishing House.

He has worked in the workplace for more than 10

years. Kim Myong Won, his sister's husband, is also a worker at the Pyongyang Piano Joint Venture Company.

Pak's family moved into Flat 22-1 of Entrance 5, Block No. 8, Songhwa-dong No. 1, the gate to Songhwa Street, and his sister's family into Flat 1-4 of Entrance 2, Block 4, Songhwa-dong No. 1.

"I could hardly believe that I am the owner of the new house. It seemed as if I were in a dream," he referred to what he had felt on the day when entering the new house.

His family of four stayed up all that night after moving into the house provided with all things for living.

His little child romped happily and the adults were

overwhelmed by gratitude to the country taking good care of the ordinary workers' life.

"That day it seemed that everyone on the whole street did not go to sleep. Windows of every flat were brightly lit," said Pak Song Chol.

All other families were as happy as his was.

Among them is his workteam colleague Ko Yong Su whose family received a similar licence, and his brother-in-law's, too, received one.

Ko's family moved into a flat of a block just next to the one where General Secretary Kim Jong Un had dropped in.

They happily celebrated May Day, the international holiday of all working people throughout the world, in their new homes.



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Pak Song Chol's family members are happy after receiving two licences to use house.

Factory diversifies products, improves quality

By **Ri Myong Jun** PT

The Pyongyang Condiments Factory puts effort into developing new products and raising the quality of products.

Having set major goals to diversify condiment in terms of kind and variety, the factory is implementing them by mobilizing its own technical force.

Recently, it developed different kinds of new condiments like soy sauces for roast meat and seafood, fruit and tomato sauce and established the process of producing processed hard-finned sandfish so as to

produce sandfish red pepper seasoning and sandfish boiled down in soy.

It installed the production process of fermented soybean, or natto, a few years ago, and produces various kinds of fermented soybean products including fermented soybean paste.

Fermented soybean contains a great deal of vitamins B2 and K and bacillus subtilis natto has effects on the protection of stomach wall, the treatment of stomach ulcer and anticancer. For that reason, this product is drawing special favour with people.

Research for the development of peptide

soybean paste is being intensified to improve human digestion and absorption.

Due attention has been paid to improving the quality of processed products.

It remodelled fine selection processes of soybean and wheat in a rational way by conducting a mass technical innovation movement and further improved the quality of soybean paste by newly adding red ferment to the soybean paste enzymolysis process.

In addition, it substituted a domestic additive for an imported one which was used in oil production previously so that it could save much

cost and improve the quality of products.

Successes have been made in solving technological problems to increase further the soy sauce storage stability and ensure the standard grain size of soybean paste.

Meanwhile, the factory has modernized different production processes and is managing and operating them in a rational way in keeping with the establishment of the integral management information system.

The demand for the factory's products with Pommaji trademark is on the rise as their number increases and their quality improves.



RI RYON SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Glimpses of the fermentation workshop and natto workteam of the Pyongyang Condiments Factory.

Team contributes to developing children's intellectual faculties

By **Ri Myong Jun** PT

"Star of Mental Calculation" and "Twinkling Star" are study support programs which are popular among kindergarten children and primary school pupils.

Their developers are members of the Paektusan economic technology company.

The goal of the group is to make pupils, who

are mischievous and lack concentration, accept the subjects demanding constant practice and consolidation as their own easily and with unflagging interest.

Last year, they brought out an updated version of the programs.

"As pupils move up to higher grades, faster calculation is required. 'Star of Mental Calculation' 1.0 presented problems from the

"We hope we will remain an everlasting star in the minds of our children who grow up cherishing a beautiful dream to become bright stars of our country,"

Kim Hyok, director of the Paektusan economic technology company

9x9 multiplication table to 12x12 and 24x24 tables, but 2.0 extended the tables in line with the level of school years to make it possible to present



JON JI SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Members of the Paektusan economic technology company discuss how to upgrade study support programs.

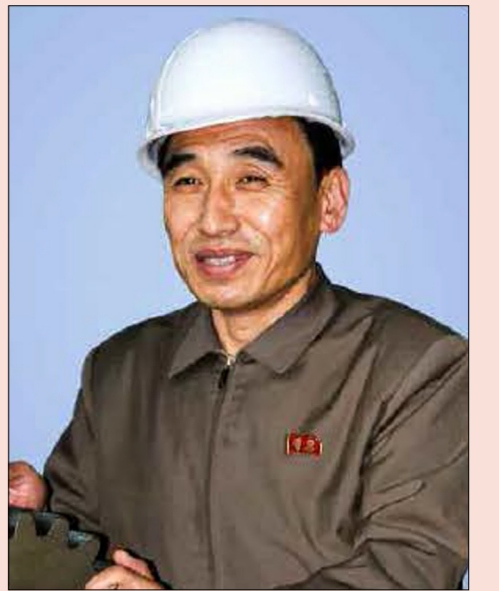
any problems with the 99x99 multiplication table," said section chief Kim Wi Hun.

This program enables everybody to improve their mental calculation abilities with interest. "Twinkling Star" 2.0 enables all primary school pupils to do dictation of Korean alphabets according to teaching contents of each school year in a short time. Its contents have been enriched to intensively repeat and consolidate difficult words.

In addition, the company developed VR-experiencing program "Star of Pride", AR program "Mysterious Star" and others.

"People call us 'Star' development team. We hope we will remain an everlasting star in the minds of our children who grow up cherishing a beautiful dream to become bright stars of our country," said Kim Hyok director of the company.

Top inventor prize winner



Inventive engineer, gem of machine-building giant

By **Jong Hwa Sun** PT

So Sung Gwan (pictured), deputy chief engineer in charge of technical affairs and head of a technical development section of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex, is a famous inventor in his mid-fifties who has brought great benefits to the state by developing many ideas greatly conducive to the production of major equipment ordered from different economic sectors.

He majored in material engineering at Kim Chaek University of Technology, and as he worked in the complex as a worker, instructor in charge of production, workshop manager and deputy chief engineer over the past 30 years, he made painstaking efforts to solve technical problems of national significance.

He invented valuable ideas including a grinding method based on a CNC grinder, methods of moulding gears and hydraulic turbine blades and a dust collecting device for large-size steel castings based on a backward vent wire.

His lots of inventions have been applied to practice and made a great contribution to reenergizing production as they were helpful to solving urgent problems arising in reality and turning unfavourable conditions into favourable ones.

The method of smelting high quality steel with carbide in a three-phase arc electric furnace was highly appreciated particularly as it made it possible to overcome the previous drawback of using light scrap and other materials with a high sulphur content and provided a shortcut to the revitalization of production.

Last year alone, he contributed to doubling the operation rate of machines by solving technical problems arising in ensuring the normal operation of over 10 pieces of equipment and applied more than 50 valuable inventions and technical innovation plans including the establishment of a new steel-making method, thus contributing to overfulfilling the complex's annual national economic plan by 16 percent by August 15. And he had the honour of participating in the celebrations of the 73rd founding anniversary of the DPRK as a delegate.

He took the first place in the national sci-tech presentation in 2012, the 15th national exhibition of inventions and new technologies in 2017 and the 34th national sci-tech festival in 2019, while receiving many certificates of introduction of sci-tech hits of national significance.

"Treasure everything in your workplace the country and people have entrusted to you like your own flesh and blood. Then, you can solve any technical problems"—this is what So Sung Gwan often says.

He continues to apply himself to solving important scientific and technological problems including the extended introduction of a technology for producing bearing steel with high practicality.

DPRK-China trade fair opens online

Good occasion for promoting cooperation and trade



Ri Yong Ju, section chief of the Korea International Exhibition Corporation

The 2022 DPRK-China international trade fair was opened on April 28. The event is planned to be held through the website "international trade fair" (public network) in the DPRK and an internet website in China for two calendar months until June 28. The binational event is hosted by the Korea International Exhibition Corporation and the Beijing

Huamao Times International Exhibition Co. Ltd and Jinhua Humaohui Science and Technology Co. Ltd of China. It will introduce trade goods made in the DPRK and China and relevant data in the forms of PDF file, image and video and facilitate various trade activities. Presented to the event were more than 1 000 pieces of goods from dozens of organizations including the Korea Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation Committee, DPRK Chamber of Commerce, Beijing Pillow Guard Health Technology Co. Ltd and China Best (Beijing) Trading Co. Ltd. The trade fair website is largely divided into such sections as goods on show, Korean hall, Chinese hall and company profile. In the goods on show section that brings together specific

information on the products, visitors can view advanced technologies of the two countries and investment proposals as well as a wide range of building materials, various light industry goods, medicines and farm produce. The company profile section shows the locations of businesses, quality certificates on certain products and relevant video advertisements. The participants will exchange ideas through online texting and take part in videoconferences on various themes. The Ministry of External Economic Relations is responsible for handling problems concerning import and export on consignment between Korean and Chinese businesses. The uploaded data on the trade fair will remain posted for one year after it is finished. The ongoing event will serve as a good occasion for promoting economic and technological cooperation and exchange and merchandise trade between the two countries.

By Sin Pyol PT

Int'l trade fair draws interest

According to Kim Il Hyok, section chief of the Korea International Exhibition Corporation, the ongoing international trade fair serves as a good opportunity to introduce abroad the reality of the DPRK, receive advanced technology and create favourable investment environment. Therefore, it is drawing the attention of local enterprises. "We put on display the book *Investment Guide in the DPRK* and proposed objects of renovation, recycling and production process establishment and operation in the country," said Ri Jun Ho, senior staffer of the Korea Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation Committee. In the past the committee organized investment briefings and consultations and the like on different occasions like the annual Pyongyang International Trade Fair to introduce the DPRK's investment policy and environment, law on investment for foreigners, investment promotion

agencies, politics, economy and culture. It also found out potential investors for investment projects and made contracts with them. Besides, it offers advisory service for investment. "Our company presented a new theory on semiconductor and techniques of making semiconductor devices based on the theory. Among them is that of making semiconductor devices with low on-state voltage. We are going to pioneer a vast domain of sale through technical cooperation with semiconductor companies of different countries," said Ji Kwang Il, researcher of the Korea Kanghng Technological Trading Corporation. According to him, the company has made semiconductor devices since the mid-1960s, satisfying the domestic demand for them and exporting them. "Our company presented shoes preferred by people. We hope for exchange with shoe manufacturers through the exhibition," said Pak Jae Gyu, office head of the Cholli New Technology Exchange Centre.

Typical products of the Kaesong Koryo Insam Processing Factory.

Unhasu-brand cosmetics made from world-famous Kaesong Koryo insam.

Specialties of Mt Kumgang.

Korean specialties, natural products

By Kim Il Jin PT

Lots of Korean specialties and natural products from pollution-free mountains, rivers and seas of the DPRK with beautiful landscape have been presented to the current exhibition. Among them is Kaesong Koryo insam (ginseng). Kaesong Koryo insam, which is cultivated in the Kaesong area, is also known as the number one speciality of Korea for its special effects for longevity and cure of all diseases. According to Ri Kyong Sop, a department director of the Kaesong Koryo Insam Trading Company, Kaesong, which was the capital of Koryo Kingdom, is suitable for cultivating insam more than any other places in natural geographical conditions including natural features and climate and has an over 2 000-year history of insam cultivation. The company has presented dozens of kinds of insam products with unique taste and fragrance and high efficacy, including red insam ginger tea, Kaesong Koryo insam juice, Kaesong Koryo insam broth, Kaesong Koryo insam tea, Kaesong Koryo red insam powder, Kaesong Koryo insam extract and insam tonic for women. Other companies have also presented functional cosmetics, health foods and medicines made of Kaesong Koryo insam as the main ingredient. Functional cosmetics from the Sinuju Cosmetics Factory under the Korea Cosmetics Trading Corporation are very effective in retarding the aging of skin and whitening it as they activate the functions of skin cells and promote metabolism of the muscular system. So they help aged women look young and healthy and young women keep beautiful skin. "Mt Kumgang, a world-famous mountain and pollution-free area, is a source of natural raw materials. This time we have presented to the trade

fair such specialties of Mt Kumgang as apicultural products, farm produce and drinks," said Pang Ryon Sim, director of the Kungangsan Specialities Company. According to her, the company's trademarks "Hwawon" and "Kumgangsan" have been registered in the WIPO and China and its Kungangsan liquor, which received state registration of geographical indication of the DPRK, is on sale at several e-shops in China. Wild honey, native-kind bee honey, bee milk honey and others in Korean celadon make customers' mouth water in an instant with their unique taste and sweet fragrance. Refined rice wine, a Korean traditional drink, and propolis and bee milk capsules which are produced with high processing techniques are also popular. "We've presented light burned magnesia furniture pieces made with Korean magnesite, which is counted on fingers in terms of both deposit and grade in the world, as the main raw material," said Cha Ji Hye, staff member of the Chugyong external economy and technology cooperation company. Powdered light burned magnesia, which is made by calcining magnesite at a relatively low temperature, is an important raw material for green industry. Especially, it is regarded as an ideal green building material and functional health composite material as it has fire prevention, heat-proof, cold-proof, sound absorbing, antibiotic and other functions. Such advantages of light burned magnesia encourages the development of products using light burned magnesia free from the traditional use of wood. And many local furnishings and building materials producers competitively jump into the development of light burned magnesia processed products. The company's light burned magnesia products include chest of quilts, bookshelf, dining table, clothes-rack and door.

Under the special state care



JON KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Schoolchildren cultivate their talents to their heart's content at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

With daily accommodation for over 5 000 schoolchildren, the palace has more than 150 rooms for group and other activities in the fields of science, the arts and sports, a general art training hall, gymnasium, swimming pool, 1 500-seat theatre and library.

By Han Jong Ho PT

Schoolchildren's palaces, halls of schoolchildren, children's camps and juvenile sports schools for new generations are found in all provinces, cities and counties across the country. In the DPRK, the state takes full responsibility for education of the rising generation, providing

everything from educational conditions and environment to school uniform and things and increasing expenditure on education. Under such state policy, the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace was wonderfully built in Pyongyang on May 2 1989 as a comprehensive base for extracurricular education of schoolchildren.

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in July 1984 discussed the matter of wonderfully building a schoolchildren's palace in the Mangyongdae area with beautiful landscape. The artist's impressions and design of the palace were finished in a unique style as a matter of state concern and

the palace was completed in a little more than two years. Built in an area of over 214 000 square metres, the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace has a building area of some 105 000 square metres. It consists of the eight-storey main building and four-storey building for general art training. It also has an outdoor practice

ground for learning driving skills, playground, green park and dormitory. With daily accommodation for over 5 000 schoolchildren, the palace is fully equipped with all conditions for schoolchildren, including more than 150 rooms for group and other activities in the fields of science, the arts and sports, a general art training hall,

gymnasium, swimming pool, 1 500-seat theatre, library housing over 40 000 books, electronic entertainment hall and 4D simulation cinema. Though it is provided with full educational conditions and environment, the state continues to show particular interest in its work. As a result, it was completely renovated in 2015 in line with the requirements of the new century and its educational facilities and fixtures continue to be updated including better musical instruments and sporting goods.

Teacher strives to train all pupils as talents



Ri Myong Sun, teacher of Unha Primary School in Sariwon City

By To Kyong Chol PT

Ri Myong Sun (pictured), teacher of Unha Primary School in Sariwon City, is held in respect and affection by her colleagues and the parents of pupils. "Ri Myong Sun teaches pupils with motherly affection. Her class is recognized as the one of high ability in the city," headmistress Kim Hye Gyong said. According to her, Myong Sun has volunteered to take charge of the pupils who were poorest at study in the grade she was in charge of and managed to train them into honour pupils for over 20 years. This was because the

teacher regards her pupils as her sons and daughters and devotes her all to the education of them, said the headmistress. A few years ago, Myong Sun came to know that Ma Jong Hyang, a girl pupil of other class, was always diffident for her poor results. In fact, Jong Hyang had been recognized as a retarded child by not only her family members but also her villagers since her kindergarten days because she was less advanced than others of her age. So even her teacher regarded her as a helpless pupil. "At that time I thought a lot, seeing Jong Hyang. If she were my daughter, I would have grieved over her

condition, I thought, and I could not sleep well with worry about her future," Myong Sun recalled. Since then Myong Sun took charge of the girl. She strived to develop the intelligence of the child. She repeatedly explained to her what would be done to other pupils only once, in various forms and ways and made strenuous efforts to make her take interest in study. Thanks to her ardent devotion and efforts, Jong Hyang's intellectual level improved day by day. At last she became an honour pupil in the third year to amaze many. Besides, the teacher took charge of a boy who was particularly mischievous and made him take interest in study by encouraging him to display his instinct and merits, and took motherly

care of a girl in study and life as she lost her parents and was not interested in study growing under the care of her grandmother. Such pupils are now doing their share in the society after finishing schools of higher grade or universities. They still call Ri Myong Sun "our teacher". "There cannot be backward pupils. Much effort bears good fruit, and the same is the case with education," said Myong Sun. The teacher has taken the top prize and the first place 18 times in city and provincial teaching contests and invented many experimental apparatuses, teaching aids and new teaching methods. She was selected as one of the top ten teachers of the country last year.

More people are involved in cultural and artistic activities

By Ri Sung Ik PT

In the DPRK mass cultural and artistic activities are conducted briskly everywhere.

Mobile artistic motivational teams and art groups conduct such activities in every workplace and working people and housewives sing and dance cheerfully in different places on holidays and other important occasions to add to cheery moods.

To cite the members of the Changsong County art group with a 60-odd-year history as an example. As they hone their artistic skills in ordinary working life, they perform artistic works reflecting their life to fire other working people with the zeal for increased production.

They had given fine performances on ten occasions in the presence of President Kim Il Sung and



A scene of chorus with drum *We Advance under the Uplifted Banner of Self-reliance* staged by members of the mobile artistic motivational team of the Sunchon Cement Complex.

PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Chairman Kim Jong Il since the 1960s and made them happy. They never forget the love shown to them by the great leaders who made

a history of "gold mountain" and led the members of the art group of the mountainous county to take the lead in mass cultural and artistic

activities. Each of their works pulsates with the optimism and delight of working people who are ushering in

a new era of radical change of local areas under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Members of the art group of the Susongchon General Foodstuff Factory staged a performance in the presence of Chairman Kim Jong Il on his visit to their factory in April eleven years ago.

They took part in the national singing contest of working people on different occasions to be acclaimed highly. "As the manager of our factory sang songs and played a musical instrument, our employees naturally followed suit. As everyone participated in artistic activities, production grew in our factory day after day and they became a more harmonious collective," said Kim Un Gum, worker and member of the factory's art group.

The agricultural workers of the Chongsan Cooperative Farm who reap good harvests

as they lead an optimistic and emotional life along with songs also conduct a variety of mass cultural and artistic activities at their nice hall of culture.

According to an official of the farm, many farmers are innovators in work and famous actors and actresses on the stage. And members of the farm's art group took part in the Seventh April Spring People's Art Festival held to mark the Day of the Sun and won great acclaim of the audience as they represented the looks of them who are finding a short cut to increased grain production and ushering in a new era of rural advancement in their colourful programme, he added.

Working people of the units which conduct vigorous mass artistic activities say that innovation surely happens in the places full of optimism and emotion.

Artistic motivational activities appeal to employees for increase production

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex is known as a hard-working group with great fighting efficiency and a group full of optimism.

Its employees say that it is unthinkable apart from the artistic activities of its mobile artistic motivational team that always creates a lively atmosphere in their workplaces.

On their way to work every morning, they are greeted by the impressive and appealing motivational activities conducted by members of the mobile artistic motivational team.

The news about feats performed by labour innovators are announced from the loudspeaker van. It, together with songs

sung by the team members, greatly encourages the employees to follow their examples and harden their resolve to overfulfill their daily plans.

"We conduct artistic motivational activities by focusing on making our employees carry on the spirit of the preceding generations, well aware of the long history and tradition of railway workers, and encouraging them to create innovations in all workplaces and lead a fulfilling life," said Kim Yong Su, leader of the mobile artistic motivational team.

The team members give colourful performances in workplaces with numbers on various themes including innovative achievements made by the employees and

edifying stories in life. With the heightened activities of the team members, the employees of the complex tend to lead an optimistic life singing songs and dancing during recesses.

The team members of this complex participated in several rounds of April Spring People's Art Festival. In the recent festival in April this year they performed an art piece showing with high artistic skills the fighting spirit of the preceding generations who had made the first electric locomotive by their own effort to carry out the task entrusted by President Kim Il Sung and their successors' resolve to invariably carry it on, thus receiving great acclaim from the audience.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Among the amateurs who appeared on the stage of the magic festival held in the magic theatre of the National Circus on the occasion of the Day of the Sun was Song Chung Myong, third-year student of Rajin University of Marine Transport.

He staged a trick titled "My hope".

It starts with writing a diary on a blank sheet of paper. The paper is changed into a book in an instant and the magician picks up a paper from it before picking out in succession big and small cards in different colours. Some of them are changed into confetti when he blows on them, and the other cards in his hands become a diary again. He opens the diary and writes down his hope of being a famous scientist bringing honour to the country, and the trick ends with his diary and a certificate of PhD being displayed on the background.

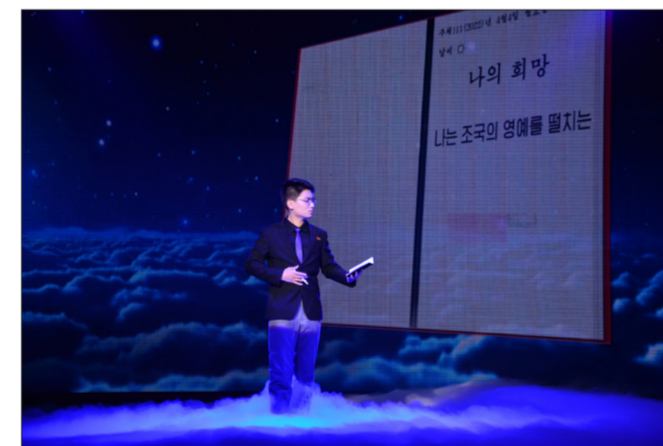
Song Chung Myong was greeted with a big hand from the audience as he vividly represented the looks of a university student burning with the zeal for quest amid the playing of lyric music.

His work took the first place in the amateur division of the magic festival.

He was much influenced by his parents in forging a close bond with magic.

His father Song Ryang Dok skilfully played different musical instruments and showed

Student magician comes under limelight



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Song Chung Myong, third-year university student, performs a magic trick at the magic festival held in celebration of the Day of the Sun.

a bent for magic during his military service.

He created many pieces of magic together with his wife even after becoming an official of a unit and staged them before employees on national holidays. It was enough to make Chung Myong feel friendly toward the magic world in his childhood.

He learned the rudiments of magic from his father in his primary school days and surprised teachers and fellow students by flaunting his magic skills in New Year celebration performances during his middle school days.

"He is a replica of his father in terms of magic skills and he would draw the admiration of others," said his mother Choe Yon Gum.

With an ambition to display his skills through the April Spring People's Art Festival this year, he tried to reflect his dream on his work.

"His work is flawless to all appearances as he well preserved the features of magic with his nimble hand movements as skilful as a specialist and artistically depicted the dream of a student," said Kim Chol, department chief of the National Circus.

Many of the audience asked if he had an intention to change his major. He answered that he was so satisfied with that performance, adding that his dream is to be a scientist and he would continue to play at the coming people's art festivals in the future.



Natural History Museum all-round, comprehensive

We can see history of earth and nature in one place

Provider of encyclopaedic knowledge of nature

More than 11 000 animals and plants of some 3 500 species are on display in the form of stuffed and other specimens and model.



Jo Song Hyok, student of Pyongyang University of Transport

family for the third time. My children are really happy to come here.

They especially like to see 3D films in the video hall. Seeing fishes swimming on the large display on the floor, the children feel as if they have come in the middle of the sea world. And they are so delighted that they do not leave it, stamping their feet and putting out their hands to feel them.



Ji Ye Song, pupil at Songuja Primary School in Mangyongdae District

I looked round the hall of extinct organisms with great interest.

I was surprised to see the dinosaurs moving and roaring as if they were alive and also saw primitive bracken as thick as a mature tree and a primitive dragonfly that is 70 centimetres wide with wings stretched.

The exhibition area showing the living environments of primitive people and the looks of researchers gathering fossils were so lifelike that I was reluctant to leave the place.



Kim Ok Ju, resident in Puksong-dong No. 2 of Phyangchon District

I've come here with my astronomer.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

The Natural History Museum stands side by side with the Central Zoo at the foot of picturesque Mt Taesong in Pyongyang.

Inaugurated in July 2016, the museum has a total floor space of over 38 000 square metres and is a favourite haunt of people.

More than 11 000 animals and plants of some 3 500 species are on display there in the form of stuffed and other specimens and model. It is functionally divided into the areas of exhibition, e-library and collections repository.

On the ground floor there are the entrance, universe and fossil halls.

The entrance hall houses the life-size models of skeletons of three dinosaurs typical of animals in the Mesozoic era.

The universe hall helps visitors visually know the origin and development of the universe and shows its present looks.

In the fossil hall palaeontological data is on display according to different geological ages ranging from the origin of life to the advent of mankind, so as to enable visitors to have a comprehensive knowledge of the changes in the environment of the earth and the evolution of life.

Animals and plants are

arranged according to their evolutionary processes in animal and plant halls on the first and second floors.

"We represented the ecological environment of animals and plants to help visitors have a more vivid and comprehensive notion of the exhibits," said Ju Kum Chol, curator of the museum.

The animal hall exhibits

rare fossils like those of the earliest unicellular animal of protozoan and Korean archaopteryx and the specimens of the DPRK's national bird, goshawk, its national dog, Phungsan, and other creatures.

The plant hall houses the data of various plant populations and typical species of mushroom and

lichen distributed on the earth.

On the third floor there are the zoo-ecology hall showing the zoological environment in nature, the temporary exhibition hall designed to hold various exhibitions and academic exchanges and diffusion, the children's study and experience room, and online reading room, data server room and sci-tech learning space.

There are also e-reading and multimedia browsing places and pierced halls of the exhibition area.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Visitors attentively see exhibits at the Natural History Museum in Pyongyang.

Members of the mobile artistic motivational team of the Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex have rehearsal time.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Perilous act of fuelling tension in Asia-Pacific

According to foreign news reports, the US congressmen have recently taken a surprise visit to Taiwan and pledged a strong support for “freedom and democracy”, making much ado about a “threat from China”. Concerning this, China aired its readiness to take all necessary measures to safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, denouncing the above-mentioned visit as a provocative and perilous act of seriously undermining the political basis of Sino-US relations and aggravating situation in the Taiwan Strait. The Taiwan issue, from A to Z, falls within the internal affairs of China. The US so often says that it adheres to the principle of “One China” and does not support the “independence of Taiwan”.

But, in practice, it does act in contrast to this. Then, what is the real purpose of the US that is tenaciously set on the Taiwan issue? It is as clear as day. It is to use Taiwan as an outpost for realizing its Indo-Pacific strategy, the main focus of which is to contain China. This year alone, the US administration has sent high-level delegations to Taiwan one after another, sold military equipment for the maintenance of “Patriot” interceptor missile system, and dispatched warships frequently to the waters off the Taiwan islands, intentionally aggravating the regional situation. All these substantiate this. Recently, the political figures and media of the US are making a fuss about “China’s invasion of Taiwan”, unreasonably linking the

Taiwan issue to the Ukrainian crisis. This is intended to stir up anti-China public sentiment on the international scale, justify its support for “Taiwan independence” forces and step up its strategy for containing China. The US is trying to use the Taiwan issue not only as a weapon for containing the rise of China but also as leverage for bringing together its allies to maintain its supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region. The wild ambition of the US to maintain the world hegemony also entails a potential danger of touching off a delicate situation on the Korean peninsula. Under the pretext of coping with “threats from China and the DPRK”, the US is hell-bent on bringing all sorts of strategic assets into the vicinity of the Korean peninsula and conducting joint military

exercises with its allies. This stands as a clear manifestation of its sinister intention to stifle both the DPRK and China, socialist states. It is the same old trick of the US that it pursues its wild ambition of domination and geopolitical interests by deceiving the international society and inciting confrontation and discord between countries while hyping up “threats” from others. The unwarranted US interference in the internal affairs of other countries undermining peace and stability and aggravating the situation in the Asia-Pacific region is doomed to failure by the strong opposition and rejection of peoples of China and other Asian countries.

Maeng Yong Rim, president of Korea-China Association for Civil Exchange Promotion

‘Believe in the Power of Kindness’

May 8 is World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. It is also the birthday of Henri Dunant, founder of the international Red Cross movement. The international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement assumes the humanitarian character of preventing and alleviating pains and sufferings of humans. The movement embodies humanity, fairness, neutrality, independence, voluntariness, uniqueness and universality as the fundamental principles in its activities. At present, many people are leaving their native places due to the frequent disputes between religions and nations in several regions of

the world, suffering from hunger and pains. They also greatly suffer from the world health crises and adverse effects of climate change including global warming. The international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement still gains strength, focusing on these afflicted regions and people. The kindhearted and self-sacrificing efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, national societies and volunteers in many countries give hope to many sufferers of disasters and misfortune. The theme for this year’s World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

is “Believe in the power of kindness”. The DPRK Red Cross Society works hard to give full play to humanitarianism, the main spirit of the Red Cross movement. At the moment, our society directs efforts to saving and protecting the people’s lives and properties from all sorts of disasters and crises and building up self-

reconstruction capacity by placing main emphasis on disaster prevention and mitigation. It also pays attention to preventing all kinds of diseases including COVID-19 pandemic, intensifying the dissemination of first-aid treatment techniques, health information activities and health education and improving ecological environment and environmental hygiene.



O Il Hyok, department director of the DPRK Red Cross Society

BYWORD

People-first architecture

The Juche-oriented socialist architecture is, in essence, based on the people-first principle and it is the construction policy of the Workers’ Party of Korea to carry out all construction works in the country on the principle of fully satisfying the people’s aspirations and demands and promoting their interests and convenience. It is natural for all construction works to serve the promotion of the people’s wellbeing in the DPRK where the people-first politics is administered and all activities of the Party and state are run through with the people-first principle. As the building of dwelling houses for people is being pushed ahead as a major task of the state, Songhwa Street and Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District were completed as new models of construction successfully combining modernity and convenience and Samjiyon City was spruced up as a fine example of local construction. General Secretary Kim Jong Un, in his letter to the participants in the Second Grand Short Course of Officials in the Construction Sector last February, said that the mission of the officials in the construction sector is very important and heavy in providing people with the happiest life and bringing about a fresh transformation of the appearance of the Juche-oriented architecture by fully applying the Party’s people-first idea of architecture, and called on them to lead the development of socialist civilization with a new revolution in construction.

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OPINION Climatic crisis grows more serious

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The World Health Organization recently announced that about 3.5 million people die owing to the climatic crisis in the Western Pacific every year. An insider of the WHO said that residents of the region suffer damage from frequent droughts, heat waves, floods and forest fires caused by extreme weather. In particular, it expressed the apprehension that the lives and livelihood of residents on islands in the Pacific are in danger as tropical storms get more frequent. The Philippines has recently been suffering serious damage from those storms. Not long ago the central and southern parts of the country underwent heavy rain, landslides and flooding caused by a tropical storm. As a result, 160 people died, 110 went missing, over 580 000 became refugees and 42 000 were evacuated. At the end of last year, too, an unexpected typhoon swept the country, resulting in a great loss. A strong wind blowing at a velocity of 240 kilometres an hour and heavy rain caused a thousand and several hundred casualties and destroyed over 500 000 houses in 11 regions of the central and southern parts. The victims numbered over 4.2 million in total. It has been reported there is a possibility that the number of inhabitants of the Pacific Basin prone to negative effects, including submerging in seawater, might become three times as much as the existing estimate. At present mankind has faced a climatic crisis unimaginable in the past. Abnormal climate phenomena occur everywhere on the earth. In March the temperature rose by 32 to 50 °C as compared with the average in some parts of Antarctica. In the Vostok base known as the coldest region on the earth as the temperature there was confirmed as 89.2°C below zero in July 1983, the temperature was 17.7°C below zero on March 18, far exceeding the mean maximum temperature (53°C) of the month. As to this, experts comment that the temperature might be affected by the global high-temperature phenomena following the climatic crisis. High-temperature phenomena were witnessed in the northern hemisphere of the earth. North America was swept by unprecedented heat waves for two months from June last year, the temperature soaring up to 50°C. Hundreds of people lost their lives in heat waves and fierce heat and houses were enveloped in flames caused by forest and field fires everywhere. A foreign news agency described the high-temperature phenomena in the northern hemisphere as “fierce heat of death”. Saying that the climatic crisis is mainly caused by accelerated global warming, experts warn that unless immediate measures are taken, disastrous abnormal climate phenomena might keep occurring in unexpected areas.

When genocide is talked about, people first recollect the history of the US that was formed on the pile of corpses of exterminated Native Americans. George Washington, the first President of the US, and other Presidents in the early years of its “founding” were all criminals against humanity who set massacre against Indians as the national policy while embellishing westward territorial expansion as their “inherent mission” and took office as Presidents for their “military exploits”. They did not see Indians—Native Americans—as humans, and their land as their territory, but an “unpopulated land” inhabited by animals. John Quincy Adams, state secretary in 1818 and sixth President of the US, went crazy in massacring Indians asserting that “terrorism is very effective in handling the ignorant and uncouth Indians and blacks”. And Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the US, a notorious “hunter” of Indians, after taking office, legalized the collective concentration camp against Indians by signing the “Indian Removal Act” (1830), an inhumane discriminatory act. They were all heinous devils. Since the first colony of the whites was established in

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US-RINGLEADER OF CARNAGE AND GENOCIDE

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Not long ago, US President Biden claimed that lawyers should appraise the Ukrainian crisis, likening it to genocide. This aroused criticism from the international community. Does the US really have any qualification to mouth the word ‘genocide’? When genocide is talked about, people first recollect the history of the US that was formed on the pile of corpses of exterminated Native Americans. George Washington, the first President of the US, and other Presidents in the early years of its “founding” were all criminals against humanity who set massacre against Indians as the national policy while embellishing westward territorial expansion as their “inherent mission” and took office as Presidents for their “military exploits”. They did not see Indians—Native Americans—as humans, and their land as their territory, but an “unpopulated land” inhabited by animals. John Quincy Adams, state secretary in 1818 and sixth President of the US, went crazy in massacring Indians asserting that “terrorism is very effective in handling the ignorant and uncouth Indians and blacks”. And Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the US, a notorious “hunter” of Indians, after taking office, legalized the collective concentration camp against Indians by signing the “Indian Removal Act” (1830), an inhumane discriminatory act. They were all heinous devils. Since the first colony of the whites was established in

Jamestown in the southwestern part of the US in the early 17th century, millions of Indians—equivalent to 85% of the total number of Native Americans—were “slaughtered” while cluding it like herds of animals. And the survivors were all locked up in the “Indian Reservation Territory”, which was little short of the concentration camp, and exterminated miserably after suffering grinding toil. The US massacred more than 600 000 innocent people in the Philippines from 1898 to 1905, more than 2.47 million in Korea from 1950 to 1953 and more than 3.8 million in Vietnam from 1965 to 1973. While committing these crimes, the bloodthirsty nature of the US, which slaughtered the Indians, was manifested more openly. US congressman Albert, in his speech delivered at the Senate on January 9 1900, said that what the

US dealt with were not whites, but the Orientals. An officer of the US occupation forces in the Philippines gave an order to fire everything and kill everyone in the country. Walker, commander of the US 8th Army during the Korean war, gave a following order: “Kill everyone! Don’t let your hands tremble even when those who appear before you are children or old people.” These violent remarks are only a few examples that show the outrageous nature of the US. It is the height of hypocrisy that the US denounces the Ukrainian crisis as genocide. The US, which grows fat and survives at the cost of sacrifice and blood of innocent humans, has no qualification to talk about massacre and genocide under any circumstances. This is attributable to its sinful past and present.

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Cunning farce of ‘name change’ to deceive the world people

Recently, the Security Investigation Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan has reportedly discussed the issue of changing the name and interpretation of “total defence”. As to it, it was proposed during the discussion to change “total defence” into an “active defence” which includes the “attack for self-defence” with an assertion that “‘minimum necessary limit’ is not good enough to be a deterrent and defend the nation”. “Total defence” is a policy that has been advocated by the Japanese government as the “keynote of its defence policy” under Article 9 of the Constitution which states renunciation of war, waiver of the

right of belligerency and others. This also constitutes a legal and moral duty Japan, as a defeated nation in World War II, has towards the international society in order not to repeat its past of having inflicted terrible disasters upon humankind with aggression and war. It is a universally recognized fact Japan, however, has forcibly pushed ahead with its bid to become a military power, while changing gradually the interpretation of its Constitution, and persistently pursued the policy of military build-up. Japan is now arming its ground, maritime and air Self-Defence Forces with latest military hardware under the pretext of “deteriorating

security environment” and “threats” from neighbouring countries. Meanwhile, it is frequently staging offensive joint military exercises with the US and several other countries. Recently, the situation came to this pass where it has become an established fact that it is trying to specify the possession of “capability to attack enemy base” in its “national security strategy”. What cannot be overlooked is that Japan is making much ado about “threats” from our country and other neighbouring countries in an attempt to justify such reckless moves of arms build-up. Whenever we take self-defensive measures for enhancing national

defence capability, Japan harps on about “provocation” and “threat”, making a fuss as if it were struck by a sudden bolt of lightning. Its ulterior motive is to justify and legitimate its unlawful and illegal moves towards becoming a military power. The above facts lay bare once again the extent to which Japan, a war criminal state which has made persistent moves to nullify the “peace constitution” stipulating its permanent waiver of the right to belligerency and the right of entry into a war, is dead set on driving “Self-Defence Forces”. **Cha Hye Gyong, researcher at the Institute for Studies of Japan, DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

‘100 Years of Progress!’

By Kim Kang Ju PT

May 5 is International Day of the Midwife. The International Confederation of Midwives celebrates its 100th founding anniversary on May 5 this year. Created in Belgium, the confederation has since developed as a global non-governmental organization representing over 140 midwives’ associations with a million midwives in more than 120 countries. After its foundation midwives’ schools were set up and many midwifery service programmes implemented in many countries, providing lots of women in the world with safe delivery service. Such a success is the outcome of devoted efforts of midwives of older generations across the world over the past 100 years. The UNFPA and International Confederation of Midwives have selected the theme for this year’s International Day of the Midwife as “100 Years of Progress!” in an effort to consolidate what they have achieved and ensure the next 100 years are even more monumental for midwives, women, babies and all other people. Commemorating International Day of the Midwife, the confederation published the State of

the World’s Midwifery 2021 Report, important research data on midwifery service, in cooperation with the UNFPA and WHO. It has also worked out a 2021-2023 strategic plan for guaranteeing its sustainable activities and enhancing the abilities of midwives’ associations and all midwives. In the DPRK, a great deal of efforts are put into the education of midwives because the protection of expectant and nursing mothers’ health largely hinges on the responsibility and role of midwives. The regular education system specializing in education and training of midwives has been established in Pyongyang and the provinces and there educational curriculums are implemented to teach students midwifery theory and help them acquire practical abilities to meet the international standards. The government has set national sustainable development goals until 2030 to further improve the rate of delivery service by professional health workers and far reduce the mortality of expectant and nursing mothers and infant mortality and is now carrying out detailed action plans to attain them. In the DPRK, all expectant and nursing mothers receive regular checkups, delivery and other medical services free of charge.

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Poster for the International Day of the Midwife in 2022.

Briefly

Russia

Carrier rocket launched
The Russian aerospace force launched an Angara-1.2 lightweight carrier rocket at a cosmodrome on April 29. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the rocket was loaded with a military satellite to be used by the ministry and successfully put into the target orbit.

DRC

WHO cites concern over Ebola outbreak
The World Health Organization expressed concern over the spread of Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo on April 29. Recently, deaths were reported in Equator province of the country amid the 14th Ebola outbreak. Especially, the number of contacts with Ebola victims reportedly reached hundreds.

Guyana

President demands UK apology
The Guyanese President branded slave trade as one of the greatest crimes in human history in a TV interview on April 29. He said that the nations in the Caribbean formed a regional committee in demand of an apology and compensation for slave trade from the UK.

China

Anti-epidemic work intensified
China intensifies anti-epidemic work to check the spread of COVID-19. Given that the persons infected with o mutated virus are continuously spotted in Beijing these days, the city government demands citizens carry certificates confirming they proved negative in the nucleic acid test done within 48 hours, when they enter public places. Shanghai speeds up the construction of intensive isolation places, properly manages the construction site and takes strict anti-epidemic measures. On a nationwide scale more than 35 000 medical workers were reportedly dispatched to the city for the past one month to help with the anti-epidemic work there.

UN

Natural disasters cause global economic loss
Recently, the UN announced that 350-500 medium and large natural disasters occurred from 2001 to 2020 around the world and the ensuing annual average economic damage totalled US\$ 170 billion. The Asia-Pacific region suffered the greatest damage. The UN held that in case such situation lasts due to climate changes, the case of annual natural disasters would increase to 560 by 2030.

Former forward No. 10 still sparkles



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ri Un Sim devotes herself to training promising footballers.

By Kil Chung Il PT

Players of Rangnang District Juvenile Sports School took the first place again in the boy's football event at the national juvenile sports school contest last year, clinching five consecutive wins at the event.

"Ri Un Sim has kept a promise since she was appointed to the school as an instructor for the boy's

football event. She was and is still forward No. 10. I am quite sure that the reserve footballers she has trained will distinguish themselves in the future," said Hong Chang Song, another instructor of the school.

She was a football ace much favoured by spectators.

Born into a common office worker's family in Yangdok County, South

Phyongan Province, she got interested in football in her childhood under the influence of her father and mother, sports fans.

After learning basic skills of football at football groups of her primary and middle schools, she was recognized as a distinguished footballer in the county during the days at Yangdok County Juvenile Sports School.

She was picked to the April 25 Sports Club afterwards and cut a brilliant figure in domestic games including the annual national championships. In particular, she scored a winning goal in the women's football tournament at the 11th Asian Games.

She had played as the captain since the 22nd Universiad in 2003 in which she scored nine goals to flaunt her high skills.

However, every person has their limit in playing career.

"Although my playing career has ended, I will remain in the field. Spectators, who have rooted and encouraged me, will

surely see me again staying in the field," said Un Sim as she left the sports club in 2010.

Since the first day when she was appointed as a football instructor of the school, she has spared no wisdom and efforts in training reserve football players.

Ri pays special attention to making each player display his ability to the full, ranging from the selection of players to training and game.

"Our instructor urges all the players to regard each training as a real game and leads us to give the fullest play to our potentials," said Kim Kum Il, captain of the boy's football team of the school.

Ri Un Sim, People's Athlete and mother of a daughter, strives to make her trainees unfold thrilling scoring scenes by finding a scoring chance, just as she did when she was a centre forward.

"My trainees score goals and receive big hands from spectators. I feel pride in seeing them score goals in place of me," said Ri.



Turtle ship, world's first armoured battleship

By To Kyong Chol PT

Turtle ship, the very first iron-clad battleship in the world, was built by Koreans led by Admiral Ri Sun Sin, a patriotic general of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910), on the basis of the previous shipbuilding techniques in the period before 1592.

The ship fully demonstrated its combat power at several naval battles during the Imjin Patriotic War against Japanese Invasion (1592-1598).

It was 35m long, 11.8m wide and 5.2m high, with ten oars on each side and more than 70 gun ports.

The hull was oval-shaped like a tortoise shell, but the immersed part was somewhat longish so that the ship can sail fast.

With its deck covered with iron plates so as to repel waves, the ship looks like a submarine. The interior is designed to give the facility for combat actions and commanding and ordering.

The prow was constructed in the shape of a dragon's head and sulphur and nitre were burnt inside it to send out smoke through the mouth, which created a smoke screen around the ship.

Two collapsible sails were placed in the rear part of the deck to get additional propulsion from the wind, and

there were two fins at the stern that balanced the ship when it pitched or rolled and also ensured fast and safe voyaging.

The deck was covered with pins and blades to keep off the enemy, except the cross-shaped path which was so narrow that only its crew could walk through it.

Among 26 compartments on the vessel, two were filled with pieces of iron to ensure stability of its movement and three were used to store guns, bows and arrows, gunpowder, knives and other weapons.

Nineteen of them were cabins for sailors and the other two were for the captain and other officers.

As the ship was designed to place combatants and combat equipment inside, the enemies could not see what was going on inside the turtle ship while those on the ship could see the outside. Therefore, it could even make a dash at hundreds of enemy battleships and open fire at them.

With a simple, solid and stable structure, fast speed, and excellent firearms, the turtle ship was a powerful battleship which was suitable for both hand-to-hand fighting on the deck and artillery engagement at that time.

By Yun Ki Song PT

The Ryongaksan ginkgoes grow near the Pobun Temple in Mt Ryongak.

Having grown there for over 500 years, witnessing the long history of the temple, they are 28 metres tall, 3.7 metres round at the root collar and 16.5 metres wide at the crown.

Three ginkgo trees combined with one another to spread lots of branches at the height of 2.5 metres to form a crown in the shape of a broom.

Ryongaksan ginkgoes, living monument

The trees are associated with a story that three friends who were on a visit to the temple swore to be brothers before planting them on a single spot.

The trees are regarded as a special one and the living monument is of great scientific significance and adds beauty to the scenery of the mountain.



Ginkgo trees on Mt Ryongak go back to 500 years.

