

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un guides ground jet test of solid-fueled engine for new-type intermediate-range hypersonic missile

Strategic weapons programmes of five-year plan successfully completed



KCNA

A ground jet test of a solid-fueled engine for a new-type intermediate-range hypersonic missile, which is of another strategic value, was successfully conducted in the era when eye-opening sci-tech achievements have been successively made in the course of the steady development of the national defence capability.

The DPRK Missile Administration and its affiliated engine institute conducted the ground jet test of a multistage solid-fueled engine for intermediate-range hypersonic missiles at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground on the morning and afternoon of March 19, according to the schedule of a new-type weapon system programme.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, guided the test on the spot together with leading officials of the missile development sector.

A timetable for completing the development of the new-type intermediate-range hypersonic missile weapon system was set through the great success in the important test.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said that the military strategic value of this weapon system is appreciated as importantly as ICBM in view of the security environment of our state and the operational needs of the People's Army and that enemies know better about it.

Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction over the fact that the strategic weapons programmes of the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK have been successfully completed.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un guides firing drill of artillery unit in western area

Batteries of super-large multiple rocket launchers fire salvos

KCNA

In the stirring period when trainings for strengthening the combat capability to bolster up the national defence capability in every way are being staged one after another across the entire army in the flames of effecting a revolution in training kindled by the Party Central Committee, there was a firing drill of the artillery unit in the western area, which is in charge of an important firing assignment and equipped with super-large multiple rocket launchers, part of a new generation of core striking means of the Korean People's Army.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the



State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, guided the salvo drill of a sub-unit under the relevant unit on March 18.

Kim Jong Sik, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Jang Chang Ha, general director of the DPRK Missile Administration, reviewed the drill.

The drill was aimed at proving the might and real war capabilities of the weapon system through sudden manoeuvres and salvos of the sub units armed with 600mm multiple rocket launchers, raising the combat morale of the artillerymen and

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checking and enhancing their readiness posture.

The artillerymen who came to demonstrate a battery salvo for the first time with the super-large multiple rocket launchers which appeared as a highly powerful weapon system without a parallel in the world on the initiative and under the guidance of the WPK were filled with the great enthusiasm and combat morale to present pleasure and satisfaction to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who has made an untiring journey to the frontline for strengthening the military muscles while bolstering up the strongest national defence capability.

Going round the firing positions, Kim Jong Un acquainted himself with the automatic fire control system and the combat deployment time and tactical specifications of the transporter-erector-launchers, and watched the artillerymen's

handling of equipment.

After being briefed on the firing drill plan of the super-large multiple rocket launcher batteries at an observation post, he gave an instruction to conduct the drill.

When the order to fire was issued from the central observation post, the combatants of the batteries simultaneously opened fire with the confidence of a-match-for-a-hundred artillerymen.

Massive shells that spurted out of the gun barrels with a thundering explosion flew to the targets, vomiting the flames of annihilating the enemy.

The artillerymen who took part in the drill have strengthened their combat capability in every way in the crucible of rounding off the artillery war preparations during the days of preparing themselves as master gunners possessed of extraordinary real war capabilities. They fully demonstrated their excellent crack-shot marksmanship and prompt and thoroughgoing combat readiness.

Expressing great satisfaction over the fact that the artillerymen displayed high maneuverability and accurate and strong striking power in carrying out their sudden combat mission, he highly appreciated that all the service personnel are fully versed in the Korean-style super-large multiple rocket launcher system which is the strongest in the world and are remarkably increasing the militant might with full combat readiness.

After the salvos of the batteries, a test was conducted to simulate an air explosion by a super-large multiple rocket at a preset altitude above the target.

Expressing the strong will to completely remove the risks of armed conflict and war and firmly defend peace, stability and sovereignty of the country with the overwhelming military muscles as a deterrent, Kim Jong Un set forth important strategic tasks for bolstering up the artillery forces and rounding off the artillery war preparations.

Stressing that the position and role of the newly-equipped super-large multiple rocket launchers in war preparations are very important, he said that as 600mm super-large multiple rocket launchers would perform their strategic duties as part of the core central striking means of our armed forces, together with other effective and destructive offensive means, the modernization of the artillery forces should continue to be stepped up on the basis of them.

He said that it is necessary to further impress upon the enemies that if an armed conflict and a war break out, they can never avoid disastrous consequences, adding that in the future the destructive offensive means possessed by our army should more thoroughly fulfill their missions to block and deter the risks of war with the constant perfect preparedness to destroy the capital of the enemy and the structure of its military forces.

SEE PAGE 3



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends congratulatory message to president of Russian Federation

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on March 18 sent a congratulatory message to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation.

The message said:

I extend my heartfelt congratulations and warm comradely greetings to you on the happy news that you have been reelected as President of the Russian Federation.

Through the recent presidential election, the Russian people further strengthened the socio-political unity with you as the centre and fully demonstrated at home and abroad their will to build a powerful Russia with confidence by displaying

patriotism.

Your reelection to the heavy responsibility of the head of state is the Russian people's valuable estimate of the outstanding leadership and tenacious executive ability you have displayed in state activities with a high prestige as the leader of the nation, and an expression of their unshakable support to and trust in you.

I am firmly convinced that, under your energetic and correct guidance, the Russian people will surely win victory in the cause of reliably defending the sovereignty and security of the country, accelerating the socio-economic development, realizing international peace and justice and building an independent multipolar world.

Thanks to the meeting between

us at the Vostochny Spaceport in September 2023, the good-neighbourly relations between the DPRK and the Russian Federation have greeted a historic turning point and are developing into the everlasting strategic cooperative relations with anti-imperialist independence as a common idea.

I will firmly join hands with you and bring about a new era of the DPRK-Russia friendship with long historical roots and traditions in conformity with the requirements of the times and push forward with the accomplishment of the cause of building a powerful country, the aspiration and desire of the peoples of the two countries.

I wish you good health and greater success in your responsible work for the Russian people.

FROM PAGE 2

He stressed the need to continuously increase the number of batteries of super-large multiple rocket launchers and indicated the tasks and ways for it, referring to the principled issues that serve as guidelines in their operational deployment and operation.

He called for fully preparing long-range artillerymen as the main combatants and the mainstay of war to annihilate the enemy without hesitation according to their assignments in contingency.

He expressed expectation and belief that all the artillerymen of the entire army would always and strictly keep their perfect war posture and high alert, make a great innovation in rounding off war preparations and thus fully prepare themselves to be heroic artillerymen who would take the lead in making a breakthrough in victory of battle with the most powerful and merciless shellfire of justice in a grim moment.

All the combatants who took part in the drill were filled with a firm determination to fulfil their sacred missions and duties to devotedly defend the Party, revolution, country and people at the risk of their lives by putting spurs to the completion of artillery war preparations, bearing in mind the deep trust of Kim Jong Un who personally guided their drill, gave them precious instructions for developing the artillery forces into the first branch of the People's Army both in name and reality and inspired them with the invincible strategy and fighting spirit of annihilating the enemy.

Premier Kim inspects different sectors in provinces and city

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected various sectors of South and North Phyongan and Jagang provinces and Nampho City.

At the construction sites of regional-industry factories in Onchon County, the premier stressed the need to set it as the top preferential task to ensure the quality of projects and strictly meet the demands of technical construction methods as he encouraged soldier-builders.

He also referred to the necessity to proactively organize visits and courses for training skilled workers and push forward with the creation of raw material bases in Pyongyang and local areas, while making perfect preparations for operating regional-industry factories to be newly built at the same time.

Looking round the Myohyangsan and Nampho medical appliances factories, he called on

the officials, workers and technicians to enhance the processing ability and precision of equipment to develop and produce more modern medical appliances and, at the same time, to foster greater competition among medical appliances factories by focusing on the improvement of the quality of products.

At different farms in Taedong, Kujang and Hyangsan counties, he learned about the immediate farming processes and underlined the need to produce much more quality organic fertilizers, cultivate and manure wheat and barley well and take strict agro-technological measures for coping with extreme weather conditions.

Discussed at the field consultative meetings were the issue of settling in a far-sighted way the matters arising in construction and operation of regional-industry factories in relevant regions, that of enhancing the level of specialization and cooperation in the production of medical appliances and that of steadily securing the sources of organic fertilizers.

WPK delegation headed by director of International Department visits China



KCNA

A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Song Nam, alternate member of the Political Bureau and director of the International Department of the WPK Central Committee, arrived in Beijing on March 21 to visit China.

Kim Song Nam met with Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, on March 21.

Kim courteously conveyed the warm greetings sent by Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, to Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China, and Wang Huning.

Wang expressed deep thanks for this and asked Kim to convey the sincere and warm greetings of Xi Jinping and himself to Kim Jong Un.

Kim Song Nam said that the DPRK-China relations are steadily developing into genuine and firm comradely ties with socialism as the core under the direct concern of the leaders of the Korean and Chinese parties.

Wang Huning said that no matter how the international situation may change, the China-DPRK friendship, the strategic option of both sides, will never be shaken and that China, which regards the DPRK as a good comrade, good friend and good neighbour, will translate into practical action the important agreements between the top leaders of the two parties and thus provide the peoples of

the two countries with greater happiness and contribute to regional peace and stability.

That day, talks were held in Beijing between Kim Song Nam and Liu Jianchao, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee.

Liu Jianchao asked Kim Song Nam to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of Xi Jinping to Kim Jong Un.

Kim introduced the successes being made in Party building and the accomplishment of the cause for the overall development of socialism under the wise leadership of General Secretary

Kim Song Nam, head of the WPK delegation, meets Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, on March 21.

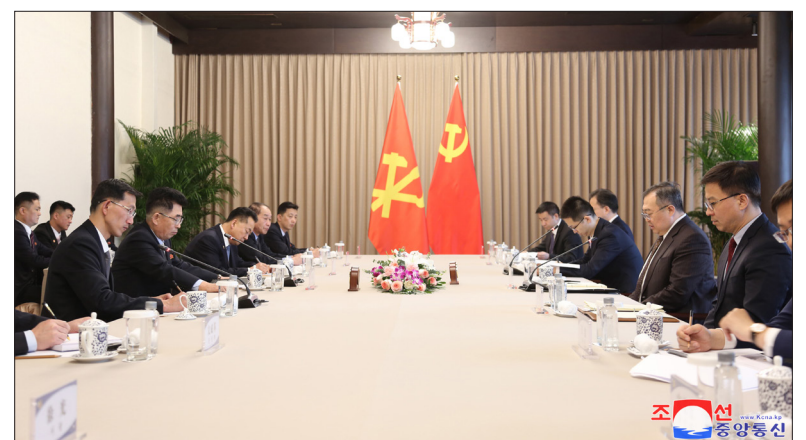
Kim Jong Un and referred to the line and policy of the WPK on the struggle against the US and enemies.

Liu said that General Secretary Xi Jinping and the CPC Central Committee warmly welcome and highly prize the WPK delegation on a visit to China in the year of China-DPRK friendship, adding that during its visit the delegation would feel the will of the CPC to steadily develop the traditional China-DPRK friendly relations.

At the talks both sides reaffirmed their mutual support for the policies being adopted by the two parties and the two countries in socialist construction and the field of external relations and expressed their stand to expand cooperation between the sectors of party external affairs in order to boost the bilateral relationship in an all-round way with a long-term and long-range view on the firm basis of the development of friendly relations provided by the top leaders of the two parties.

That day the WPK delegation was invited to a reception hosted by Liu Jianchao.

Talks are held in Beijing between Kim Song Nam, director of the International Department of the WPK, and Liu Jianchao, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee, on March 21.



Russian Maritime Territory delegation visits Pyongyang



Premier Kim Tok Hun meets Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of the Maritime Territory Administration of the Russian Federation, on March 21 at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.

KCNA

A delegation of the Russian Maritime Territory led by Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of the Maritime Territory Administration, paid a visit to the DPRK from March 18 to 22.

Kim Tok Hun, premier of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, met with Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of the Maritime Territory Administration of the Russian Federation who is heading the visiting Maritime Territorial delegation, on March 21 when the latter paid a courtesy call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.

Present there were Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations of the DPRK, Im Chon Il, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, members of the delegation of the Maritime Territory of the Russian Federation and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

The talk proceeded in a comradely and friendly atmosphere.

Talks were held between Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations of the DPRK, and Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of the Maritime Territory Administration of the Russian Federation, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on

March 19.

Present there from the DPRK side were officials concerned and from the Russian side were the members of the delegation of the Maritime Territory of the Russian Federation and the Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

The talks discussed the issues for revitalizing the inter-regional economic cooperation between the two countries on a higher stage.

That day, the delegation laid a wreath at the Liberation Tower in Pyongyang.

A wreath in the name of the governor of the Maritime Territory Administration was laid at the Liberation Tower.

The visitors paid silent tribute to the memory of the martyrs of the Soviet Army who devoted their precious lives to the sacred war of justice for Korea's liberation with noble internationalism.

Then they looked round the tower.

The delegation also visited the Kangdong Greenhouse Complex, National Gifts Exhibition House, Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, Russian Centre of Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies and Jongback Church.



Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations, and Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of the Maritime Territory Administration of the Russian Federation, hold talks at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on March 19.

Russian ballet 'Sleeping Beauty' staged

KCNA

A ballet "Sleeping Beauty" was staged by the art troupe of the Maritime Territory Branch of the Mariinsky Theatre of Russia at the Mansudae Art Theatre in Pyongyang on March 20.

Among the audience were DPRK Minister of Culture Sung Jong Gyu and the members of the delegation of the Russian Maritime Territory led by Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of the Maritime Territory Administration, and the delegation of

the Russian Ministry of Culture headed by Vice-Minister Andrei Maluishev, and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

Prior to the performance Oleg Kozhemyako and Andrei Maluishev made congratulatory remarks.

They said that the performance was given under the deep care of Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Jong Un who saw the ballet "Sleeping

Beauty" during his visit to Vladivostok City last year.

The performers began their performance, recollecting with deep emotion the time when they gave performance before the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un. They showed their beautiful, elegant, delicate and experienced dances in the ballet "Sleeping Beauty", a typical ballet piece of Russia.

The performers were loudly applauded and presented with bouquets by the audience for their impressive performance.

Best scientists and technicians of DPRK in 2023

By Song Jong Ho PT

The 21st non-permanent February 16 Science and Technology Prize examination committee decided to award the February 16 Science and Technology

Prize and the Scientific and Technological Innovation Prize to over a dozen projects which contributed to raising the country's science and technology to the world level and improving its economic development and the people's

living standards last year.

Seven persons who played a key role in carrying out the February 16 Science and Technology Prize winning projects were selected as the best scientists and technicians of the country in 2023.

Ri Su Yong, researcher at the Nano Materials Institute of Nano Engineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences

He played a pivotal role in the development of a technology for separating mirabilite from glauberite.

Very few people agreed with him when he first came up with a new and innovative idea about the crystallized mirabilite production technology.

It was a trail blazing idea and he was not young, but he did neither waver even a moment nor fell back even a

step.

He was firmly convinced that to create a new thing of our own is the most correct way to alleviate a nagging worry of the Workers' Party of Korea and the country over the issue of glauberite.

The invaluable research results of the research group of the Nano Engineering Branch, including Ri, made a breakthrough in successfully building a Korean-style

crystallized mirabilite production process at the December 5 Youth Mine on the first go.



Kim Hyok Chon, PhD and section chief of the Power-driven Machine Institute of the State Academy of Sciences

Kim played a core role in carrying out the project concerning the establishment of a technology for supplying cooling water to condenser at thermal power stations with jet pump.

Heading the turbine research group, he grasped that the turbine output of the generating equipment which was added to the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex some years ago falls in seasons when the temperature rises because



of the insufficient supply of cooling water to condensers.

He pooled efforts with the research group to find a reasonable way to supply the

condenser cooling water at a constant rate without building a special-purpose circulating water pump station or cooling tower which would require a lot of labour and materials and cost much money.

It is the scientific conviction of Kim Hyok Chon that it is most important to find out the seed of research conducive to boosting the country's economy and produce research results to make maximum profits with a small investment.

Kang Jin U, Professor, PhD and department head of the Physics Faculty of Kim Il Sung University



Kang played a key role in research into quantum gravitation, enhanced expansion of the universe and the generation of elementary particles. He is a world-famous scientist with full authority in the fields of cosmology and theory of elementary particles, which are known to have been monopolized by prestigious universities and institutes in a few developed countries.

Winner of Kim Il Sung

Youth Honour Prize and Kim Jong Il Youth Honour Prize, he was provided with a flat of the apartment house for educators of Kim Il Sung University which was wonderfully built more than 10 years ago at the age of 34. And he was honoured to present a bouquet to Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, who attended its inaugural ceremony.

In his early twenties, he changed the original field of research immediately after graduating from the postgraduate course and entered into research on elementary-particle cosmology, a cutting-edge basic science. He had a burning ambition to conquer this unknown world without

fail and thus exalt the honour of the country to the world.

He made strenuous efforts to catch up with others in a short time, boldly took the unsolved problems in the world as his research subjects and conducted joint research together with distinguished scientists of different countries. In the course of it, he made contributions to proudly demonstrating the dignity and honour of Kim Il Sung University and showing the development of basic sciences of the country in the international academic arena.

He has served as a member and fellow of an international institute with world authority in the field of physics. Now he conducts vigorous scientific activities in the international academic circles.

Municipal consumer goods show held in Pyongyang



Visitors admire the goods on show at the Pyongyang Municipal Consumer Goods Exhibition. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Commodities increased in kind, improved in quality

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Pyongyang Municipal Consumer Goods Exhibition took place at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 from February 24 to March 5 amid the expectation and interest of citizens of the capital city. "The show held for the first time this year was aimed at contributing to further improving the quality of consumer goods and increasing their variety by thoroughly implementing the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on enhancing the quality of consumer goods and condiments," said Tokko Yong Hwan, deputy department director of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee.

On display were more than 400 000 pieces of products in

over 1 600 kinds produced by light industry factories and many consumer goods producers in the capital city.

The exhibits including various shapes and forms of such garments as underwear and raincoats, trainers, grasswork and natural health foods won popularity among visitors.

Such goods in high demand as functional cosmetics, bags, school things, hosiery and perfumes were exhibited by the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, Pyongyang Bag Factory, Pyongyang Hosiery Factory and Pyongyang Essential Oil Factory which have vigorously conducted a mass technical innovation movement by focusing on reduced cost and improved quality.

The Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory put on show various kinds of tasty and nutritious bread and the Yua General

Foodstuff Factory displayed all kinds of confectionery, fries and instant noodles. Visitors to their booths said that their products improved remarkably in taste and quality and the number of new products increased considerably as compared to the previous show.

The Yua General Foodstuff Factory presented over 20 kinds of new products to the show, including coffee-flavoured cake and butter pie.

The Sosong Songdo Leather Shoes Manufacturer exhibited smart and convenient shoes to attract the attention of visitors. Saying that footwear should be light and comfortable, buyers praised Songdo-brand shoes for their good quality.

During the exhibition, the participants exchanged successes and experience they had gained in the course of improving the quality indexes.

Consumer goods enjoy popularity with customers

By Kim Hye Jong PT

Many products gained popularity with visitors at the Pyongyang Municipal Consumer Goods Exhibition.

The Samilpho Specialities Factory exhibited tasty and nutritious products made with locally available natural raw materials.

Diverse was the range of products made from healthy arrowroots including starch noodles, grits, low-sugar cake and tea.

Materials for soup and toffees were also varied in kind, such as wheat flour chopped noodles, potato farina chopped noodles, barley flour chopped noodles, tangogi (dog meat) toffee, Schizandra chinensis fruit toffee and matrimony vine fruit toffee.

Sol Yong Gwan, manager of the factory, said that his

factory would produce more new and diverse kinds of specialities favoured and welcomed by the people in the future.

Snail cosmetics and wash soap, products of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, were welcomed by the visitors.

According to Kim Myong Gun, section chief of the factory, the cosmetics industry now tends to use snail mucus worldwide because it has a strong moisturizing function and high anti-aging and whitening effects.

The factory also remedied the defect in the previous wash soap that fragrance became weaker after about half of it was used. Now the exhibits maintain the same fragrance as they had when they began to be used till they were used up. The key is said to be the development of a new mixing perfume.

A crowd-puller was the hair nutrient solution newly developed by the Pomnal Cosmetics Company. It is reportedly made by applying nanotechnology to the processing of locally available natural materials.

As it harmoniously contains various kinds of fat, microelements and other nutrients, it not only helps improve the quality of hair and provides nutrition to it, but also prevents and treats various kinds of hair loss and allergies caused by side effects of dyeing.

Buyers said that soap products made by the Jangsan Consumer Goods Production Company lather and foam well, have a strong washing capacity and are high in quality.

The company presented a bleaching soap together with moisturizing soaps of various forms to the recent exhibition.

Various kinds of instant foods produced

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Taedonggang Kumok Instant Rice Factory produces various kinds of instant foods.

"Our factory was built under the deep care of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un who intends to provide the people with an affluent and civilized life as soon as possible," says Kang Chol Su, manager of the factory.

The factory has established production processes equipped with modern processing machines in accordance with the global trend of instant food development toward making foods functional, green and diverse and thus produces

various kinds of instant foods.

Typical products are instant noodles, instant rice and grain chips.

"All products of the factory are made to meet the tastes of Koreans using natural raw materials such as flour of wheat, other grains and vegetables grown by an organic method at home," says section chief Ri Myong Hak.

There are two types of instant noodles: one is fried and the other is not fried. And bone broth-flavoured instant noodles are in greatest demand, he said.

The factory established bone grinding, bone broth concentration and bone broth production processes and succeeded in making quality bone broth of fine colour by



Instant noodles are produced at the Taedonggang Kumok Instant Rice Factory. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

setting a reasonable rate of composition of condiments to remove its unpleasant taste.

It also improved the doneness, toughness and smoothness of noodles and reduced the cooking time of them.

The factory produces instant rice and soup in consideration of Koreans' habit of enjoying

eating warm rice and soup.

Slices of meat are processed in a way that they retain their own taste and become soft for chewing, and vacuum-dried and sterilized to make the instant rice and soup. Only hot water needs to be added before eating.

Different kinds of grain chips that can serve as simple

breakfast are favoured by patients with diabetes and obesity as they are low in fat and sugar.

Spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, meat dumplings, bread and biscuits are also the major production indexes of the factory.

The macaroni, savoury spaghetti and dried noodles

made of mung bean, buckwheat, sorghum and other kinds of grains are selling well.

The various, functional and green products of the factory won popularity and instant noodles received a gold medal and diploma at the light industrial goods exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" held last year.



United on strength of patriotism

By Pang Un Ju PT

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un ardently called for working harder to attain the goals set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, closely united on the strength of patriotism, at the December 2023 Plenary Meeting of the WPK Central Committee.

In hearty response to his call all the Korean people pool their wisdom and effort for the prosperity of the country with a high sense of patriotism.

The coal miners of South Phyongan Province accepted the difficulties facing the country as their own and kindled the flames of a socialist patriotic movement for

increased coal production to ease the burden even a little. The employees of the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex devoted their all to the increased fertilizer production with concerted efforts and the patriotic farmers worked day and night to harvest a rich crop and donated a large quantity of grain to the country to return the infinite love and trust shown by the Party.

All of them are ordinary working people that can be found everywhere across the country.

But the WPK values their simple and honest patriotic mind more than thousands of tons of coal or fertilizer and tens of thousands of tons of grain and highly praises it.

In retrospect, patriots the WPK has put forward and highly regarded

were those people who always breathed the same breath with the country, who willingly responded to the country's call with physical strength, knowledge and enthusiasm and who carried the heavy burden by themselves in the hard times for the country.

What they kept in mind was the noble moral obligation to repay the love and favour shown by the Party and the country even a little without forgetting them.

Those who follow the road of patriotism devote themselves to the country willingly, not because they are forced by someone else.

Among the participants in the New Year 2024 celebrations was Kim Yong Su, leader of a workteam at the Kosan Combined Fruit Farm.

When he was appointed as leader of the workteam which had stood last at the farm a few years ago, no one imagined that it would lead others in the future.

But he worked hard with clear conscience to reap a bumper fruit harvest and united all members of the workteam on the strength of patriotism to become labour innovators.

When he suddenly fell ill a few years ago, the entire farm as well as the members of his workteam visited him.

At that time, many people were moved to tears as they saw the workteam members donate their blood unsparingly, describing him as an indispensable man for the collective.

Such people, who become standard-bearers and pacesetters of the masses at their workplaces and who shoulder heavier burdens by themselves in the face of growing difficulties, are seen everywhere in the country.

Inspired by these patriots, a growing number of people follow the road of patriotism and pool efforts, helping and leading one another forward.

Let all of us unite with one mind and will of patriotism!

As it has people with such an ardent wish, the DPRK grows more beautiful and stronger on the strength of patriotic loyalty of its citizens, the cornerstone of the country, not by any mysterious power sent by the heaven.

Sightless man sheds tears of gratitude

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

Ri Chol, 34-year-old blind man living in neighbourhood unit No. 108 of Tongsan-dong No. 1, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, told The Pyongyang Times reporter the following story.

Like my real elder brother

"It is not easy for anyone to dedicate themselves to the good of others, but I know one, who has unusual connections to me," said Ri Chol.

One autumn day four years ago, Ri was at a loss in the street.

His mobile phone continued to ring, but he could not talk on the phone because his earphones did not work properly.

Only with the help of passers-by could he talk over the phone.

Then someone asked him his name, address and cell phone number.

Two days later, he heard a familiar voice saying that he would come to see him.

Handing high-performance earphones over to him, the visitor said he would be able to talk on the phone without any inconvenience and his voice of humanity deeply impressed him.

From then on, he frequently received calls from the man,

who carefully inquired about his health, what kind of treatment he was getting and what kind of medicine he needed, and obtained and sent a rare medicine to him. The man encouraged him, saying that if he did his best to have his illness treated, he would regain his eyesight in the future and that he would strive to help him.

It was not out of sympathy at all. His sincerity moved Ri to tears.

When he was allotted a house, he unhesitatingly conceded the house to parentless Ri Chol and provided him with furniture as if he were his own younger brother.

And whenever he was asked about his name and address, he merely said that he was a resident in the same district.

He is Kim Jae Uk, 55-year-old staffer of the Ministry of Light Industry.

He said, "I think that we are all members and brothers of one family. I only tried to live like the young people who became the parents of orphaned children and became the sons and daughters of the old people who have no children to take care of them and the meritorious persons of socialist patriotism who did many good things for society and collective."

With a smile of satisfaction, he added that he takes pleasure of life in devoting himself to the good of others and sharing the feeling of

kinship with them.

Like blood relations

"Many people show concern for me and it makes me feel warm affection like in a family, though they are not my blood relations," says Ri Chol.

After he and his wife moved into the present house, Kim Kum Ju, head of the neighbourhood unit, often visited him in an effort to look after their newly-wed life.

Their neighbours and other residents of the dong visit them, calling the man uncle, elder brother or younger brother, to take meticulous care of them lest they feel any slight inconvenience in life.

On the last lunar New Year's Day, too, members of the neighbourhood unit gathered in their house to spend the holiday with them. Besides, Kim Jae Uk, who shared brotherly affection with Ri Chol through life, Ri Won Chol and his wife living in neighborhood unit No. 58 of the same dong and Pak Kum Song and his wife living in neighborhood unit No. 14 of Saemaul-dong No. 2 in Phyongchon District visited them bringing with them precious tonics and daily necessities to add to the warm atmosphere of the family.

Ri Chol said his house resounded with laughter and singing throughout the holiday as they had a good time, feeling the pleasure of life.

'Patriotic grandpa' committed to heritage protection

By Kil Chung Il PT

Patriots are not only those who performed distinguished feats for the country and the people.

Those who have been working sincerely at one job for a long time whether they are appreciated or not are also called patriots in the DPRK.

Among them is Jong Kil (pictured), who has been working at the Pyongyang Municipal National Heritage Protection and Management Station for nearly 40 years.

It was 39 years ago that he began to work at the station after finishing his middle school course.

His job at that time was to paint historical relics colourfully.

"As a young man, I thought little of painting old wooden buildings. So I did not take interest in the job," recalled Jong Kil.

One day, while working together with Jong Kil, workteam leader Ko Il Chol told him that he could hardly continue with the job unless he had a mind to preserve and glorify the good qualities of the nation.

Explaining to Jong Kil about Korea's traditional use of *tanchong* (colourful painting) patterns in decorating wooden buildings, Ko said, "Looking at scores of kinds of such patterns painted even on a single building, I am struck with wonder at the outstanding wisdom and talents of our ancestors."

Jong said he was deeply impressed by the workteam leader's remark at that time.

Later, he made painstaking efforts with a determination to become number one in his field.

The job required painting the relevant parts of the object light

yellow green and drawing such patterns on them, so he began to learn the method of drawing the patterns on drafting paper.

In the course of practising drawing dozens of kinds of delicate and subtle patterns, he came to keenly realize the outstanding talents, techniques and creative styles of the ancestors and feel great pride in the job.

Consequently, he became able to draw such patterns skilfully, exquisitely and quickly and his strenuous efforts made a great contribution to preserving well the Ryongwang Pavilion, Chilsong Gate, Ulmil Pavilion, Pothong Gate, Pobun Hermitage and other



cultural relics in Pyongyang.

While taking part in repairing historical relics in the capital city, he also offered unselfish

assistance in preserving many cultural relics in other parts of the country, including the Namdae Gate in Kaesong.

During his nearly 40-year career, Jong Kil became an expert on architectural decoration.

"All national heritage elements in the capital city are associated with his sweat and patriotism. He is invariable in his intention to hand down the precious cultural heritage of the Korean nation through generations. His fellow workers respect and follow him, calling him patriotic old man," said director Pyon Hyok.

Now he is old and has a grandson but he is still trying hard to hand down to the next generation his talent, rich experience and knowledge of the ancestors' excellent culture.

So, young people call him "anxious grandpa" and he is striving to teach them even one more thing.



Kim Jae Uk (middle) and neighbours take care of the life of Ri Chol, a blind man living in Tongsan-dong No. 1, Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Devoted mothers, altruistic love

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Last year, the Communist Mother Honour Prize was instituted for the first time in the DPRK.

And 20 women were honoured with the prize for the first time at the Fifth National Conference of Mothers splendidly held in December last year.

They are all mothers who have sincerely devoted themselves to making their children become patriots upholding and adding lustre to the country by putting the state affairs above their family

affairs.

Among them are a mother who made her four sons join the army for national defence and, since their discharge from military service, has led them to work hard to attain the grain production goal, the predominant one of the goals for economic development, another whose daughters are ace weightlifters who exalted the honour of the country with gold medals, another who adopted 18 parentless children when she was 27, the wife of an honoured disabled soldier who became his spiritual base to enable him to

continue to carry on the revolution and a woman who has remained a revolutionary comrade of her husband, understanding and helping with him in his service at a mountain post for over 30 years, thus being called "our mother" by service personnel, and made her two sons join the army and married her daughter to an army officer.

The Communist Mother Honour Prize reflects the firm intention of the Workers' Party of Korea which wants all mothers across the country, not merely a few specific mothers, to enjoy a worthwhile

life in the same rank advancing toward communism.

More and more women have strived to live as communist mothers since the conference.

A woman made a contribution to increasing the soil fertility of her workteam's fields by spreading 10 tons of quality manure on them, an elderly one became a honorary member of a farm with a mind to contribute whatever little efforts to filling the country's granary and some women's union members sent to the construction site of Jonwi Street in Pyongyang a large amount of aid materials they had

prepared with sincerity.

Besides, many women volunteered to work at honourable posts for socialist construction with a desire to lead a fulfilling life as working women in the revolutionary advance for the overall development of socialism.

Such deeds are a manifestation of the noble view on life of the communist mothers who are steadily following the road of patriotism with the faith that the happiness and future of their families and children lie in firmly trusting and following the Workers' Party.

Mother of world weightlifting stars



By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Ri Yong Hui, a woman living in Mangyongdae-dong of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is one of the 20 women who received the Communist Mother Honour Prize for the first time at the Fifth National Conference of Mothers last year.

Mothers with daughters often raise them with tender care, but Ri brought up her two daughters into weightlifters well known to the world weightlifting circles as well as to the homeland.

That is why people call her the mother of "sisters of great strength".

Rim Jong Sim, eldest daughter of Ri Yong Hui, fell unconscious with a serious injury while lifting the weight she applied for in the snatch at the World Weightlifting Championships held in the United States in 2015.

The championship organizing committee concluded that Jong Sim would never be able to continue with her weightlifting career, to say nothing of the next game. It was tantamount to a death sentence to her.

But after regaining consciousness, she entered the jerking event enduring an extreme pain and succeeded in lifting 155kg to the surprise of all spectators.

"At that time I had the

reason why I had to lift the weight without fail. The lifting of the weight I applied for would lead to the hoisting of our national flag up the flagpole. This desire for raising our DPRK flag gave me superhuman strength," recalled Rim Jong Sim.

According to her, on the day when she returned to the homeland in a wheelchair, Rim was guilt-ridden for being runner-up. Then her mother said that she was proud of her daughter as she demonstrated the spirit of the country and the mental strength of Korean women to the world, though she was hurt, and encouraged her to exalt the honour of the country with gold medals next time.

As Rim bore this request deep in mind, she could become a twice Olympic gold medallist and world weightlifting champion, and the state awarded her the Kim Jong Il Prize and Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and the titles of Labour Hero and People's Athlete.

Rim Un Sim, second daughter of Ri Yong Hui, set a new record of the Asian Games in the weightlifting event of the 19th Asian Games last year and was honoured with the Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and the title of Merited Athlete.

Both Rim sisters say that they can never forget the days when they visited juvenile sports school of the Weightlifting Gymnasium on Chongchun Street for the first time with their mother at the age of 10.

The instructors welcomed the sisters for their suitable constitution as weightlifters, but originally the girls were so reluctant to do the sport that they were close to tears.

"We had our own hopes

when we were children and doubted if our mother was right. But it was mother who taught us what our hopes should be oriented to," say the sisters.

Ri Yong Hui hung the flag of the DPRK on a wall of her home and attached an emulation graph under it for recording their everyday training results. When they were back home after daily training, their mother got them to record the results in the columns of their names on the graph by themselves looking up to the flag.

As they stood in front of the national flag and the graph bearing their names every day, the girls did not know the purpose of the recording. They realized its meaning only at the venues of contests.

"When I stood on the winner's rostrum to receive a gold medal on my international debut, I could hear the announcer say 'Rim Jong Sim of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea' and raised high our national flag instinctively," said Jong Sim. "Our national anthem was played and all the participants stood up. When our national flag was hoisted up the flagpole and many people gave me a big hand, I wept tears of joy, calling mother in my heart," recalled Un Sim.

Every mother wants their children to become successful and devotes their all to the growth of their children.

The mother of the Rim sisters inspired them to orient their hopes to adding glory to the country and, in recognition of her admirable deeds, the state awarded her the Communist Mother Honour Prize at the Fifth National Conference of Mothers to make her known to the whole country.

Unassuming woman behind successful scientists



By Pang Un Ju PT

Kim Hui Suk who lives in neighbourhood unit No. 7 of Kwangmyong-dong in Unjong District, Pyongyang, is the wife of a scientist and the mother of two young scientists.

She was awarded the country's first Communist Mother Honour Prize at the Fifth National Conference of Mothers held last year.

She likes to look at the prize several times a day recollecting the past.

One day in January 27 years ago, Kim gave birth to her second son in a mountain village in Ryongnim County, Jagang Province. A few years later, she moved to Unjong District of Pyongyang after her husband was appointed as a researcher at the Heat Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

Though she moved from a mountain village to the capital city, there was little change in her family life.

Whenever she thought of her husband who spent most of his time at workshops, the first thing that would come across her mind was his dust-stained face.

However, one day when she went to his workplace to

give him spare clothes and daily necessities, she was unexpectedly welcomed by the workers there as the wife of "our researcher" and showered with warm praises that she was the wife of an excellent scientist and a true patriot.

That night, she tossed about in bed as old memories flooded her mind along with remorse.

At that time, she keenly felt once again that it was her duty to care for her husband so that he could become a scientist who does great things for the country, not for the family.

As she dealt with all family affairs big and small and supported him with warm affections, her husband Ri Kon Mu could make a contribution to increasing the production of electricity by successfully introducing the heavy oil-free ignition technology into thermal power stations. He was awarded high state commendations and won the February 16 Science and Technology Prize as he successfully solved many urgent scientific and technical problems arising in the field of thermal engineering.

She also brought up her two sons to follow in their father's footsteps and become scientists.

She paid constant attention to the school record of her first son Kwang Ok, who had been known as a math prodigy from childhood, so that he could concentrate on his studies without being self-conceited even for a moment. He exalted the

honour of the country at international contests several times and prepared himself as a reserve scientist. She also led her second son Kwang Hyok to follow in the tradition of the family of scientists steadfastly.

Thanks to her sincere devotion, both of them graduated summa cum laude from the University of Sciences.

Later, Kwang Ok became a world-class scientist by publishing the most advanced result in solving an equation which remains as one of the unsolved problems in the scientific world and was awarded a doctorate in his twenties, and Kwang Hyok obtained a master's degree.

Kwang Ok won the Kim Jong Il Youth Honour Prize and moved into a luxury apartment in the Wisong Scientists Residential District and his brother became a young scientist who plays his part in the development of science of the country.

In recognition of Kim Hui Suk's painstaking efforts which she believes as only too natural for a wife and a mother, the state invited her to the national conference of mothers.

She said that the lives of Korean women are now shining more brilliantly thanks to the loving care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who highly appreciates all the efforts and lives of the mothers of the country as great deeds for the country, adding that she would fulfil her duty as a mother in reliably carrying forward the tradition of the family of scientists, the tradition of patriotism.



Hwasong Restaurant adds pleasure to inhabitants of new street

By Kim Hak Chol PT

These days, many people visit Hwasong Street, a new street of the people.

One of the reasons is that there is the Hwasong Restaurant, a public catering facility popular with people.

Covering an area of over 26 000 square metres, the eatery with the Korean-style gabled roof makes the street more distinctive by making a striking contrast to modern dwelling houses and gives pleasure and satisfaction to diners with tasty dishes and hospitable service.

It consists of the main building and buildings Nos. 1 and 2, and the main building is the most crowded with people.

According to Manageress Kim Myong Hui, the main building serves various kinds of national dishes and soft drinks and its Pyongyang cold noodles and

noodles covered with meat in flat vessel are in high demand since they are as tasty as those served at the locally famous Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants.

She added that the people who once tasted the noodles at the restaurant become regulars and so it is crowded with many diners every day.

"I lived near the Okryu Restaurant, so I missed it just after moving into Hwasong Street. But my regret disappeared after I enjoyed the savoury Pyongyang cold noodles and noodles covered with meat in flat vessel at this Hwasong Restaurant on the new street," said a middle-aged man in a dining hall of the main building.

According to Hwang Song Il, a staffer in charge of service, the cooks of the eatery have rich experience and high skills.

It also serves various kinds of dishes and soft drinks and has

conditions for providing wedding service to cater to different needs of clients.

Ri Kum Hyang, a woman living in Hwasong-dong No. 3 in Hwasong District, said: "I was inwardly concerned about my child when I came to the restaurant for the first time with my family as I thought it served only noodles. But it was an unnecessary worry as it serves various delicious foods."

A newly-wed couple living in Kumnung-dong No. 1 in the same district said that they often visit the restaurant after throwing their wedding party there amid the blessings of all people and that their new street looks like an excellent wonderland.

The manageress was sure that the restaurant will draw more people after the second- and third-stage construction projects are completed on Hwasong Street.



The eatery serves a wide variety of foods.
WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Indoor greening promotes service environment

By Pang Un Ju PT

The Ullim Restaurant, a comprehensive welfare service facility in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, attracts many with distinctive indoor greening.

It enhances its internal environment by rationally arranging ornamental plants in consideration of their favourable growth conditions

and in good harmony with the structure of the building.

Its indoor greening is concentrated in the entrance hall.

According to Jo Yong Ran, manageress of the restaurant, only some big flowerpots, an ornamental tree and a flowerbed stand with ground-cover plants were all the entrance hall had a few years ago.

But at present there are

dozens of large pots containing foliage plants including *Cycas revoluta*, gum tree, *Schefflera actinophylla* and *Neoniphopsis exaltata*.

In particular, banana and orange trees, *Yucca filamentosa*, *Agave americana*, *Chlorophytum comosum* and dozens of kinds of 100-odd ornamental plants have taken roots in the plant pot stand covering an area of about 60 square metres.

Fruit and foliage plants are harmoniously arranged with small rocks on the plant pot stand, which is reminiscent of a tropical forest in miniature and gives viewers a feeling of nature.

There are many advantages of indoor greening, but Jo explained them by largely dividing them into two points.

According to her, above all, improved service environment has markedly

reenergized their business.

The indoor greening which has renewed the appearance of the restaurant offers customers a psychologically relaxing feeling, good visual effect and rich emotion.

Employees of the restaurant feel pride in their work and attachment to their workplace while seeing customers having photos taken in the place associated with their creative wisdom and enjoying the

feeling of nature evoked by green plants, being unaware of the passage of time.

The Ullim Restaurant is planning to decorate the inner walls of the building with creepers that are good for promoting ornamental value and purifying the air including *Scindapsus aureus* and to increase the species of ornamental flowering plants so as to make the internal environment gorgeous and rich.

Another merit of indoor greening is that everything goes well and the collective has achieved harmony as employees pool their wisdom and efforts in the course of adorning the interior.

There are employees who have a special taste and knowledge for floriculture and special flair in the combination of colours and indoor decoration.

Manageress Jo Yong Ran said that she did not know that employees had such a good taste, talent and rich emotion, adding that laughter is provoked in the workplace in the course of learning and teaching good decoration skills.



The distinctive indoor greening adds pleasant mood to the Ullim Restaurant. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Newly inscribed ICH elements

Yanggum making technique

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Yanggum, a Korean stringed instrument similar to zither, became widely popular in the country in the 18th century.

At that time, it was called *Kuracholsagum* in the sense of "iron-stringed instrument".

Yanggum of those days was very small. It had iron strings stretched with nuts over a square wooden box. The player held it with the left hand and rapped on the strings with a bamboo stick to make musical sounds.

It had a clear, plaintive and distinctive timbre as the strings were made of steel, but had some defects like the narrow compass, poor reverberation, echo going on in an uncontrolled way

and restricted modulation. The execution was also very simple.

It was remodelled in a comprehensive way along with other national instruments as part of the national musical instrument improvement project in the 1960s and 1970s to overcome the shortcomings of the conventional one.

The improved *yanggum* has a wider range of compass, beautiful timbre and rich volume, enabling free and active execution.

Different types of wood are used to make the front and back plates of the sound box as their functions are different.

The sound stopper consisting of six components made by processing brass and iron plates was newly added to *yanggum* to stop the sounds from continuing

unnecessarily when it is played.

The bridge is made of painted maple and threeflower maple wood, and the strings are made of copper and steel.

The sticks are made by processing ripe, hard and straight bamboo to be elastic and stiff, and its length can be varied slightly according to the player's liking. A ball of compact wool is attached to the tip of the stick, which has a crucial effect on the tone colour and elasticity.

At present, *yanggum* is manufactured at the National Institute of Musical Instruments.

The *yanggum* making technique was registered on the list of national intangible cultural heritage elements in November last year.



Yanggum, a Korean stringed instrument.

Tambukjang

By To Kyong Chol PT

Tambukjang is a kind of soybean paste, one of the condiments indispensable to Koreans' dietary life.

It is fermented soybean paste seasoned with various supplementary raw materials and spices.

The fermented soybeans, the main raw material for the condiment, are as nutritive as soybeans and their vitamin B 2 content is twice as much as the latter.

In particular, fermented soybeans contain chonggokkinase that dissolves thrombosis, and its efficacy is much higher than that of urokinase.

Therefore, eating fermented soybeans prevents blood from clotting, causing no thrombosis.

The making of fermented soybeans starts with the selection and soaking of big and ripe soybeans.

Put the soaked beans into the cooking pot carefully to prevent damage to their

skin, pour three times as much water as them and boil over intense fire for about three hours at first and over light fire for another three hours.

Boiled beans should be reddish and soft to touch.

When the boiled beans are hot, take them out and spread them in a wide vessel, which is sterilized with boiling water, and spread about 10 cm-long cleaned pieces of rice straw above them evenly.

Spread the beans and straw pieces in three or four layers in a similar way, cover the container with a cloth sterilized with boiling water and put it in a well-ventilated place at a temperature of 37-40°C.

One or three days later, all the beans are covered with a whitish substance, stinking slightly, and if the sticky substance is clinging to the beans when they are spooned, it means they are well fermented.

If they are fermented too long, they will smell

of ammonia and taste bad, so, when they are covered with the whitish substance, they should be soon taken out and put in other container.

Put the fermented beans in a mortar, mix them with grated radish, chopped garlic and ginger, salt and powdered red pepper, pound the mixture, put it in a pot, seal the pot and mature it at room temperature for a week. The paste varies in taste according to the kinds and amounts of seasonings.

The condiment retains the original and distinctive taste and fragrance of Korean soybean paste and sauce and the addition of even a bit of the paste improves the taste of soup.

Not only families but also condiments and soybean paste and sauce factories make *tambukjang*.

Tambukjang, which is full of national flavour and good for health, was registered as a national ICH element in November last year.

Legends of Mt Chilbo

By Kil Chung Il PT

Mt Chilbo is one of celebrated mountains of Korea along with Mts Kumgang, Myohyang and Kuwol and is located in the southern part of the east coast of North Hamgyong Province.

As part of the Paektu Volcanic Belt ranging from Mt Paektu to Ullung Island, the mountain was formed by the same volcanic action that formed Mt Paektu.

It is home to many legends associated with beautiful and unique natural scenes and wisdom, talents, aspirations and good manners and customs of Koreans.

Among them are those reflecting the breathtaking views like "The soil sack of God", "Mt Chilbo rises overnight", "Mt Chilbo rises from the sea" and "Fair look does not necessarily make a beauty" and those related to the desires and will for happiness, good manners

and customs and Buddhism such as "The boy digs a wild insam in Kumgang Valley", "Two young men succeed in training military arts", "The young man in Mt Chilbo ties the knot with a fairy", "The boy rescues a girl", "Delight of reunion" and "A monk and daughter-in-law turn into a rock".

"The soil sack of God" tells that beautiful Mt Chilbo was created by the omnipotent God capable of making anything, and "Mt Chilbo rises from the sea" says that Mt Chilbo is a beautiful treasure mountain that rose in the middle of the sea as the Koreans' wish that their home village would be transformed into a beautiful place came true.

"The boy digs a wild insam in Kumgang Valley" is about a filial boy who finally succeeds in digging a wild insam despite threats from nine dragons and "Two young men succeed in training military arts" is about the strong will of two young

men who cultivate patriotism and sense of justice under the influence of their fathers, who fall in battle against Japanese aggressors, and succeed in training military arts in a cave with a patriotic mind after 100 days.

Such famous rocks and scenic spots as bachelor rock, maiden rock and couple rock are associated with good manners and customs of Koreans and typical legends reflecting them include "The girl and boy meet on Jangsu Peak" about a boy and girl who share a burning love and turn into a rock at the foot of the peak and "Delight of reunion" about a woman who runs to a ridge where a Buddhist hermitage is situated, anxious to see her husband who is returning home after seven years by winning a war against foreign invaders, and turns into a rock in his embrace.

The legends of Mt Chilbo were inscribed as a national intangible cultural heritage element in November 2023.

Pyongyang pibimpap

By Yun Ki Song PT

Pyeongyang *pibimpap* is one of famous dishes representing the traditional Korean foods along with kimchi, *sinsollo* (a dish in cooking brazier), *pulgogi* (roast beef) and Pyongyang cold noodles.

The Koreans have eaten boiled rice as their staple diet from time immemorial and, in the course of constantly developing its processing methods, they have prepared various distinctive foods with rice and widely used them in their dietary life.

Pibimpap is a dish consisting of boiled rice, different kinds of meats and herbs and a garnish and it is eaten by mixing them.

It is said that the dish came into being as people conveniently mixed boiled rice with side dishes to eat during battles against foreign invaders. The other view is that they had boiled rice by mixing it with different kinds of herbs at the time of such natural disasters as flood and drought. But the following explanation has been most widely known.

In Korea in the past, dozens of public and family ceremonies took place annually, including wedding, memorial service and dinner parties held on holidays and the 24 seasonal divisions of the year by the lunar calendar. On those days, people would prepare various dishes and shared



Pyongyang *pibimpap*, boiled rice with assorted mixtures.

them with fellow villagers. As the villagers made so many kinds of foods, they could not serve each of them separately, and therefore each villager was served with a bowl of boiled rice with various dishes on it, hence *pibimpap*, or boiled rice with assorted mixtures.

After a long historical period, the dish was rapidly developed into a popular food as it assumed regional characters in materials and processing methods in the period of the feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). Among the different varieties of the food, Pyongyang *pibimpap* was the most famous across the country for the good taste, shape and colour.

This speciality of Pyongyang is made by efficiently using beef and such fresh vegetables and herbs as mung bean sprouts,

parsley, bracken, the roots of broad bellflower and songi mushroom.

Pyongyang people liked to eat not only *tangogi* (dog meat) but also *pibimpap* in sweltering summer as well as on holidays or other ceremonial occasions. They occasionally used pork in place of beef and spinach and crown daisy instead of parsley.

Pyongyang *pibimpap* is highly nutritious and appetizing for the good blend of garnishings in different colours and the nutritive elements of various ingredients of it can be absorbed evenly. It is recognized internationally as a health food and widely served in public catering facilities and families in Pyongyang.

It was inscribed in the local intangible cultural heritage list in November last year.

History of aggression can never be covered up

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

Japan is manoeuvring again to put the Sado Mine in Niigata Prefecture in the list of world cultural heritage on the occasion of the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO to be held in India in July this year.

In September last year, the Japanese minister of Education and Science expressed a "resolve" to inscribe the Sado Mine as a world heritage element this year. And last January, the Japanese foreign minister and the Niigata governor invited the ambassadors of all countries to Japan to solicit their positive cooperation for the inscription.

What matters is that the mine under discussion has a bloody

history of backbreaking labour forced on Koreans.

During their military occupation of Korea between 1905 and 1945, the Japanese imperialists forcibly took thousands of Koreans to the mine to force them to do slave labour.

The fact that well over a hundred Koreans escaped from the mine by risking death at that time suggests its dangerous and poor environment and clearly shows how harshly the Korean labourers were treated.

If the Japanese authorities had normal thinking and had any sense of guilt over the past crimes, they would have made an apology and reparation to the victims.

But in disregard of the crimes committed at the

mine, they designated it as a candidate for registration in the UNESCO's world cultural heritage list at the end of 2021 and have ever since pushed ahead with this.

They already registered the Hashima Coal Mine in the world cultural heritage list although it is a place where nearly 1 000 Koreans had been forced to work like slaves for over 12-14 hours a day and which had been called a hell even by Japanese people.

The Japanese authorities are so shameless they deny and glorify the past crimes. The bloodstained history of aggression of Japan can never be changed even by destroying evidence related to them and wrapping them in the silk called cultural heritage.

As a saying goes, it is

shameful to commit a crime, but it is not shameful to wash it away. It is a bounden legal and moral duty for everyone to make an apology and reparation for their crime.

Japan's liquidation of its past is not just an issue related to apology and reparation. It is a serious matter of whether or not Japan has the will to break with the crime-ridden past and start with a clean slate and whether or not it is entitled to live an honourable life as a member of the international community.

For the present, Japan had better admit the crimes concerning the slave labour forced on the Koreans and describe them as they are in the document for registering the Sado Mine in the world cultural heritage list.

Role of water in ensuring stability and prosperity of world

By Song Jong Ho PT

March 22 is World Water Day. The UN set World Water Day in 1992 to cope with an ever worsening global water crisis. The international community has since commemorated the day with a view to raising public awareness of the importance of fresh water and encouraging the sustainable management of the water.

The use of clean water is a basic human right and is essential to sustainable development and good for all people on this planet.

Many people of the world are not using clean drinking water and various dangerous diseases occur among those who use polluted water.

According to information published by the WHO and UNESCO, about 2.2 billion people live without safe drinking water and over 100 million of them use surface water as drinking water.

The water problem is not confined to developing countries alone but affects all other countries in the world.

According to information published by the World Bank, most of the disasters that occurred during the past 50 years are water-related ones and the loss of life by such disasters accounts for 70 percent of such loss by other natural disasters.

Water pollution affects wild animals as well and thus many of them die every year.

Water pollution occurs for various reasons including waste water and discharged chemicals. As a result, water becomes toxic, doing harm to animals which drink or live in it.

Many environmental problems, including climate change and degradation of ecosystem, are connected with each other and they become direct contributors to water pollution, flood and drought.

Cooperation in resolving the water problem may help enhance the ability of recovering from the common challenges facing humankind.

According to statistics published by the UN, over 3 billion people live on water resources at borders but only 24 of 153 countries which share rivers and streams, lakes and aquifers with their neighbours concluded cooperative agreements to jointly use water. When water is insufficient and inequality is created in using water, it will aggravate tension between countries and may lead to conflicts.

So the UN selected the theme for this year's World Water Day as "Water for peace" to highlight the important role of water in ensuring stability and prosperity of the world.

The international community appeals for unity in protecting and managing water resources as the effects of climate change are worsening and world population is increasing.

Patriotism a powerful impetus behind nation's advance



Han Myong Hwan

PhD, associate professor and researcher of the Academy of Social Sciences

Patriotism is a powerful driving force for the advance of our state.

When the country was just liberated from the Japanese military rule, patriotic minds of the people pushed ahead with the building of a new Korea.

Among the patriotic deeds of those days were the patriotic rice donation movement which was launched on a nationwide scale after Kim Je Won, a peasant in Jaeryong County, donated to the country in December 1946 30 straw bags of rice out of the crops he gathered in the first year after the land reform, and the Pothong River improvement project, the first grand nature-remaking project of our country, which was carried out by the patriotic labour of the Pyongyang citizens. Though

it was a huge project which the Japanese imperialists had failed to do in ten years, the Korean people worked a miracle of finishing it in a matter of 55 days after the country's liberation under the guidance of General Kim Il Sung.

Such patriotic minds made a great contribution to the victory in the war and earned our country the name "Chollima Korea" in the post-war period.

The difficulties facing the DPRK in the present course of its advance are no less severe than the trials experienced in the past decades.

Last year, too, difficulties and unfavourable conditions stood in our way. But thanks to the patriotic spirit of the Workers' Party members, sincere working people

and service personnel who dynamically pushed forward a new phase of prosperity and development with their strong redoubled efforts true to the Party's idea and leadership, 2023 was glorified as a year of great turn and change both in name and reality when the DPRK left a great footprint in the glorious course of its development in the efforts to improve the national power and to enhance the prestige of the country.

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, which significantly reviewed the year 2023, estimated it as the greatest political success which can never be compared with anything else that the large ranks of patriots with

the warm mind to think first of the Party, revolution and country and to be helpful to the country to relieve it of its difficulties grew up in the course of the vigorous mass patriotic movement, and put forward the slogan "Unite on the strength of patriotism!"

Young people are volunteering to work at major sectors for implementing the decisions of the Party plenum and many housewives are actively supporting socialist construction and going out to work.

Innovations and leaps forward are being made in every production unit.

The strength of the Korean people aspiring after patriotism and united with it is enormous, and this is a powerful driving force propelling the advance of the state.

BYWORD

The revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, is an unyielding offensive spirit of overcoming obstacles and difficulties in the way and a staunch fighting spirit of rising up again and again with unbeatable tenacity.

This spirit was created during the anti-Japanese armed struggle which was organized and waged under the leadership of President

Revolutionary spirit of Paektu, spirit of blizzards of Paektu

Kim Il Sung.

In October 2014, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un climbed Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution. He said that he climbed the mountain again to make the whole country brim with the revolutionary

spirit and mettle of Paektu, the fundamental source of great mental strength and that the Korean people and service personnel should always live and struggle in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu.

The revolutionary spirit serves as the ideological and spiritual strength of the Korean people who are out in the drive to implement the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

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World can never be peaceful as long as imperialism exists

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The international situation is very acute today. Acts of trampling on the sovereignty of other countries and nations and threatening peace and security have frequently been committed in different parts of the world. Tensions are escalating day by day and the danger of a new world war is increasing. Such a situation, which is contrary to the common desire of the progressive mankind, is attributable to the intensified moves of the imperialists towards aggression and war.

Aggression and plunder are the nature of imperialism and its mode of existence. It is imperialism that emerged as a result of aggression and plunder and has fattened with ceaseless aggression and plunder.

The United States, for instance, made huge profits through the Second World War and also collected big money during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Since the Second World War, there have been no major wars or armed conflicts in which the shadow of the US was not seen. In over 240 years of its history the US has not fought for only 16 years.

There were 248 armed conflicts in 153 regions of the world until 2001 after the end of World War II in 1945, of which 201 were provoked by the US.

The demand for peace has grown more than ever before throughout the world in the present century, but the US war machine has run in high gear continuously from the Afghan and Iraqi wars up to now.

It is the monopolies that manage this war machine. They want wars to continue and make more money for them.

The US munitions businesses are now showered with money by the Ukrainian war, a proxy war aimed at exhausting and weakening Russia.

Meanwhile, the methods of aggression and plunder of the

including the changed power structure in the Asia-Pacific region, is seriously endangering the existence of the imperialists.

Whenever they face severe crises, the imperialists try to find a solution to it in the war of aggression. The two world wars that had plunged humanity into terrible disasters were also started by the imperialists to get out of

the worst political and economic crises. The US also ignited the fuse of the Korean and Vietnam wars as they suffered terrible political and economic crises at the time.

Now, the US has got so weak that it can never be high-handed at will in any part of the world as well as in the Asia-Pacific region. Under the circumstances, the US persistently resorts to the crafty double-dealing tactics against sovereign states under the signboard of "ensuring peace". But this is nothing but hypocrisy to cover up the aggressive nature.

The imperialists will never give up their power policy, policy of aggression and war. They are hell-bent on the military intervention against sovereign states and expansion of armaments while talking about "peace". They escalate the confrontation crisis,

directly launch wars or wage a proxy war on the pretext of external threat.

The US has built military bases for aggression in different parts of the world to constantly station its troops there and expands and strengthens such military blocs as NATO. At present, it has set up over 800 military bases in some 80 countries and regions to hinder the independent development of different countries by mobilizing huge armed forces. Not content with this, it rigged up such instruments of aggression as AUKUS to create instability throughout the world.

Reality shows that the US' "peace strategy", a product of its invariable aggressive nature, is an inverted war strategy and a variety of power policy.

Clear is the aim pursued by the US. It is to cover up its sinister nature as an aggressor under the signboard of "peace" and expand its armaments on a large scale to gain the upper hand and dominate the world.

As long as imperialism exists, the world can never be peaceful and aggression and war can never disappear. To defend national sovereignty in the complicated international environment, it is important for each nation to build its own absolute strength, not to beg. It is a bitter lesson of history that the weak falls prey to others.

Only when each nation builds up its own strength and fights against the imperialists to the last can war be prevented and lasting peace ensured on the earth.

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imperialists have become craftier and more vicious.

The imperialists are now undergoing a serious crisis at home and abroad. In particular, the world political tide from the unipolar world to multipolarization,

Unethical conduct aggravates food crisis

By Song Jong Ho PT

Food prices are soaring in the world market and many countries are now facing severe famine, which constitutes a serious problem for the international community.

Last year, rice price hit a record high in 15 years in the international market. And the World Food Programme said in its report in May last year that about 345 million people in 82 countries are suffering serious food shortage.

It is an undeniable fact that more frequent extreme weather conditions and the steady decrease of agricultural land due to various factors exert an adverse impact on food production.

But a more important contributor to the worsening food crisis is the despicable conduct of the US and the West which abuse food problem as a weapon for securing profits and maintaining hegemony.

It has been disclosed that most of the grains carried out of Eastern Europe for humanitarian need in recent years fell into the hands of Western countries. Only five

percent of them were delivered to the poor countries. Of them, the share for Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Sudan, Afghanistan and the like that are suffering the most serious starvation reportedly accounts for only three percent.

It is none other than the Western businesses specializing in making fabulous profits with resale of food that massively shipped grains into their countries. It suggests that they bought a large quantity of grains for speculation in food.

A Western official asserted that whether the grains were supplied to the poor countries or not has no meaning because the fact that that much grains are in the market helps lower the food prices. It is a preposterous sophistry.

Now, American food transaction businesses including Archer Daniels Midland and Du Pont have most of world food transactions in the grains market in their hands and play tricks to rake in enormous profits, causing a sharp rise in food prices worldwide and creating imbalance between the supply and consumption of food.

The huge rise in food prices in the world farm produce market in

2009 was also manipulated by the American financial businesses. At that time, the US giant investment banks Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley won the contract on transactions of over 40 million tons of maize at the Chicago Chamber of Commerce and made excessive profits by manipulating prices of agricultural products. Accounting for 99% of the total food transactions at the chamber of commerce, it was literally an act of monopolization. In 2010, too, American conglomerates like Rogers caused fluctuations in food prices by signing contracts for dealing in farm produce competitively. Such examples are by no means uncommon.

The US' tricks to hold sway over the transactions of food are not only aimed at seeking profits.

The American high-ranking politicians argue that the man who controls oil can control all countries and he who controls food can control all people and that food is a kind of weapon and it can bring many countries under the US control.

Their arguments clearly prove what the ultimate aim of the US

aggravating food crisis is.

The US provokes disputes and armed conflicts in several countries and regions of the world to hinder food production and trade and worsen starvation and checks the balanced food supply in the world by taking a variety of measures including economic blockade in a bid to use food as a weapon for realizing its hegemonic ambition. It is the same old trick of the imperialists that they abuse food crisis to realize their ambition for domination.

Russia criticized Western countries for destroying the world food security by resorting to every method such as speculations in the markets and a Chinese media outlet asserted that the sanctions and protectionist policy of the US and the West are the main cause of the great confusion in the world food supply chains and the skyrocketing food prices.

Reality clearly reveals that the root cause of worsening food crisis is neither natural disasters nor environmental destruction, but the unlimited greed and high-handedness of the US and the Western forces.

Briefly

Russia

Democracy of US and West decried

Russian President Vladimir Putin criticized the democracy of the US and the West at a recent press conference.

As he answered the question raised by foreign mass media on the process of "democracy" of the US and the Western countries, the president said that the political situation of the US is not democracy but a disaster sparking derision in the whole world.

Referring to the present political situation of the US as completely undemocratic and catastrophic, he stressed that the US and the West use even administrative power along with courts to denounce presidential nominees and there is not any "democracy".

Venezuela

US' sanctions against Nicaragua condemned

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Moros on March 15 condemned the sanctions of the US against Nicaragua.

Accusing the US of imposing new sanctions on Nicaragua, he revealed that it aims to undermine the security and stability of the country.

He denounced the US' unilateral coercive measure violating the basic principles of peaceful coexistence of countries specified in international law and the UN Charter as an expression of the insolence of imperialism.

Palestine

Measures to prevent humanitarian disaster called for

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in a diplomatic meeting on March 17 appealed to the international community to take measures for preventing a humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.

If Israel launches an attack on Rafah city in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, it will lead to a terrible humanitarian disaster, he noted, adding that it is the most pressing task facing the international community to prevent such a disaster.

He also stressed that it is necessary to put pressure on Israel to open all the transport routes to the Gaza Strip.

India

FM rejects US' groundless criticism

A spokesman for the Indian Foreign Ministry rejected the US' groundless criticism against his country on March 15.

Shortly ago, the US Department of State expressed the so-called "concern" while picking up a quarrel with the related law on the citizenship of India. In connection with this, he branded and denounced it as an unjust and intolerable act.

The US' criticism is an absurd lie, he said, adding that the rights and dignity of citizens are respected in India and their human rights are thoroughly ensured.



Hyangbiro Peak in Mt Myohyang is covered in mist.

Top ten players and coaches of 2023

Weightlifters put on the list of top ten players

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Player who hardly smiles

Kim Il Gyong, who was chosen as one of the top ten players of the DPRK in 2023 again after 2022, is a woman weightlifter of the April 25 Combat Sports Team.

Since she started her career as a weightlifter, she has immersed herself in training by displaying her natural aptitude and amazing perseverance and fortitude.

In order to attain her goal, she would continue to think to complete technical movements in her mind even during breaks in training and perform them in practice to make sure they were successful.

Her diligence, sincerity and great perseverance earned her the honour of victor.

She achieved good results at the 2017 World Junior Weightlifting Championships and the 2018 Asian Junior and Youth Weightlifting Championships and on this basis fully demonstrated her ability in national and international competitions.

In particular, Kim renewed a world record in snatch of the women's 59kg category weightlifting and set new Asian Games records in jerk of the same category and total respectively at the 19th Asian Games last

year, thereby winning three gold medals.

As a result, she joined the ranks of the world record holders in women's weightlifting at home.

One of her characteristics is that unlike other winners she hardly smiles for excitement and joy.

Her colleagues who trained with her say they thought her saturnine as they could hardly see her smile, but her good results in competitions enabled them to read her thoughts and know the value of smile.

Kim won three gold medals again in the women's 59kg category of the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships held this February.

Competitive player

Ri Chong Song, a weightlifter of the April 25 Combat Sports Team, began to learn weightlifting at the then Juvenile Sports School of the Weightlifting Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang.

Like other successful players, Ri also directed effort to acquiring basic techniques correctly.

Attaching importance to anything practicable, he put his heart and soul into every training movement so that they could be successful in practice.

He seriously accepted all training tasks given by his

instructor and perfectly carried them out. And he did not tolerate lagging behind others or being similar to them.

His enthusiasm for training and competitiveness bubbled up after he began his career as weightlifter at the then April 25 Sports Club.

Under the guidance of coach Ri Chol Nam, he won six gold medals in total and set three new national records at the event of the men's 81kg category weightlifting at national events held in 2021.

Later, his competitiveness led him to international events and winner's podium.

He won the men's 81kg category of weightlifting at the 19th Asian Games held last year by snatching 169kg (new Asian Games record) and jerking 195kg with 364kg in total (new Asian Games record).

He also won the same category at the 2023 IWF Grand Prix in December last year against experts' expectations that a player of a country would win as he had renewed world records at two body weights.

He went on to win the men's 81kg category at the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships held this February, bagging three gold medals.

He has now been selected as one of the top ten players of the DPRK twice.

Reception given in honour of women's Asian Cup winners

KCNA

The Cabinet of the DPRK hosted a reception at the Okryu Restaurant on March 20 in congratulation of the players and coaches of the DPRK women's football team who won the 2024 AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup.

Present there were Vice-Premier of the Cabinet Kim Myong Hun, Minister of Physical Culture and Sports Kim Il Guk, officials concerned and play-

ers and coaches of the women's soccer team.

Kim Myong Hun made a congratulatory speech at the reception.

He warmly congratulated the admirable women footballers and coaches who demonstrated to the world once again the prestige of the dignified DPRK at the 2024 AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup and greatly encouraged all the people who have turned out to implement the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Central Committee

of the Workers' Party of Korea.

He called on all players and coaches to make redoubled efforts to achieve more excellent results, always keeping in mind the expectations of the people who want them to fly the flag of the dignified DPRK higher in the sky of the world.

Player Chae Un Yong in her reply speech expressed the will to train harder so as to glorify the dignity and honour of the great country with gold medals.

Historical relic, hexagonal seven-storey pagoda at Hongbok Temple

By Song Jong Ho PT

The hexagonal seven-storey pagoda at the Hongbok Temple is a historical relic located in Taesong-dong of Taesong District, Pyongyang.

The pagoda is 5.35 metres high. The plane of its major structural elements including floor stone, platform and tower body is hexagonal and well-balanced, and its carvings are delicate and soft.

It is a rare hexagonal stone tower showing the character of stone tower in the period of Koryo.

It is well preserved as a precious national heritage element showcasing the excellent stone architecture of the Korean people.

