

Noble ideal of WPK mirrored on construction of large greenhouse farms

By Kwon Hyo Song *PT*

A groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the largest-ever greenhouse farm and a vegetable science research centre was held with splendour in the northwestern part of the country on February 10 in the presence of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

It is the fourth large-scale greenhouse farm construction project in the DPRK.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK have long paid great attention to the construction of greenhouse farms. In recent years, in particular, they have adopted it as a policy to build many large and modern greenhouse farms across the country to supply the people with various kinds of fresh vegetables in all seasons.

Accordingly, the Junghyong

Greenhouse Farm was built in December 2019 in North Hamgyong Province under the influence of unfavourable climate for vegetable farming, followed by the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm in South Hamgyong Province in October 2022 and the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm on the outskirts of Pyongyang in March 2024.

It is noticeable that the construction of large greenhouse farms is not aimed at reaping any economic profits but improving the people's diet and every time it develops higher in terms of scale and productivity.

The Junghyong Greenhouse farm, which was built for the first time as the first step of innovation in the construction of vegetable greenhouses, was completely distinct from all the previous greenhouses in terms of scale

and modernity. And the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm was built after that. It was not only modernized, intensified and industrialized in an area of 280 hectares, which is larger than the former both in size and production capacity, but also turned into a large farm with a perfect harmony of houses for more than 1 000 families and educational and cultural facilities.

The Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm presented the more spectacular features of development.

Various types of greenhouses, in which all the processes of vegetable production are informatized and automated, rose up side by side in a larger area than the previous ones and public buildings and luxury houses were built in rows along the rolling hills, unfolding a fairyland of "greenhouse city" and "country

town".

More amazing is the greenhouse farm now under construction in North Phyongan Province.

To be built in an area of 450 hectares are the vegetable science research centre, greenhouses for experimental cultivation, houses for hundreds of families, a hostel and public service facilities as well as various types of vegetable greenhouses, a vegetable processing factory and vegetable storage facilities.

The construction of large greenhouse farms embodies the noble ideal of the Workers' Party of Korea to build a socialist paradise for the people to enjoy a cultured and rich life as early as possible.

In order to supply the people with plenty of vegetables, General Secretary Kim Jong Un saw to it that vegetable greenhouse farms were built at the sites of major

military bases and this time the largest-ever greenhouse farm would be constructed in the area which was covered with mud by the heavy flood damage last year.

As he regards the people as the foundation and the whole of the state and cherishes the desire for providing them with the happiest life, he treats even small things for the people as the most important state affairs and spares nothing for them.

It is evidenced by the reality of the DPRK, which has undergone change in its looks every year with the construction of large and modern greenhouse farms and a series of projects for promoting the wellbeing of the people including the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, that of farmhouses in the rural areas and the additional Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

'US' excessive exercise of strength will result in severer security crisis'

Press statement by Department of Press and Information of DPRK Foreign Ministry

KCNA

The Department of Press and Information of the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued on March 9 the following press statement entitled "US' excessive exercise of strength will result in severer security crisis":

The roaring sound of war machinery, full of hostility and mistrust, is coming from the area over the southern border of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The US is going to stage the large-scale joint military exercises Freedom Shield 2025, an aggressive and confrontational war rehearsal, in collusion with the ROK military gangsters to heat up the atmosphere of the ceasefire region.

Despite the DPRK's repeated warning, the US and the ROK are dead set on staging the large-scale joint military exercises. This is a dangerous provocative act of driving the acute situation on the Korean peninsula, where a single accidental gun report may spark off a physical conflict between the two sides, beyond the extreme limit.

What cannot be overlooked is that the enemies are scheming to apply the "OPLAN 2022", aimed at a "preemptive attack" on the nuclear weapons facilities of the DPRK, during the current exercises under the "guidelines on nuclear deterrence and nuclear operations" cooked up and published in July 2024.

Such military hysteria of the US, which is surely going on irrespective of the policy ambiguity inevitably witnessed with the regime change, shows without filtration the instinctive anti-DPRK practice of the US engrossed in sanctions, pressure and confrontation, being seized by inveterate hostility toward our state.

Lurking behind the above-said war exercises, traditionally staged by the US and the ROK, is the persistent and unchangeable ambition for aggression of the US, which seeks to propagate the American-style values and the Yankee-style liberal democracy into the inviolable territory of our sovereign state and finally to bring about the collapse of our government and its system overthrow as is seen through the name of the operation "Freedom Shield", and of the ROK following the US.

For its long history alone, the DPRK-US political and military confrontation structure makes one intuitively understand the origin of deep-rooted conflict and the gravity of situation. The structure has got closer to the threshold of explosion due to the frantic US war sabre-rattling directly aimed at our state, and its aspect of confrontation is developing into a more dangerous phase.

Then, should we regard various military drills staged by the US at any time under such specious signboards as annual and defensive as a temerarious muscle-flexing of those frightened by the DPRK's strong defence capability growing

in direct proportion to the US nuclear threat or as a comfort means for pacifying its stooge at security unrest?

The US and the ROK decided to sharply increase the number of field mobile drills by units of brigade level and above more than last year, simultaneously conduct the second-stage joint command and control drill of the US Space Force stationed in the ROK aimed at verifying the capability of space operation assistance in the region in case of contingency on the Korean peninsula and employ the generative artificial intelligence on an experimental basis during the joint military exercises. All the facts go to clearly show the multi-domain and all-round offensive nature of Freedom Shield.

Obviously, the US intends to push the situation in the Korean peninsula and the region to an uncontrollable phase by staging ceaselessly and in a stage-by-stage and wavelike way Freedom Shield and other large-scale war exercises and thus perpetuate the structure of vicious cycle of provocation and tension.

It is seeking an anachronistic design to gain advantage of strength in the Asia-Pacific region and realize the geopolitical realignment by expanding the military alliance with its stooges into a comprehensive strategic alliance under the pretext of "threats" from someone.

Under such confrontational and hegemony-oriented line of the

US, strategic means including the nuclear submarine Alexandria, B-1B strategic bombers and the nuclear carrier Carl Vinson are constantly deployed in the Korean peninsula and reckless aerial espionage activities and all kinds of joint military exercises are being staged one after another. Such acts are heightening the legitimate security concern of not only our state but also regional countries.

In the wake of the said exercises, they are to conduct over 110 anti-DPRK war drills of all kinds, including the one jointly sponsored by the US-ROK Combined Forces Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the ROK, a 9.7 percent increase as compared with last year. This suggests that the military confrontation hysteria of enemy states will continue as a chronic symptom, not ceasing as a single fit.

The increase in the visibility of deployment of US strategic means on the Korean peninsula and the US-led bilateral and multilateral war rehearsals reminding one of the actual war prove more evidently that the DPRK should be the most thoroughgoing and more overwhelming in deterring the enemies' various anti-DPRK nuclear war threats.

The US, which is overusing the toughest high-handed power politics in different parts of the world, has gradually stepped up the actual manoeuvres in the Korean peninsula and the region, advocating the

"demonstration of alliance". They may help calm down its stooges feeling the sense of alienation, but it is necessary for everyone to know that they will never act as "plus" to the promotion of security of the US and its allies.

The reckless action and unreasonable choice of the US seeking to "solemnly" play the first movement of a war symphony through the largest-ever military provocation this year will act as "minus" to the US security.

The DPRK has already expressed its will to continue to exercise its strategic deterrent to cope with the US' continued demonstration of military strength.

The US should be mindful that its habitual pursuit of the policy hostile toward the DPRK, in open denial of the DPRK's legitimate existence and victorious advance, will only add justification to the principle of toughest anti-US counteraction, declared by the DPRK, and face the undesirable consequence of escalated security threat.

The trite "succession" to the malicious anti-DPRK practice will inevitably lead to a serious strategic misjudgment. If the US lacks the ability to judge this, its prospects will be gloomy.

The DPRK will redouble its responsible efforts to keep lasting peace in the Korean peninsula and the region through the trustworthy strength accompanied by the radical growth of the nuclear force.

Premier Pak inspects different sectors

KCNA

Premier Pak Thae Song, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, made a field survey of various sectors.

Going round the construction site of 10 000 flats at the third stage in the Hwasong area nearing completion, the premier said it is necessary to perfect the construction of all structures, including a connected service building which will be an iconic structure of the third-stage project, without any slight defect on the highest quality level and make a thorough preparation for their inauguration and, in particular, officials of the construction supervisory institution should fulfil their responsibility and duty.

At the construction site for

building 10 000 flats at the fourth stage in the Hwasong area, he encouraged officials and builders to perform a brilliant miracle and make innovations again in the fresh struggle for putting the capital city construction on a higher stage with redoubled self-confidence and exertion, deeply cherishing the significant speech made by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at the groundbreaking ceremony for the fourth-stage project.

He called for thoroughly keeping to the overall schedule for the project from the stage of building foundations by scrupulously organizing and guiding the construction work, arranging manpower and supplying materials according to a well thought-out plan and further increasing the operation rate of construction equipment given the fact that the scale and volume of construction

have been expanded by the additional objects.

At the construction site of the Phyongsong Lighting Daily Necessities Factory, he stressed the need to carry on the building work and the manufacture and installation of equipment and facilities with great efforts on the principle of thoroughly applying economic efficiency and advanced technology so that the factory will be able to perform its mission and role as a model necessities production base, and simultaneously push ahead in an effective way with the preparations for its operation including the training of skilled workers and the supply of raw materials.

Learning about the operation of the pilot plants of the Heat Engineering Institute and the Ferrous Metal Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences,

Premier Pak Thae Song (third from left) inspects the State Academy of Sciences.



he called on scientists and researchers to produce clear fruits in developing the core technology and ultra-modern technology of Korean style conducive to strengthening the independence of the economy and intensify the work to decide on technical indices for industrialization so that the successes in

technical development can be introduced into reality as soon as possible.

The field consultative meetings discussed an issue of landscaping the residential quarters in the Hwasong area and their surroundings on a high level and stepping up the land levelling, an issue for the relevant units

to ensure the timely supply and transport of building materials, an issue of providing researchers with full conditions necessary for their scientific research activities and an issue of directing the national efforts to the work for sprucing up the pilot plants and took appropriate measures.

Meeting marks 115th March 8 International Women's Day

KCNA

A national meeting was held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on March 8 on the occasion of the 115th March 8 International Women's Day.

Present there were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK

and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, other senior Party and government officials, officials of the central committee of the women's union, and exemplary women officials, labour innovators and women's union members in Pyongyang.

On hand were women from foreign diplomatic missions in the DPRK.

Choe Ryong Hae made a report.

Upon authorization of the WPK Central Committee and the DPRK government, he extended congratulations to the women innovators and meritorious women who are performing brilliant feats at their revolutionary posts, fully conscious of being proud masters of the times, and to the mothers and all other women across the country who are devoting their all to the favourable growth of their children and the harmony and prosperity

of the large socialist family.

He also extended congratulations and solidarity to the overseas Korean women who are devoting their unsparing patriotic sincerity to the prosperity of the socialist homeland with the pride and honour of being overseas citizens of the dignified DPRK, and to the world progressive women, international women's movement organizations and women's organizations and dear friends in different

countries and regions who are pooling their will and efforts in the righteous struggle for independence, peace and international justice.

He said that the Korean women have grown to be a powerful force propelling the development of the state and society, thanks to the politics of attaching importance to women pursued by the peerlessly great men, who saved the women, who had been subjected to social restraint and inequality for

thousands of years, from their miserable fate and brought them up to be revolutionaries and patriots and led them to glorify their life as flowers of families, life and the country.

In the new era of the Juche revolution, the Korean women's movement is ushering in a new heyday of development and upsurge and the dignity and honour of our women are being demonstrated more strikingly, the reporter said, adding that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un is making a new history of trust and love for women with his noble intention that the development of the state is accelerated and the harmony and unity of society are consolidated as much as the position and role of women are enhanced.

The DPRK government will steadily enhance the position and role of women in the course of building a powerful country and more widely and dynamically conduct the work for providing them with a happier and civilized life, he said, affirming that our cause towards a new victory will dynamically advance thanks to the reliable women.



A national meeting is held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on March 8 on the occasion of the 115th March 8 International Women's Day.

Performance given by artistic information team of women's union central committee

KCNA

A performance "Thriving power and patriotic women" was given by the artistic information team of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea at the Hall

of Women on March 6 to mark the 115th March 8 International Women's Day.

Among the audience were Kim Jong Sun, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Jon Hyang

Sun, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the SWUK, officials of the women's union and union members in Pyongyang.

The performance began with chorus "Dear Father". The performers sang high praises of the boundless

glory and happiness of being guided by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who always pays close attention to the development of the Korean women's movement and glorifies the dignity and honour of the women on the highest level.



The artistic information team of the women's union central committee gives a performance at the Hall of Women.

Nation celebrates Int'l Women's Day

KCNA

On the 115th March 8 International Women's Day, the whole of the DPRK is full of joy of the women honestly serving as flowers of amity and merry laugh at their houses and workplaces.

People visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche, with deep yearning and reverence for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

A large number of people visited the statues of the President and the Chairman on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in other parts of the country and the mosaics of the peerlessly great men to pay floral tribute to them.

Officials of all provinces, cities and counties, institutions,

industrial establishments and farms met and congratulated women scientists, teachers, innovators and other exemplary women workers on March 8 International Women's Day.

Colourful congratulatory performances were given at theatres and outdoor stages in Pyongyang and local areas.

A concert was given by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Moranbong Theatre and a music and dance performance by the Mansudae Art Troupe at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre to mark the women's holiday.

One-act play "Laughter" was given at the National Theatre, and a performance by acrobats of the National Acrobatic Troupe at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre.

Artists of the central

artistic information team for increased production, central workers' artistic information team of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, central women's union artistic information team and artistic

information team of the railway sector gave colourful performances in different parts of Pyongyang.

Similar performances, dancing parties and colourful sports and amusement

games took place in North Phyongan, South Hwanghae, Jagang and South Hamgyong provinces, Nampho and Kaesong municipalities and other parts of the country.

Public catering facilities

offered special holiday service. Souvenir and flower shops and flower stands were crowded with those buying bouquets, flowers, greeting cards, souvenirs and others for their wives and mothers.



Officials congratulate women workers.



Colourful congratulatory performances are given across the country.

Sports and amusement games of women held

KCNA

Sports and amusement games of women's union officials and members from across the DPRK took place at the Taekwon-Do Hall in Pyongyang from March 5 to 7 to mark the 115th March 8 International Women's Day.

There were the final games of all the events on March 7.

Among the spectators were Jon Hyang Sun, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea, officials concerned and women's union officials and members.

In volleyball and table-

tennis matches, the players fully displayed their sports techniques they had cultivated through mass sports activities.

And there were various amusement games such as yut-game, running with balls on head and arms, and three-

person running with their

ankles tied. The atmosphere was further revved up with the passage of time by the enthusiastic cheers of spectators and the strong competitive spirit of players.

In the games, Pyongyang Municipality came first in total standings.



Sports and amusement games of women's union officials and members take place at the Taekwon-Do Hall.



Women hold dance party

KCNA

A dance party of women's union officials and members took place at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph in Pyongyang on March 7 to mark the 115th March 8 International Women's Day.

The dance party began with the playing of the song "Our Leader Loved by People".

The participants danced in circles, paying the highest tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who gave birth to the Juche-oriented women's movement and put forward the Korean women as masters performing a part of the revolution while guiding them step by step.

Dancing to the tune of such songs as "Women Are

Flowers" and "Your Embrace Is the Best", they showed the high pride and honour of holding in high esteem as the father of a big socialist family the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who is translating the people's desire and ideals into a brilliant reality.

The atmosphere revved up amid the display of the women's union members' unanimous aspiration and desire to firmly believe in and follow the Workers' Party of Korea as the whole of their destinies and contribute to building a highly-civilized and prosperous country with the sincere sweat and efforts.

The dance party ended with the song "We Will Defend General Kim Jong Un with Our Lives".

Meetings held with winners of Communist Mother Honour Prize

KCNA

Agricultural workers met with winners of the Communist Mother Honour Prize and meritorious women of socialist patriotism on March 6 on the occasion of the 115th March 8 International Women's Day.

Present there were Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea, officials of the UAWK and agricultural workers and union members in Pyongyang. Speeches were made at the meeting by winners of the Communist Mother Honour Prize and meritorious women of socialist patriotism.

Hong Kum Ran, chief of the ten-day kindergarten at the Posok Farm in Unjon County, noted that she brought up five children to send them to the posts for national defence

and has assisted the army for more than ten years. She did only what she should do as a mother, but the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un invited her to important national events and gave her the valuable honour of communist mother and a gold ring, she said.

Mun Kwang Nyo, a woman living in neighbourhood unit No. 2, Phacyop-ri, Anak County, said that she has overfulfilled her grain production plan every year and sent her four sons to the posts for national defence, but the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un put her forward in the front rank of mothers across the country.

Workers and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea also met with winners of the Communist Mother Honour Prize at the Central Hall of Workers in

Pyongyang on March 7.

Present there were Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, trade union officials, workers and trade union members in Pyongyang.

The winners made speeches at the meeting.

Han Kum Suk, a worker at the Chollima Steel Complex, said that she only brought her many children up as soldiers defending the country, but came to lead a valuable life as a communist mother known to the whole country.

Ri Hwa Suk, a worker at the Sariwon Baby Home who has taken care of tens of orphans while devoting herself to assisting the army, expressed her determination to bring all her children up as patriots ready to dedicate themselves to the country.

Nam Kil Hyon, a woman living in neighbourhood unit

No. 91, Ryonghung-dong No. 1 of Taesong District, Pyongyang, has positively encouraged her husband and children to uphold the Party's plan for building a powerful country with high scientific research results, while working in the field of geological prospecting for over 30 years. She called upon all the participants to

work with devotion at their revolutionary posts and fulfil their mission and duty as mothers in bringing up their children as good ones.

Officials and members of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea met with winners of the Communist Mother Honour Prize at the Hall of Women in Pyongyang on March 4.

Present there were Jon Hyang Sun, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea, officials of the women's union and women's union members in Pyongyang.

The winners made speeches at the meeting.

At the events, oath-taking speeches were also made.



Officials and members of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea meet with winners of the Communist Mother Honour Prize at the Hall of Women in Pyongyang on March 4 to mark the 115th March 8 International Women's Day.



Final-year students of senior middle schools volunteer for army



Senior middle school graduating class students in Pyongyang meet to vow to join army

KCNA

Students in the final year of senior middle schools in Pyongyang met before the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery on March 9 to express their determination to join the Korean People's Army.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

Speakers said that they volunteered to join the KPA though they wanted to do many things with great hope as they grew up with nothing to envy in the world under the loving care of the Workers' Party of Korea.

They expressed their determination to firmly defend the security of the motherland and wellbeing of the people with arms of

revolution and thus glorify every moment of their service with loyalty and feats.

Kim Hyong Won, a war veteran, handed the national flag of the DPRK over to the rising generation.

Then, the graduating class students in Pyongyang began a contest of singing wartime songs in chorus while marching.

Those successors passed

along streets, singing in chorus the songs for defending the leader and the country with such watchwords as "Human bullets and bombs" and "Death-defying defence" held in their hands. Their stamina instilled into the citizens the conviction that the victory of the DPRK is inevitable and sure as there is the younger generation.

Students in North Hwanghae, South Hamgyong and North Phyongan volunteer for military service

KCNA

At a time when all the people in the DPRK are inflamed with hostility against the US imperialists and the ROK military gangsters hell-bent on the reckless large-scale joint military exercises Freedom Shield 2025 to stifle the country at any cost, more than 1 200 students of the graduating class of senior middle schools in North Hwanghae Province volunteered for military service at forefront border posts.

Such students in Sariwon City and Kumchon and Thosan counties petitioned their youth league organizations to send them to forefront border posts.

Those of Hwangju Middle School for Orphans and others in Songnim City and Phyongsan and Junghwa counties, too, vowed to stand at the posts for national defence.

Those in Sangwon, Koksan, Sohung, Pongsan and other counties are filled with a determination to reliably defend their beloved motherland with arms and

glorify every moment of their military service with feats.

At the meetings for volunteering for military service held in relevant cities and counties, war veterans handed the national flags of the DPRK over to the volunteers, requesting them to perform military feats in the struggle for defending the country.

Over 500 final-year students at senior middle schools in South Hamgyong Province also volunteered for military service at forefront border posts.

And more than 600 such students in North Phyongan Province offered to join the army for national defence.

At congratulatory and volunteering meetings held in relevant areas, the war veterans handed the flags of the DPRK over to those students.

Volunteers expressed their determination to display their honour of being the socialist patriotic youth at every post for national defence, cherishing the trust and expectations of their native places and parents and siblings.



Final-year students of senior middle schools in Pyongyang meet before the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery to express their determination to join the Korean People's Army and hold a contest of singing wartime songs in chorus while marching.

Samjiyon to evolve into more advanced, innovative city



By Kim Rye Yong PT

The city of Samjiyon, which has turned into a standard of modern mountainous city under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, is now undergoing another facelift to become a more advanced and innovative city.

The city standing against the magnificent backdrop of Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of revolution, which rises high above all mountains of the DPRK, is a laudable paradise for the people and the first product of the regional transformation in

the new era.

It is the noble intention of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to make the cheers for socialism and the Workers' Party resound far and wide from the "first village" at the foot of Mt Paektu.

In November 2021, he visited the city and looked round several structures built in the third-stage project. He learned in a comprehensive way about the construction and city management. He highly appreciated that the natural environment and features peculiar to the region are well preserved

and practicality, variety and formative art are fully ensured in all construction projects in conformity with the Juche-oriented idea on architectural beauty of the WPK and as required by the policy on regional construction.

He reviewed with pride the successful construction of the city of Samjiyon which was carried out as planned and intended by the Party, and set forth tasks and ways for further sprucing up Samjiyon as a destination for study tours of revolutionary battle sites as well as a tourist attraction, including the issues of actively

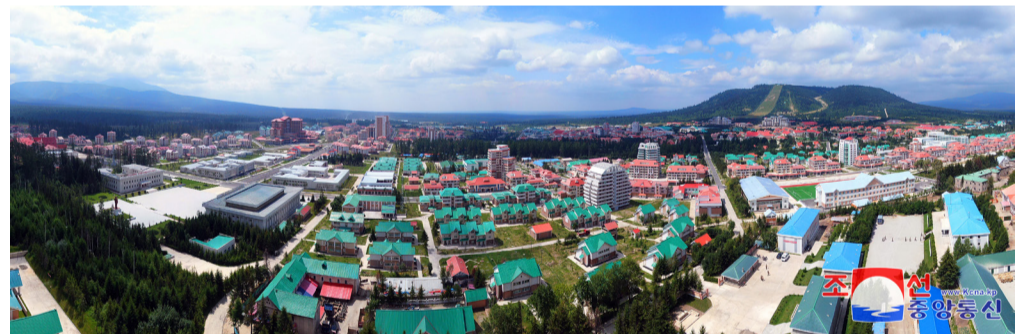
pushing ahead with the road and railway construction, taking measures for the protection of ecological environment and forests and building hotels and hostels additionally, in keeping with the changing living conditions of the city.

He visited Samjiyon again in July last year again and acquainted himself in detail with the construction work in the city and expressed the Party's plan to develop it into a typical mountainous city in the northern part of the country, a characteristic combined four-season mountainous tourist resort,

to meet the cultural and emotional demands of the people on the highest level and revitalize international tourism. He said that the grand nature of the Mt Paektu area consisting of primeval forests and mountains is a valuable and admirable resource of the DPRK. He gave important instructions for building a tourist resort in the world-famous Mt Paektu tourist area to be a favourite haunt of the DPRK people and the world people and making tourism a major driving force of regional development.

That day, a bright prospect was opened for effectively exploiting and utilizing tourist resources in Samjiyon including the Phothae area, a suitable place for mountain tourism for sports and experience for its large amount of snowfall and natural, geographical, meteorological and climatic conditions.

At present, projects are underway to upgrade the newly built hostels in Samjiyon into hotels and develop more tourist attractions to turn Samjiyon into a world-class mountain tourist destination.



Long trek for learning helps nurture lofty aspiration for revolution

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The 1 000-ri (250-mile) Journey for Learning was a historic trek made by Comrade Kim Il Sung all alone from Badaogou of Changbai County in China to Mangyongdae, his birthplace in Korea, between March 16 and 29 in 1923.

One day in early 1923, young Kim Il Sung was told by his father that he should know the reality of his country in order to achieve its independence.

That day his father Kim Hyong Jik told him: A man born in Korea must have a good knowledge of Korea; if you get to understand clearly while you are in Korea why she has been ruined, that will be a great achievement; share the fate of the people in your home town and experience how miserable they are; then you will see what you should do.

In accordance with his father's wish, Kim Il Sung decided to study in Korea and embarked on the long journey for learning on March 16 1923.

The journey from Badaogou across the Amnok River to

Mangyongdae was a long and gruelling trek.

It was March, but the weather was appalling.

For more than half the 250 miles of the journey he had to walk over steep, craggy mountains which were virtually uninhabited. Even in full daylight beasts of prey prowled about the woods.

In his reminiscences *With the Century*, the President wrote:

"I suffered a lot during the journey. I really had a hard time of it while crossing the Jik Pass, Kae Pass (Myongmun Pass) and the like. It took me a whole day to cross the passes in Mt. Oga. When I had crossed one pass another would appear. It seemed there was no end."

After spending a night at an inn in Kanggye, he sent a telegram to his parents at the Kanggye Post Office.

The telegram would cost 3 jon for each of the first six characters and 4 jon each for any more. So he wrote 6 characters "Kang Gye Mu Sa To Chak" (Arrived safely in Kanggye—Tr.)

He resumed his journey and arrived in Kaechon via several places to travel by rail to Pyongyang via Sinanju.

He sent a second telegram to his parents and finally entered the courtyard of his old home towards sunset on March 29.

The journey for him was a journey of learning about his homeland and fellow countrymen.

Through the trek, he deeply realized that though suffering misfortune and pain as a ruined nation under Japanese military rule, the Korean people were truly a kind-hearted and morally excellent nation preserving their traditional fellowship and beautiful customs.

Watching carefully the reality of his sorrow-stricken country which was in tears of blood, he made a firm pledge to defeat the Japanese imperialists who turned the country into a veritable hell and liberate it at any cost.

With that pledge, he made the 1 000-ri Journey for National Liberation and waged the great anti-Japanese war, thus achieving Korea's liberation and establishing an invincible socialist state dignified with independence, self-sustenance and self-reliance in national defence on the land of his country.

1 000-ri Journey for Learning carried on

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

President Kim Il Sung made the 1 000-ri (250-mile) Journey for Learning at the age of 12 and its historic significance is great indeed.

This journey led to the 1 000-ri Journey for National Liberation, the long bloody battles of the anti-Japanese war which accomplished the historic cause of Korea's liberation, the building of a new democratic Korea, the victory in the grim Fatherland Liberation War and the era of Chollima when world-startling miracles were performed in succession.

After reading the full-length novel "1 000-ri Journey for Learning" which was produced in 1971, schoolchildren in the city of Kanggye marched to Pyongyang along the historic route for the first time in 1973, the 50th anniversary of the President's trek.

The first regular national expedition was formed with 5 000 schoolchildren a year later and a 10 000-strong expedition embarked on the journey for learning the following year.

This was how the schoolchildren's study tour along the route began.

An average of more than 10 000 schoolchildren have made the study tour

every year since the 1970s.

While marching along the route taken by the President, study tourists learn about his immortal trek, burning love for the country and people and lofty aim of revolution.

They conduct a variety of political and cultural activities including the study of his reminiscences *With the Century*, the study session of the reminiscences of anti-Japanese guerrillas and poem recitation. Through the tour,

schoolchildren grow both mentally and physically.

On their 1 000-ri journey, the tourists walk nearly 900 ri. Though they get exhausted as they march 70 to 80 ri on a daily average, they overcome all challenges with the strong will.

For the study tourists the journey for learning constitutes the first step of their life which makes them know their country, the revolution and their ability to overcome difficulties.



Schoolchildren make a study tour along the route of the 1 000-ri Journey for Learning President Kim Il Sung trekked.

Wangjaesan meeting leaves indelible trace in history of anti-Japanese national liberation struggle

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The Wangjaesan meeting held on March 11 1933 is one of the historic meetings that left indelible traces in the history of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle in Korea.

The Japanese imperialists who militarily occupied Korea between 1905 and 1945 desperately tried to nip the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army founded in April 1932 and its bases in the bud.

Under the circumstances, to expand the armed struggle into the homeland in the steadfast spirit of national independence was a very

important matter related to the destiny of the Korean revolution.

This was because only when the armed struggle was spread to the homeland would it be possible to vigorously arouse the broad masses of people to the anti-Japanese struggle under the influence of the armed struggle and also possible for the Korean people to defeat the Japanese aggressors and achieve the independence of the nation with their own efforts.

To liberate Korea by expanding the armed struggle into the homeland was the strategic goal consistently maintained by General Kim Il Sung, the legendary hero of the anti-

Japanese war, since he declared the war and an unshakable faith that had never escaped him.

Based on the subjective and objective conditions and political situation for spreading the armed struggle to the homeland in 1933, the General broke through a tight cordon by the Japanese imperialists to advance into the homeland and went to Mt Wangjae leading a unit in March that year.

On March 11, he convened the Meeting of Chiefs of Underground Revolutionary Organizations and Political Workers in the Onsong Area on the summit of the mountain and made a speech "On Spreading and Developing

the Armed Struggle into the Homeland".

The speech analysed the political situation of Korea at that time and the achievements made after the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, set the strategic line of spreading the anti-Japanese armed struggle into the homeland and clarified the ways and tasks for implementing the line.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas' advance to the Onsong area under the command of the General and the historic Wangjaesan meeting served as the prelude to the expansion of the armed struggle into the homeland, and as a historic watershed in further developing the

overall Korean revolution centring on the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

After the meeting the anti-Japanese armed struggle was fiercely waged across the homeland. This finally led to the accomplishment of the historic cause of national liberation on August 15 1945.

In the 1970s the Korean people built the Wangjaesan Revolutionary Site, including the Wangjaesan Grand Monument along with the statue of President Kim Il Sung, the Wangjaesan Revolutionary Museum and so on, in the Onsong area in order to convey his immortal exploits forever.

To cover mountains across country with green woods

By Kim Rye Yong PT

In the DPRK, mountains account for more than 80 percent of its territory.

For this reason, tending mountains well is consistently important in developing the economy and improving the people's living standards.

New history of 'gold and treasure mountains'

From olden times, the DPRK has been called a tapestry-like land for its beautiful mountains and clear water. But the heinous colonial exploitation of the land by the Japanese imperialists after their military occupation of Korea turned its mountains into seriously bare ones.

After achieving the historic cause of national liberation and returning home in triumph, General Kim Il Sung grieved over the terrible conditions of the mountains and rivers of the country. On March 2 1946, a spring day of the first year after liberation, he climbed up Moran Hill in Pyongyang to give instructions to plant trees a lot.

In a historic talk "Let Us Launch a Vigorous Tree Planting Movement Involving All the Masses" he had with officials taking

part in tree planting on Munsu Hill on April 6 1947, he unfolded a far-reaching plan to cover all mountains of the country with thick forests and turn it into a beautiful paradise for the people.

Whenever he visited mountain villages though busy leading the building of a new country, he pointed to the need to plant many useful trees in mountains so as to benefit from them, thus making a new history of "gold mountains".

The Korean war (1950-1953) unleashed by the US imperialists plunged the mountains, which had been turning green after liberation, into flames again.

Out of surging hatred against the enemies, Korean People's Army soldiers on heights and the people in the rear strenuously planted young pine trees in burnt mountains with confidence in their victory.

President Kim Il Sung saw to it that forest restoration took place through an all-people campaign and recalled thousands of soldiers from the front to dispatch them as foresters. He personally grew metasequoias in flowerpots with care to spread them across the country.

Underlining the need to introduce the cyclic felling

method and plant ten trees after cutting a tree, he made sure that forests of economic value and mixed ones were created a lot on mountains. Thanks to his wise leadership and painstaking efforts, mountains of the country were covered with green woods, which produced all kinds of fruits.

Always thinking of green mountains and green fields

In his childhood Kim Jong Il mounted Munsu Hill together with General Kim Il Sung to plant trees. During the Fatherland Liberation War, he planted two pine-nut trees on Mt Jangja with sincerity on the occasion of the fifth founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In March 1957, when he was attending middle school, he planted trees together with his fellows, saying that they had to plant acacia, which is faster in growth than other trees and which has thick foliage and fragrance, in order to heal the war wounds and cover mountains with green woods.

The classic works "On Bringing about a Fresh Change in Land Management" and "Let Us Build Our Country into a Beautiful Land of the

Age of the Workers' Party Through Effective Forest and Water Conservation" which he made public while leading the Korean revolution were the important works setting forth tree-planting as an important task in land management and clarifying the principled issues arising in afforestation.

During the Arduous March which the DPRK was compelled to make due to successive natural disasters and severe sanctions by the hostile forces, Chairman Kim Jong Il saw to it that the famous mountains of the country were turned into superb scenic beauties and inspired all the people to conduct the general mobilization movement for land management.

When he was reported about a good species of tree during a foreign visit, the Chairman, who always thought of green mountains and green fields, took measures for its transport and spread. And he put forward as patriots and heroes of the times the ordinary working people who dedicated all their lives to tending thick forests.

A big stride was made in landscaping the whole country thanks to the Chairman's noble patriotism and ardent devotion.

To turn whole country into people's paradise thick with green foliage

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea who is faithfully implementing the intentions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, saw to it that the Korean People's Army set an example in the van of forest restoration from his early days of leading the Party and the state. In November 2014, he called upon all the Party members, people and KPA officers and men to turn out in the forest restoration campaign, regarding forest restoration as a war with nature, just as the whole country had turned out for reconstruction on the debris after the war.

On February 26 2015, he made public the work "Let the Entire Party, the Whole Army and All the People Conduct a Vigorous Forest Restoration Campaign to Cover the Mountains of the Country with Green Woods" to indicate important guidelines for the victory of the forest restoration campaign.

Under his deep concern, there were built an exemplary tree nursery on a fully scientific, industrial and intensive footing and other tree nurseries in all provinces

which can produce good species of tree saplings in large numbers. Thus mountains of the country are getting green day after day.

On March 2 2022, the General Secretary planted two fir trees in the Hwasong area, where a new street would be built for the people, together with the participants in the Second Conference of Secretaries of Primary Committees of the WPK, thus making the flames of patriotism further flare up across the country.

Besides, he ensured that the capital city of Pyongyang became the first to set an example in landscaping and clearly indicated the orientation and ways for properly doing landscaping to suit the surrounding environments and topographical features of relevant areas in implementing the programme for the rural revolution in the new era and the regional development policy. As a result the appearance of the country has changed for the better beyond recognition.

The General Secretary's idea of further beautifying the country as a socialist paradise better to live in and a precious asset to be handed down to posterity is turning into reality.

Afforestation and forest protection gain momentum

By To Kyong Chol PT

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made public his immortal classic work "Let the Entire Party, the Whole Army and All the People Conduct a Vigorous Forest Restoration Campaign to Cover the Mountains of the Country with Green Woods" on February 26 2015. Over the past decade, great successes have been made in afforestation in the DPRK.

True to the intention of the Workers' Party of

Korea which declared forest restoration as a war with nature, working people across the country turned out for forest planting and protection.

Units have worked out detailed long-term goals and phased plans and persistently carried them out.

Substantial successes have been made in forest planting and protection thanks to the establishment of a system of taking responsibility for the area in one's charge and a habit of manuring and cultivating for replanted

trees in a responsible manner along with the ensuring of a high rooting rate, and the number of units winning the title of Forest of Socialist Patriotism is on the increase.

The Ponghwa Chemical Factory, Unhung Farm in Thaecheon County and Tansan Farm in Pakchon County were awarded the title before others in January 2019.

The working people got more enthusiastic day by day in the emulation drive to plant and tend even one more tree, deeply aware

that forests are the most precious resources of the country and assets to be handed down to posterity. In 2020 more than 380 units won the title.

In particular, working people in Pyongyang, planted and tended good species of trees and flowering shrubs in mountains around it and thus created good experience in afforestation.

Working people and women's union members in South Phyongan and Jagang provinces devoted their sincere patriotic efforts to

forest restoration to turn the forests in their charge into treasure forests.

In 2021, the title of Forest of Socialist Patriotism was awarded to many units including Unsan County of North Phyongan Province and Kwail County of South Hwanghae Province.

Last year, Kangwon Province substantially arranged a demonstration of model units on a provincial scale and hundreds of units won honorary titles through fierce competition between units and between

regions.

Amid the brisk mass movement for afforestation and forest protection, women's union members across the country have taken an active part in landscaping projects as they value and tend every tree.

Schoolchildren play their part in forest restoration.

Those across the country have newly created large areas of forests of the Children's Union and planted and tended trees with sincerity.

Children's Union organizations give prominence to students who set an example in tree planting and so on while teaching students scientific methods of planting trees and measures to protect forests from natural disasters on various occasions including extracurricular activities with the result that the exemplary students' deeds are followed by others.

As the number of young patriots tending trees and grass by themselves is on the increase, millions of trees of good species have rooted in the forests of the Children's Union and at their campuses.



Working people plant trees in all parts of the DPRK on tree-planting day.



Pae Un Hui



Kim In Ok



Kim Sung Bok



Ri Yong Hui



Ro Myong Ju

Top Ten Teachers of 2024

By Pang Un Ju PT

Lead writer of new teaching materials

To train talents, it is necessary for you to be a talent – this is the motto of Pae Un Hui, teacher of Kim Song Ju Primary School.

Since starting to work as a teacher after graduating from Pyongyang Teachers Training College 25 years ago, she made great efforts to improve her educational qualifications and created and introduced more than 10 useful and superior new teaching methods and various educational experimental apparatuses and teaching aids.

She played a big role in writing over 10 kinds of mathematics textbooks and teaching plans for primary schools and more than 20 kinds of reference books for the implementation of the first universal 12-

year compulsory education programme over 10 years ago. She also gave lectures dozens of times during teachers training courses given on national, municipal and district scales.

She also plays an important role as a lead writer of teaching materials for the implementation of the second universal 12-year compulsory education programme.

She is working hard to search and introduce new composition and form of textbooks suited to primary school children's mind and capable of giving them a theoretical understanding of what they learn while studying in detail the world trend of educational development and education in the DPRK.

Finding out buds of students' talent in time

Kim In Ok, teacher of Rungna Senior Middle School in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, which is affiliated to Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, has an unusual special skill in finding the buds of students' talents in good time and cultivating them.

Last year, too, she discovered the bud of a student's aptitude for writing poems in a composition written by the student and

developed it so that the latter could take the first place in the district's composition contest.

Over ten students trained by her gave pleasure to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un by creating excellent works and several other students became winners of "Our Classroom" Literature Prize and Youth Literature Prize. Her high teaching ability and broad knowledge enabled her to win top and first prizes in

several rounds of national teaching contest, and in 2022 alone 24 students trained by her entered central universities.

She is giving selfless

assistance in improving the teaching ability of new teachers and is taking the lead in helping rural schools with their work.

With high educational qualifications

Kim Sung Bok, teacher of Toksong Primary School in Phyongsong City attached to Phyongsong Teachers Training College, has a 20-year-long career in education and was once selected as an instructor and announcer of a unit for her good looks and high level of speech when she was to graduate from university. However, she became an educator with the determination to devote her whole life to teaching the rising generations.

Sensitive to the new and with good imagination, she created new methods of teaching theoretically and in plain language with vivid historical materials and realistic contents and generalized the methods across the country. She

always won the first place in the assessment of teaching qualifications in the municipality every year as she steadily improved her qualifications.

In recent years alone, she created several new teaching methods significant in making students become active learners and searchers, including the "teaching method of using multimedia to improve students' practical skills" and thus won certificates of registration of new teaching methods, introduction of new teaching methods and invention of experimental apparatuses and teaching aids.

She also played a big role in raising the educational level of rural schools to that of urban schools.

Master developer of new teaching methods and model lessons

Ri Yong Hui, teacher of mathematics department of Kusong Middle School No. 1

in North Phyongan Province who has been standing on the platform for nearly 30 years, is appreciated as a

master in inventing new teaching methods and model lessons.

In recent years alone, she has developed programs of significance conducive to improving the abilities of students in maths and worked out and introduced more than 10 new teaching methods including a discussion-oriented teaching method which developed the students' cognitive faculty and fostered their application ability in the course of practical activities using various control programs in the maths subject.

Particularly, a heuristic maths teaching method she developed last year came first in the natural science section of the 30th national symposium on teaching methods and she gave a

demonstration lesson.

The method deduced a theorem on proportional line segment of a triangle and enhanced the application ability of students through practical outdoor activities.

She also compiled a collection of maths problems for the junior-class students at middle schools No. 1 and created several model lessons incorporating advanced teaching methods including a heuristic teaching method.

She also made many teaching aids and multimedia presentations to apply them to teaching practice and trained nearly 30 students to be winners of the July 15 Honour Student Prize.

At present, students in her charge have reached the top three in several national academic contests.

Teacher takes maternal care of orphans

Ro Myong Ju, chief kindergartener of Sariwon Orphanage, looks after orphans with maternal affection as she devotes her sincerity to education of younger generations.

She found out orphans with aptitude for composition and presented a collection of their works such as children's songs and poems to the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un, giving him pleasure. And she developed heuristic, exploratory and discussion-oriented teaching methods to further improve teaching contents and methods and generalized them throughout the country.

She made a big contribution to developing

the intellectual faculties of orphans by making and applying dozens of kinds of teaching aids needed for their education and edification and improving teaching methods.

Paying close attention to their health care, she secured necessary treatment devices and took treatment steps combined with Koryo therapies, thereby making orphans grow healthily and robustly.

In April last year she was honoured with the title of Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism for the services she performed as she conducted educational work at one occupation with maternal care and in a responsible manner for 19 years.

ICH elements of DPRK

Korean clothing practice

By Han Jong Ho PT

Korean clothes are well known to the world for their unique form and beauty.

The “Korean clothing practice”, which was put on the list of global intangible cultural heritage last year, occupies a prominent position among the excellent cultural heritage elements created by the Korean ancestors.

The Korean clothing practice with a long history includes traditional knowledge, technology and social customs related to Korean costume.

The practice has been constantly carried on and developed as part of the Korean people’s life.

Korean clothes consist of upper (*jogori*, Korean jacket in English) and lower (*chima*, skirt in English, and *paji*, trousers in English,) garments and include overcoats (*turumagi* for men and *paeja* for women) according to seasons. They are characterized by the collar strip (narrow white collar), the breast ties (two long strips for adjusting the breast of *jogori*) and the long skirt as compared



It is a custom of DPRK people to wear national costumes on the significant occasions including holidays and wedding day.



with *jogori* for women.

Korean clothes are diverse and their main materials are natural fibres such as silk,

ramie and cotton.

The making of Korean clothes requires special knowledge and techniques,



including design, cutting, fixing of collar strip and breast ties, colour harmony, embroidering and drawing

of geometric and natural patterns of various meanings, making of various trimmings and accessories.

The Korean people not only made and wore elegant and beautiful national clothes but attached profound meaning to them.

The rainbow-striped garment for the first birthday of babies reflected parents’ blessings for their children, and the bride and groom exchanged the cloths prepared with mutual respect, love and best wishes and made clothes with them to wear for wedding.

It was a noble ethic to prepare national clothes for parents on their 60th birthdays out of respect for them and wish for their long life in good health.

Today the Korean people wear national clothes and dance on significant occasions such as holidays and the days of moving into new houses, taking pictures of the scenes to add to their emotional life.

The Korean clothing practice is the main material for literature, films, fine art, handicrafts and art performances, contributing to the creation of beautiful representations and inspiring noble patriotic feelings in the people.

Seesawing

By Sin Pyol PT

Seesawing is one of the excellent folk games of the Korean nation.

People play it at both ends of a long board with a wooden prop placed at the centre. They jump up and land on the board alternately by using the elastic force and compete to see who jumps up higher.

Since olden times, women in national costumes have enjoyed the play on New Year’s Day and

Jongwoldaeborum (the fifteenth day of the first month by the lunar calendar), or the first full moon day.

There are sayings, “If you do seesawing in January, you will not get your feet pricked by thorn that year” and “If you do seesawing frequently in your girlhood, you will give birth to a son after marriage”. This shows that if women do seesawing, they will be able to build up their bodies and minds and be healthy.

Seesaw was invented in

the past by imitating the principles of a mill worked by treading.

The Korean women who used the foot mill as a tool for dietary life in the period of the Koguryo Kingdom contrived a novel seesawing apparatus for jumping up alternately by installing a wooden prop at the centre of a board of certain size by introducing the principle of the mill.

According to folk tales, the game was derived from the fact that a woman did

seesawing to see the face of her beloved in prison, and the fact that women jumped up from the seesaw to look out of the courtyard.

There are various ways of doing seesawing, including jumping high and performance of feats.

Among the performance of feats there were a high jump and somersault before landing, a high jump and bending back before landing and a high jump and free movements of hands before landing by setting the legs apart backward and forward or right and left.

Players also competed to drop their opponents from the board.

The Korean people have carried forward seesawing associated with the wisdom and talents of the nation and developed it into part of national acrobatics by preserving the charm and taste peculiar to the nation.

The national acrobatic piece “Seesawing” of the DPRK is admired at world acrobatic festivals for the combination of the highly skilful stunts of acrobats, deep national sentiment and unique form.

Seesawing was registered as an element of national intangible cultural heritage in 2024.

Method of preparing Koryo medicines

By To Kyong Chol PT

The Korean people with a 5 000-year history have widely used Koryo medicines in the treatment of diseases.

As Koryo medicines that suit the life style and constitutional features of the Koreans contain various ingredients, they can treat diseased organisms in an all-round and comprehensive way and even cure the diseases that cannot be treated by Western medicines.

Koryo medicines have little toxicity and side effects, and are harmless and easy to use.

The Korean ancestors picked medicinal herbs to dry and pulverize or decoct them. The Koryo medicines have become diverse in kind and variety along with the development of manufacturing methods. In particular, they have been developed into the form of extracts which are convenient to use and maximize medicinal efficacy.

Medicinal herbs in the DPRK are widely distributed in the mountainous areas of

Jagang Province, which is rich in herb resources.

The Kanggye Koryo Medicine-processing Factory in the province introduced a reflux extractor into the process of producing Koryo medicine extracts, thus making it possible to increase the output of extracts several times.

The factory produces various traditional medicines and over 30 kinds of extracts with such plants as barrenwort, Siberian ginseng, *Crataegus pinnatifida* and broad bellflower.

The extracts of Koryo medicines are recognized as popular and profitable ones since they can be used for the effective treatment of various diseases for each system of the human body.

The method of preparing Koryo medicines, which have been developed and enriched throughout the long history of the nation, was recently inscribed as a national intangible cultural heritage element to contribute to developing and enriching the fine traditional medicine of the Koreans.



A scene of national acrobatic piece “Seesawing”.

DPRK-Russia friendly relations with long history and tradition

By Choe Song Jun PT

An agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the USSR was concluded on March 17 1949, providing an important legal guarantee for further consolidating and developing the friendly relations between the two countries.

Under this agreement, the two countries developed economic relations on the principle of cooperation, equality and mutual benefit and deepened the friendly feelings while actively conducting visits and exchanges in the fields of culture and the arts over the past several decades. It gave a powerful impetus to steadily strengthening and developing the DPRK-Russia friendly relations.

The friendship between the DPRK and Russia has a long historical tradition.

The feelings of

comradeship and friendship forged between the peoples of the two countries in the joint struggle against imperialism developed into friendly relations between the states. And they have faithfully been carried forward and developed generation after generation on the basis of the spirit of respect for sovereignty, equality and cooperation even in the tempest of history.

In recent years the DPRK-Russia friendly relations have been further expanded and strengthened into those of mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields under the deep care of the top leaders of the two countries.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un strengthened the DPRK-Russia friendly relations still further through the significant meeting with Russian President Putin in April 2019. It was an epochal event that put the bilateral

ties with a long history and tradition on a new, higher stage.

The top leaders of the two countries met again in September 2023 and June 2024 and openheartedly discussed the long-term plans for promoting mutual trust by further revitalizing the many-sided bilateral exchanges and cooperation. They discussed the issue of lifting the relations between the two countries to a comprehensive strategic partnership and expanding them in an all-round way and reached a perfect consensus of views, and satisfactorily agreed on the important issues arising in defending regional and global peace and international justice and on the immediate matters for cooperation.

The close bond between the DPRK and the Russian Federation, whose common ideal is to achieve independence and justice, is growing stronger with the

passage of time, ushering in a period of full efflorescence amid the special comradesly friendship and trust between heads of state of the two countries.

On December 4 2024, the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the DPRK and the Russian Federation came into force. The ratification instruments of the treaty were exchanged in Moscow. As a result, a legal framework was provided for the two countries to lift the bilateral relations to a new strategic level and build powerful states while firmly defending the security environment of the region and the rest of the world in conformity with their common interests.

It is the consistent stand of the DPRK government to attach importance to the DPRK-Russia friendly relations and invariably develop the tradition of deep-rooted friendship.

Two totally different systems seen through housing problems

By Sin Pyol PT

Housing problems are to provide people with an elementary and essential condition, but they offer a striking contrast between the social systems.

Unattainable dream

At the end of December last year, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that the homeless people including those who temporarily resided in protective facilities numbered over 770 000.

According to data recently published in the country, including the report on the present national housing situation in 2024 of Harvard University, the house prices and house rent have jumped by 29 percent and 26 percent respectively since 2020.

With the cost of living and inflation continuously going up, it has become a difficult problem for American families to collect enough money to pay the price or rent for houses. But more serious is the housing shortage. At present the US is reportedly short of houses for 3.9 million families.

In Europe about 1.2 million people are lodging on the streets.

The report of a women's human rights delegation of the French Senate in October last year said that about 3 000 women and the equal number of children stay outdoors every night.

For many people in the US and Europe, "buying a house" is just a dream.

People's dream and ideal come true

In the DPRK, in which the construction of dwelling houses for providing the people with stable and civilized living conditions is an undertaking to realize the cherished desire of the Workers' Party of Korea, projects have been pushed ahead in a planned manner to properly solve the housing problem of the people across the country in the near future.

In recent years, many houses have been built in Pyongyang every year, including those on newly built Songhwa, Hwasong and Rimhung streets.

As the construction of rural houses has dynamically been stepped up in the provinces as well as in the capital city, happy events of moving into new houses have taken place in succession in different parts of the country.

Farmhouses for more than 80 700 families were built in over 1 500 rural villages in the past three years. Those for 20 000-odd families are now under construction.

The houses, which the state builds by taking full responsibility and making enormous investment while regarding the housing projects as the most important undertaking, are provided to the workers, farmers and all other working people free of charge.

This is entirely attributable to the people-first politics of the Workers' Party of Korea which shapes the future by investing all the wealth of the country in the people's happiness.

The large-scale housing construction projects undertaken by the Party and state are not aimed at gaining any economic profits, but constitute a noble undertaking to make the wealth of the state and the results of the creative labour of the working masses actually become their wellbeing.

Thanks to the noble outlook of the WPK on the people that it must pick the star in the sky if the people want it, the dream and ideal of the people are becoming a reality in the DPRK.

A country with many heroines

One hundred and fifteen years have passed since March 8 International Women's Day was enacted in demand of granting women the same social rights with men. However, the problem of women's destiny remains as a serious socio-political problem in many countries.

In the DPRK, women constitute a powerful force that dynamically turns one of the wheels of the chariot of the revolution, leaving an indelible footprint in the brilliant history of the country.

In the annals of struggle for the prosperity of the country are the feats of many heroines, who have worked devotedly for the country and people.

Heroine Jo Sun Ok destroyed an enemy tank as a human bomb though she was seriously injured in the

grim period of the Fatherland Liberation War, Heroine Thae Son Hui made many brilliant war achievements as the first woman pilot of the DPRK, Heroine Sin Pho Hyang in Ragwon told President Kim Il Sung that rehabilitation would be no problem when we won the war, and many other heroines were produced in the country.

The Chollima era in the 1960s, which aroused the admiration of the world, reminds the Korean people of Heroine Kil Hwak Sil and many other working women who left an indelible mark in the history of the country with the honour of being the Chollima riders.

Many women have glorified their heroic lives in the worthwhile struggle for paving the way for a prosperous country in the wake of the Arduous March when the country underwent

Pak Hyang Mi
Staffer of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea



extreme difficulties.

The hero medal is shining on the chests of Mun Kang Sun, workshop manageress of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, Ju Pok Sun, former manageress of the Manpho Spinning Mill, who trained many orphans as the pillars of the factory with warm human love, and Ri Kang Juk, director of Kyongsang Kindergarten, who trained many music prodigies, thanks to the deep trust of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un who put them forward to be known throughout the country while being satisfied with every work done by Korean women more than anybody else.

Women scientists, who contributed to demonstrating the national power, sportswomen who demonstrated the dignity and spirit of the state, ordinary working women at factories and farms and mothers who brought up many children, are leading a worthwhile life as flowers of the country, society and life while being called heroines.

The revolutionary cause of building a powerful socialist country advances more vigorously on this land as there are many heroines and women patriots who work hard with boundless loyalty to the Workers' Party of Korea.

BYWORD

The Korean people are now actively waging a campaign for increased production and economy.

Workers of the Sangwon Cement Complex stand in the van of this effort.

The complex increased clinker output by 0.5% and cement production by over 14% every day from the beginning of the new

year as against the same period of last year when it exceeded the peak year level.

The campaign for miraculously increased production of the Sangwon workers is spreading

throughout the country like wildfire.

True to the idea and spirit of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, which intends to

make the country reach a higher development stage after carrying out the five-year plan this year, all economic sectors are waging the fierce campaign for increased production and economy.

Campaign for increased production and economy

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'Japanese imperialists' unethical atrocities against Korean people will be surely counted'

Press statement of spokesperson for the Association of Korean Victims of Forcible Drafting and Their Bereaved Families

KCNA

A spokesperson for the Association of Korean Victims of Forcible Drafting and Their Bereaved Families issued the following press statement entitled "Japanese imperialists' unethical atrocities against Korean people will be surely counted" on March 9:

Nearly 80 years have passed since Korea was liberated from the barbarous colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists. But the hot-blooded outcries of the souls of those who were forcibly abducted to alien lands by the Japanese imperialists and died without satisfying their grudge are still resounding.

After annexing Korea by force of arms in the last century, the Japanese imperialists committed unheard-of unethical crimes. Among the atrocities clearly recorded in the crime-woven history are the historical facts that the Japanese imperialists forcibly took away more than 8.4 million young and middle-aged Koreans

and drove them out to the theatres of war of aggression and sites of hard labour as bullet shields and labour slaves and made them undergo the wholesale deaths in the large-scale air raids by the US forces.

Hundreds of B-29 large bombers of the US forces flew into the sky over Tokyo and Osaka of Japan on March 10 and 13, 1945, the closing period of the Pacific War started by Japan, and made massive air raids while dropping incendiaries and other bombs at random.

At that time the Japanese imperialists kept Koreans in custody in groups, claiming that Koreans, who had been subjected to subhuman maltreatment, contempt and dangerous and backbreaking labour, could escape in the confusion of air raids. As a result, many Koreans died grievous deaths.

According to "Study of War Responsibilities" No. 53, the organ of the Japanese Data Center for War Responsibilities, on the damage suffered by Koreans in the large-scale air raids on Tokyo, the war victims would amount to 41 300

and the death toll would far exceed 10 000.

Immediately after the air raids, the Japanese imperialists buried the corpses of Korean victims in 67 places of parks, temples and campuses, without confirming their identity, on the pretext of the "emperor's" junket to the area. Later, they committed such heinous unethical crimes as digging out the remains of the Koreans and dealing with them at will.

The Korean victims failed to return to their native places where their beloved parents, wives and children were waiting for them even after their death and suffered the fate of forlorn wandering spirits in the alien land. Such miserable fate is entirely attributable to the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea and their colonial rule over it, and a direct product of the abduction of Koreans.

Nevertheless, the successive Japanese authorities have never paid attention to probing the then unethical atrocities and confirming the identity of the Korean victims

without the slightest compunction, but have made desperate attempts to bury the forcible drafting into oblivion of history.

Japan formulated it as a government stand that forcible drafting of Koreans should not be expressed as "forced labour". And it has issued the guidelines on noting the "forcible drafting" as "mobilization" and "labour draft" in history textbooks, rubbing salt into the unhealed wounds of the victims and their bereaved families.

Japan should bear in mind that its moves to erase its past records of aggression and implant the distorted outlook on history into the younger generations, evading its state responsibility for the unethical crimes, will only add to the heap of its crimes, remaining as a shameless country bereft of human ethics and morality in the eyes of the international community.

The forcible drafting and forced labour of Koreans are crimes committed by the government and military of Imperial Japan by using all authority and constitute

a crime against important ethics and morality, slavery crime and war crime. The international common and statute laws on legal prescription stipulate that no statute of limitations applies to the crimes related to basic human rights.

Japan, a war criminal state, should conduct a full investigation into the fact that the remains of Korean victims have been left for 80 years and open to the public the truth. At the same time it should make a thorough apology and reparations to the victims and their bereaved families for the thrice-cursed crimes of pushing innocent people to death.

It is the unshakable will of all the Korean people to satisfy the deep-rooted grudge of the victims, who were deprived of their bloom of youth and precious lives due to the forcible drafting by the Japanese imperialists, and of their bereaved families.

The unethical atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people during the air raids on Tokyo and Osaka by the US forces will be surely counted.

'America first' prioritizing US' exclusive interests will positively promote the whole world's multi-polarization

The centuries-old desire of mankind to live in a just, peaceful, stable and rich world is faced with a grave challenge due to the emergence of the present US administration and the whirlwind by the "America first" doctrine, its political philosophy.

The unprecedented vicious cycle of confusion, distrust, confrontation and contradiction, caused by the inevitable decline of US imperialism and the avaricious foreign policy of the successive US administrations for delaying the decline even a little, is being further accelerated by the reemergence of the Trump administration and the "America first".

The doctrine "America first" of the American empire, appearing to embody the universal attribute of international relations centred on national interests, has clearly revealed the high-handed, aggressive and predatory nature peculiar to it with the passage of time. The world progressive mankind aspiring after peace and international justice are strictly watching the hypocritical entity of US imperialism wrapped in a cloth of the "America first".

Clear is the reason why the "America first" is denounced and rejected in different parts of the world.

The "America first" is, in essence, a continued and expanded version of imperialism and hegemonism pursued by the US since its birth in the world. It is based on the extreme chauvinism and Yankee-style way

of thinking that it is all right to violate the rights to sovereignty, existence and development of other countries and nations in the interests of the US.

When taking into consideration its inborn attribute as well as its ideological characters such as "muscle flexing" and "peace by strength", the "America first" has nothing to do with the idea to which different countries and nations aspire in order to preserve, promote and develop their good qualities.

The present US administration's remarks and deeds made and committed according to the doctrine "America first" make people easily understand the aggressive nature of the doctrine.

The present US administration adorned the beginning of its second-term office, internally with the enforcement of extreme discrimination policy aimed at the massive deportation of "illegal immigrants" and externally with the withdrawal from international organizations and agreements such as WHO, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN Human Rights Council and the demonstration of its gangster-like will to annex the inviolable territories of sovereign states.

After its inauguration, the administration has further enhanced the scale and pace of its aggressive and hegemonic foreign policy based on the "America first".

It seeks exclusive economic interests by wielding an

indiscriminate tariff club against neighbouring countries, allies and enemy countries. And it has thrown off even its deceptive "humanitarian" mask to totally stop the "foreign assistance" to other countries. It is also pushing the international community into a great shock by repeating the unreasonable and surprising acts such as the proposal for "taking over the Gaza Strip and developing it as a resort".

European countries, Japan, the ROK and other allies, which have zealously followed the US strategy for domination of the unipolar world, boasting of the nearly 80-year-long "alliance" after the Second World War, are suffering "humiliation" and "contempt". This is a natural result of the "America first".

Politicians and media of Western countries, that have been so faithful to the US, are deploring that the present US administration's blackmail policy heralds a new era of the law of the jungle and its "America first" is not isolationism but interventionism that has changed its mask.

Even conservative media and experts of the US unhesitatingly contend that definiteness and concreteness should be added to the doctrine of "America first" to make it more positively contribute to expanding the US external role as the "international leader".

Such comments are only a few partial examples showing that the international community has looked

into the essence of the "America first" anatomically and made a correct conclusion about it.

The "American first" gives the international community and the present times a suggestion of great significance.

In conclusion, this means that one must be strong in order to defend oneself and that the promotion of self-development is just the truth and a powerful means for propelling the law-governed development of history.

The DPRK, which has emerged as the strongest anti-imperialist and anti-US fortress, is bolstering up its strength with tighter grip on the banner of independence and the treasured nuclear sword of justice. This is aimed at putting an end to the hateful invasion and plunder attempt by the empire of evil and at writing a new page in the world history aspiring after independence and multipolarization.

Some countries are helpless under the US' outrageous threat and blackmail as they have failed to build up their strength. So the US is mercilessly violating their dignity and interests that are as dear as their lives. This reality makes one understand once again the true meaning of the common proverb that a wolf must be tamed with a club only.

History always stand on the side of justice, and justice and conscience are the main factors that have prevented the history of complicated international relations

from running off the correct track of its development, braving all sorts of trials and difficulties.

The Yankee-style logic of hegemony that everything in the world should be prey only for the US and the anachronistic behaviour of the impudent empire of evil, which imposes "the rules-based international order" on other countries, unhesitatingly neglecting the international law and international organizations for its exclusive interests, can no longer be allowed by the conscience of mankind aspiring after the era of independence, the new era of multipolarization.

The evil forces obsessed with the frantic idea of destroying global peace and security and threatening the very existence of human beings will not escape from a stern punishment by history. When the world progressives united by justice bolster up their strength and fully display it, the destruction of the Yankee-style hegemonism will be further hastened.

The more recklessly the present US administration pursues the unilateral policy based on the "America first" prioritizing the US' exclusive interests, the further the multi-polarization of the whole world will be accelerated. This will lead to the total downfall of the US, the empire of evil, and imperialism.

Kim Myong Chol, international affairs analyst of the DPRK



Female weightlifting stars nominated as top 10 players of DPRK for 2024

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Player aspiring after top weightlifter



Kim Il Gyong

Kim Il Gyong is a woman weightlifter of the April 25 Combat Sports Team who was selected as one of the top ten best players of the DPRK in 2024 after 2022 and 2023.

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

She participated in the Asian

Junior and Youth Weightlifting Championships to register good results. Later, she fully displayed her capability in domestic and international games.

In the women's 59kg weightlifting of the 19th Asian Games in 2023, in particular, she established a new world record in snatch and new records of the games in jerk and total, thereby winning three gold medals.

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

Her eyes were fixed on the world games beyond Asia.

Though she won four gold and two silver medals at the women's 59kg category in the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships and

2024 IWF World Cup last year, she could not rest on her laurels. Her aim was not the mere first place, but the record-breaking top place.

She made painstaking efforts with great ambition and finally felt the joy of success.

She snatched three gold medals and the best player award at the 2024 IWF World Championships by snatching 108kg, jerking 141kg (new world record) and lifting 249kg in total (new world record).

"Victory for medal cannot be called a victory. The genuine victory is the win achieved by setting a new record," said Kim, winner of the Kim Il Sung Children Honour Prize and Merited Athlete.

She now holds all the world records of the women's 59kg snatch, jerk and total.

Woman of ability in weightlifting circles

Known as one of the aces in the women's weightlifting circles, Ri Song Gum is the winner of the Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and Merited Athlete.

She was one of the top ten players of the DPRK in succession from 2021 to 2024.

Starting to learn weightlifting at a county juvenile sports school (at that time), she laid stepping stones to success with painstaking efforts.

With her special ability in jerk,



Ri Song Gum

she always won victory in different domestic and international games in succession by relying on it as a

weapon, recording a new record.

She snatched three gold medals at the women's 44kg category of the 2014 Asian Junior and Youth Weightlifting Championships and established a new world record in jerk.

She won the women's weightlifting event of the 19th Asian Games in 2023 and renewed her world record in the jerk and total events at the 49kg category in the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships and the 2024 IWF World Cup.

AFC Women's Football Day observed



An event takes place at the Rungna People's Sports Park on March 8 to mark the AFC Women's Football Day.

KCNA

An event took place at the Rungna People's Sports Park on March 8 to mark the AFC Women's Football Day.

Present there were officials of the DPRK Football Association, women coaches and instructors of professional sports units and reserve

players training units in Pyongyang and students of Pyongyang International Football School.

Kim Il Guk, minister of Physical Culture and Sports who doubles as chairman of the Football Association, made a remark at the event. Then the participants spent a pleasant time playing sports and amusement games.

Paegam deer a living monument

By Song Jong Ho PT

In the intermediary area rising over 1 600 metres above sea level of the Paektu Plateau in the eastern slope of the Paektu Mountains, there are high mountains and tributaries of the Sodusu River. The area is a place favourable for the habitation of deer.

The deer habitat in the Paegam area consists of vast moist meadow and forests.

They feed on grass, tree leaves, soft sprouts, bark, moss and mushroom. In summer, they go in quest of salty places.

Deer conduct activities in a group of four to six along the open ground with sparse trees and much space and grassland.

