

## Special event representing significant breakthrough in modernization of navy in new era

### Ceremony of launching destroyer of KPA Navy takes place with splendour

KCNA

The tremendous strength of Juche Korea, which confidently attains the phased goals for building a rich country with a strong army through the first arduous journey and vigorous stride of great pioneering along the milestone of victory indicated by the ever-victorious Workers' Party of Korea, is ushering in a grand new era of an advanced maritime power while powerfully reaching out to the vast ocean.

A new entity has emerged to firmly guarantee the maritime sovereignty of the DPRK, demonstrating the prestige of a powerful country rising bravely despite all difficulties, the irresistible might of the indomitable, tenacious and intrepid Korean people and the modernity of the Juche-oriented naval force making rapid progress.

The birth of the new-type multi-mission destroyer, which is an ensemble of the state economy and an aggregate of self-

reliant defence technology and which is equipped with the powerful cutting-edge strike weapon systems of the Korean style which do not allow comparison, is a brilliant fruition of the iron faith and will and outstanding leadership of

the great Comrade Kim Jong Un, who indicated the path for rapidly developing the naval force of the DPRK into a powerful treasured sword for defending justice and peace and a service equipped with the comprehensive fighting power

government and military officials, the workers of the Nampho Shipyard and officials and researchers in the field of the warship-building industry who

with nuclear weapons as the main axis and is dynamically steering the rejuvenation of the warship-building industry, and a valuable victory won by the strong aspiration and indomitable advance of the Korean people to outpace the world with the conviction in their own strength and courageous struggle.

A ceremony of launching the newly-built destroyer was held with splendour at the Nampho Shipyard on April 25, the significant founding anniversary of the first armed forces of the Korean revolution, in the presence of 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.

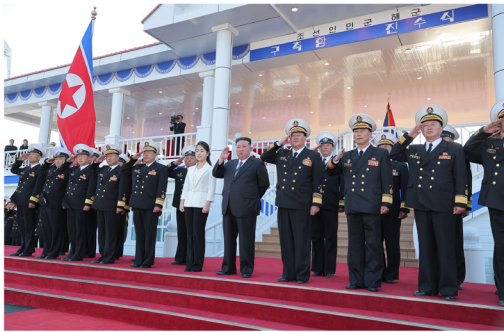
Present at the ceremony were senior Party,



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contributed to building the destroyer, officers and men of the Navy of the Korean People's Army, discharged navy generals, teaching staff and students of Kim Jong Suk Naval University, commanding officers of the services and corps of the KPA and leading officials of ministries and national agencies.

The venue of the ceremony was full of the ardent reverence for the great Party Central Committee which has firmly consolidated the absolute might and irreversible superiority of the DPRK's armed forces by dynamically leading the rapid development of the revolution in national defence industry for the prosperity of our country and its long-term development and fully realized the centuries-old desire of the Korean people to have the strongest naval force.

The guard of honour of the KPA Navy solemnly lined up waiting for the moment of glory.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers looking up to the great revolutionary and ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander who is vigorously ushering in a new era of building a rich country with a strong army, bringing the dignity and prestige of our state and people onto the highest peak of the century with his outstanding revolutionary ideas, matchless pluck and round-the-clock devotion.

There was a ceremony of greeting the head of state.

Kim Jong Un reviewed the colours of honour of the KPA Navy and its guard of honour.

He was courteously greeted by Senior Admiral Kim Myong Sik, commander of the KPA Navy, other major commanding officers of the Navy and commanding officers of the east and west sea fleets of the Navy and their affiliated underwater and surface warship squadrons with

boundless reverence for him.

There was a march-past of the guard of honour of the KPA Navy.

Kim Jong Un took the platform followed by senior officials of the Party, government and military, the commander of the Navy, commanders of the east and west sea fleets of the Navy, the manager of the Nampho Shipyard and others.

Officials of the Party Central Committee, chief secretaries of provincial committees of the WPK, the officials, persons of merit and labour innovators who contributed to the building of the warship and commanding officers of the services and corps of the KPA took the seats for invited guests.

The national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.

Jo Chun Ryong, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, delivered a commemorative address.

He said: The 5 000-tonnage destroyer, which is equipped with the most powerful weapons and which has been built by

the workers in the field of our warship-building industry, is to record a sacred new name of the defender in the blue sea of the country. It is a very encouraging reality and an event marking decisive progress in the course of strengthening the war capability of the Navy that we have perfectly built the modern destroyer in a little over 400 days with our own strength and technology.

The new-type destroyer, which was born as an imposing creation symbolizing the strength and spirit of Korea, is the fruition of the great patriotic idea of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and his will to build a rich country with a strong army and a precious entity in which every metre of the hull and every piece of equipment are permeated with the sacred responsibility for the revolution as the soul.

Today came to be recorded not only as a day when a new era of the warship-building industry was opened but also as

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a day when a new start was made by the workers and officials of our munitions industry, the speaker noted, adding that a brilliant golden age of the DPRK Navy will be brought about and the historic picture of the DPRK's arms demonstrating their might as the treasured sword for defending justice and peace will steadily spread out as the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un leads our struggle in the van.

Yun Chi Gol, manager of the Nampho Shipyard, made a speech in reply.

He proudly reported that the workers of the Nampho Shipyard are prepared for presenting the first new-generation destroyer of the DPRK to the Ninth Congress of the WPK as a gift of patriotic loyalty by honourably implementing the decision of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK on building modern destroyer.

The latest warship is a precious creation of the revolution in the warship-building industry floated by the iron faith and will and outstanding strategy of Kim Jong Un, who cherishes the great ambition to turn our country into an advanced maritime power, not merely by the buoyancy of nature, he said, adding that in the course of building the warship the way of thinking and manner of work of officials and employees have been changed, powerful ranks of technicians and skilled

workers built up and scientific and advanced warship building technology and processes established.

He solemnly pledged that the Nampho Shipyard would become the pacemaker and engine of the revolution in the warship-building industry in the new era faithfully upholding the strategic plan of the Party Central Committee with practice and thus glorify forever the honour of the revolutionary industry group by taking the core position in the development of the shipbuilding industry of the country and perfectly carrying out any warship building task entrusted by the Party.

Pak Jong Chon announced a written order of the Central Military Commission of the WPK on the grading regulations, name and number of the new-type multi-mission destroyer and conveyed it to the commander of the East Sea Fleet of the KPA Navy.

On the order of the Central Military Commission of the WPK signed by Kim Jong Un, the newly built new-type 5 000-tonnage multi-mission destroyer was graded and classified as the Choe Hyon class and named after the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter Choe Hyon, a model military activist who had made boundless loyalty to the leader part of his mental qualities, an elder of the armed forces of the DPRK and a veteran general.

Kim Jong Un conferred the ensign of destroyer Choe Hyon on the commanding officers of the East Sea Fleet of the KPA

Navy.

Vice Admiral Pak Kwang Sop, commander of the East Sea Fleet, made a speech of pledge.

Referring to the honour of the Navy of clearly recording as a blueprint in the history of army building its true appearance as a service commensurate with the prestige of a military power, he said that the earnest desire for the most powerful arms to overwhelmingly smash the naval supremacy of the arrogant imperialist pirates has been fulfilled in the glorious era of holding Kim Jong Un in high esteem.

Saying that the position of our Navy will surely be in the distant future five or ten years from today when the era of the great Kim Jong Un-style fleet building has started, he, on behalf of all the officers and men of the Navy, extended warm gratitude and militant salute to Kim Jong Un who is ushering in the greatest heyday in the strengthening of the Navy and to the heroic workers of the shipyard and the reverent field that are upholding the Party's grand plan for building the naval force with ardent loyalty and worthwhile struggle.

He, on the honour of the army of the WPK and seaman of the DPRK, solemnly pledged to fully demonstrate the honour of the fleet which has taken the most responsible battlefield for the great revolutionary cause and for defending the country by making all efforts to bolster up the combat capability of the warship and round off the war preparations of the fleet

and preparing to be a navy which smashes the enemy unconditionally in every battle.

No Kwang Chol, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, cut the rope in token of the ceremony of launching the destroyer.

Amid the sound of the warship whistle at the naval port, a powerful entity revealed its magnificent appearance in the sea of the country signalling the advent of a new era of modernization of the Navy. And confetti and coloured tapes were poured out, fireworks were set off and balloons flew up, reflecting the excitement and joy of this historic moment.

Kim Jong Un mounted the destroyer.

The warship had the honour of undergoing the first inspection by the head of state.

After receiving the salute of the captain, Kim Jong Un met with seamen and gave them warm militant encouragement, going round the stem and quarter deck of the warship.

The memorial relief image of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter Choe Hyon was unveiled on the destroyer.

Kim Jong Un placed a flower before the relief image of Choe Hyon and paid high tribute to him.

He said that the absolute loyalty to the leader and the spirit of unconditionally implementing the orders and instructions of the leader constitute the core of

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the revolutionary traits and military temperament of Choe Hyon, adding that the seas of the country will remain unperturbed and the ever-victorious tradition will continuously be carried forward when the reputation and noble soul of the veteran general whose mere name used to strike horror into the hearts of the two imperialist powers become the symbol of invincibility and militant banner of our Navy.

Kim Jong Un got off the warship and met the meritorious persons of the Nampho Shipyard who contributed to the building of the destroyer.

He highly appreciated that the historic event which can be called a new birth of the Juche-oriented navy could be brought about thanks to the patriotic and inexhaustible efforts and enthusiasm of the workers, scientists and technicians of the Nampho Shipyard who are supporting the strategic line and policies on building up

the national defence clarified by the WPK with absolute loyalty and devoted efforts.

The workers, scientists and technicians in the field of the warship-building industry raised enthusiastic cheers, extending the greatest glory to Kim Jong Un who placed them at the vanguard of the struggle for accomplishing the sacred cause of strengthening the naval force of the DPRK radically and by leaps and bounds to suit the national prestige and status of a powerful country and is ushering in a new era of the rejuvenation of the warship-building industry with his energetic leadership.

He awarded commemorative copper coins to the commanders and other officers of the destroyer, wishing the destroyer Choe Hyon would perform distinguished feats and enjoy boundless glory.

Kim Jong Un made a historic speech on the occasion of the ceremony of launching the destroyer.

Expressing the historic significance and deep emotion of declaring the

launching of the new-generation multi-mission attack destroyer No. 1, which is indispensable in building up our capability for stoutly defending the maritime sovereignty of the DPRK and which will represent an important starting point of the journey towards building an advanced maritime power, on April 25, the birthday of the first revolutionary armed forces of Korea, Kim Jong Un extended militant encouragement to the workers, technicians and officials of the Nampho Shipyard who successfully built the new-type destroyer true to the Party's line of strengthening the naval force, and to the scientists, technicians and workers in the field of the shipbuilding industry who are struggling as the main force of the revolution in the warship-building industry in the new era.

After making a stern analysis of the situation in the vicinity which poses a very serious threat to the security environment of the DPRK, he said that the strength to launch aggression is directly proportional to the strength to prevent it, and set forth the plan of the WPK to radically bolster up the war capability of the Navy in line with the justness and necessity of the possession of pelagic fleet, the prerequisite for national security and the world trend of developing the naval force and the detailed ways for implementing the plan.

His speech is an immortal great programme which is of great theoretical and practical significance in leading the revolution in the warship-building industry in the new era to a steady upsurge and remarkably strengthening the DPRK Navy into a core service for national defence and a component of nuclear war deterrent.

When Kim Jong Un finished his commemorative speech, all the participants broke into the thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!" out of boundless excitement and ardent loyalty, which resounded into the vast sea.

Kim Jong Un had a significant photo session with all the commanding officers and seamen of the destroyer Choe Hyon against the background of the warship.

He expressed great expectation and conviction that all the seamen of the destroyer would steadfastly carry forward the indomitable faith and tradition of victory cherished by the pioneering generation of the Korean revolution and

thus become the brave warriors of the sea fully guaranteeing the prosperity of the country and the peace and happiness of the people by force of arms and create a new legendary tale of heroes of the Juche-oriented navy.

All the commanding officers and seamen of the destroyer made a firm pledge to enhance the reputation as a matchless warship demonstrating the invincible valour in defending the territorial waters of the country, looking up to the great brilliant commander who gave them the strongest treasured sword unprecedented in the naval force of the country and personally mounted the warship to wish them distinguished military feats and instil the spirit of sure victory into them.

Kim Jong Un had a photo session also with officials and persons of merit of the shipyard and institute who made contributions to building the destroyer.

On the day, there were a banquet given by the KPA Navy with sincerity and a congratulatory performance by national-level art troupes in celebration of the ceremony of launching the new-type multi-mission destroyer.

After the performance, Kim Jong Un met discharged navy generals.

Highly appreciating the feats performed by the generals of the past days who had long served at the Navy's important posts and recorded immortal exploits in the history of the Navy with boundless self-sacrificing spirit and indomitable mettle, he said that their great spirit should be invariably carried forward as the eternal soul of defence.

Kim Jong Un who is making an uninterrupted journey of devoted efforts for the accelerated growth of the national defence capability and the people's peace, was courteously seen off by the leading officials of the Nampho Shipyard and discharged navy generals.

The ceremony of launching the new-type multi-mission destroyer held in the presence of Kim Jong Un will shine forever in history as an auspicious event heralding the new birth of the DPRK Navy and a great event that powerfully demonstrated before the whole world the spirit of advance and sure victory of our state and people dynamically advancing towards the grand goal of building an advanced maritime power.





# Kim Jong Un

## Speech at the Ceremony of Launching a Destroyer of the Navy of the Korean People's Army

Dear officials, workers and technicians of the Nampho Shipyard, which is a reliable large-scale warship-building base and is famed for the tradition and strength of self-reliance, and other workers and scientists in the shipbuilding sector,

Dear courageous commanders and sailors of the East Sea and West Sea fleets of the Navy of the Korean People's Army and the cadets of the naval university,

And respected demobilized generals, who are present here today with great pride in having long and wholeheartedly worked at important posts of our Navy,

Comrades, Moored in front of us now is a giant warship, symbolic of the changed appearance of our Navy.

I cannot suppress my emotions as I see the new-type warship, which is indispensable in building up our capability for stoutly defending our maritime sovereignty and which will represent an important starting point of our journey towards building an advanced maritime power.

I feel infinitely honoured to proclaim the birth of the first warship of a new generation, which the Navy of the heroic KPA will be equipped with.

First, I would like to extend warm thanks to the workers, technicians and officials of the Nampho Shipyard, who have presented immense strength and militant enthusiasm to our Navy by wonderfully building this powerful multi-mission destroyer, true to the line of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic on strengthening the naval forces.

I also offer militant encouragement to the scientists, technicians and workers in the shipbuilding sector and the relevant persons, who are working hard for steady creation and development as the main force of the revolution in the warship-building industry in the new era.

My congratulations go to the officers and men of the East Sea Fleet of the Navy of the KPA, who will receive and operate the new-type destroyer, as well as to the commanders and crewmen, who will serve on this warship.

The more I see the imposing appearance of the new-generation multi-mission attack destroyer No. 1, which our proud working class have built by their own efforts and which is mooring on the blue sea of our motherland, the more majestic it looks.

I feel quite moved to picture that this destroyer will navigate the territorial waters of our motherland with our sacred national flag hoisted.

And I feel quite at ease at the thought that our territorial waters will become more peaceful with the help of this destroyer.

The emergence of this destroyer has made a breakthrough in modernizing our naval forces.

To explain the hardware of the destroyer, an ensemble of our self-reliant defence technology, it is equipped not only with anti-air, anti-ship, anti-submarine and anti-ballistic missile capability but also with weapon systems for the most effective ground striking operations, like hypersonic strategic cruise missile, tactical ballistic missile and other means of strike. So it is capable of performing multi-mission surface operations and thus

increasing the possibility of direct intervention by the Navy in the ground operations.

This is one of the things of great significance in view of the military theory.

This warship will be handed over to the Navy and launched into operation in early next year after going through the necessary procedures, like the assessment of its performance and capability for conducting operations and the test of operation of its integrated equipment.

We will, of course, build warships of this class next year, too. And we are planning to build in the shortest time possible a cruiser, whose operations capability is greater, as well as escort ships of various classes, and are now examining their master plans at the final stage.

We will execute this plan of building multi-mission destroyers year by year, and these ships will sail for operations in ordinary times in the coastal defensive waters and intermediate waters.

Indeed, I would like to express my emotions again and again.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of our country's liberating itself from imperialist colonial subordination and regaining its national sovereignty. On April 25 in this meaningful year, the birthday of the first revolutionary armed forces of Korea, we have launched a powerful destroyer as an ensemble of our great national power, so this launching ceremony is more significant.

The dawn of the Korean revolution, the establishment of state power which signified that the Korean people achieved their right to independence, and their nearly-a-century-long struggle in defence of the country's sovereignty have been directly associated with the Juche-oriented armed forces, and the people have achieved victory after victory by relying entirely on these forces.

For us, April 25 is the starting point of a bloody armed struggle that began before the establishment of our state power and the founding of our Party and brought about all the momentous events.

This can be described as the birth of our people's first-ever genuine armed forces, and at the same time a demonstration of the resolute stand of the Korean revolutionaries who were determined to fight with a clear purpose and consciousness and carve out their destiny independently.

This was a day when they solemnly expressed their decision to take the road of armed struggle as their volitional and responsible choice, and their will to regain

national sovereignty and establish a democratic government with indomitable revolutionary faith and through a death-defying struggle. Such is our generation's renewed understanding of April 25, 1932, a day bearing a more important political meaning than February 8, 1948, the birthday of Korea's first regular armed forces.

This renewed understanding of the historic weight of April 25 reminded us, when we were fixing this significant day as a day of this meaningful ceremony, of a veteran general who had left remarkable imprints in the glorious history of the Juche-oriented revolutionary armed forces.

This state-of-the-art multi-mission destroyer standing in front of us was classified as a Choe Hyon-

class vessel, and, as stated just before, this first warship was named *Choe Hyon*.

General Choe Hyon, a faithful comrade-in-arms of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, is well known to the Korean people. Though his career was not specially associated with sailors, we named the first destroyer of a new generation after him, who lives in our memories as a symbol of bravery and mettle. This is because we hope our sailors' spirit will be impregnated with his soul so that the Navy will achieve victory unprecedented in the annals of its history.

Comrades Kim Chaek, An Kil, Choe Hyon, Kang Kon and all the other commanding officers of guerrilla origin were genuine generals of practical abilities. They loyally supported the great leader and assisted him with unshakable faith and remarkable military qualifications; they performed considerable exploits in liberating our country by organizing armed ranks on the principle of fighting the Japanese independently, in building our state and army in their initial days and in repulsing the allied imperialist forces.

The elite warships, which will serve as new symbols of our state's self-defensive capabilities, should naturally raise as their colours the idea upheld by the first generation of our Juche-oriented revolutionary armed forces. And by faithfully carrying forward their forerunners' courage and indomitable spirit, our sailors should regard it as their absolute mission to fight self-sacrificingly to defend the dignity of their country and the safety of their fellow people.

Other new-type destroyers to be built in the future will be named after the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who distinguished themselves as renowned fighters and performed brilliant feats in the history of army building.

Over the past nearly eight decades the Navy of the Korean People's Army has repelled dangerous attempts at invasion on countless occasions and defended the maritime sovereignty, which is the core of our national sovereignty. The history of our Navy shows that the seas of our country are defended by its sailors' spirit.

During the war and in the subsequent decades our Navy was inferior to the enemy in the number of sailors and the level of armament, but it added eternal glory to the victorious history of the heroic KPA and



built barriers of no retreat in the maritime gateways, which had been traditionally used as routes of invasion.

All these exploits cost our sailors precious blood and even lives, which cannot be fully explained in relation to the characteristics of their duty—defending the country's territorial waters that have never been peaceful over the past decades. Such ennobling exploits could not have been achieved if the sailors had not displayed their incomparable spirit for national defence and heroic fighting mettle.

Present here are the former generals of the Navy, who, during their service, displayed their unbounded self-sacrificing spirit and indomitable fortitude without veering even an inch from the sacred course. They thus achieved imperishable exploits to be etched forever in the history of our country's Navy for national defence.

A change of generations has taken place in our honourable Navy's ranks. However, the great spirit of our forerunners should be invariably carried forward, the spirit which they displayed by shedding blood in the rough seas with no marks of borderline in order to defend our Republic's sovereignty. This spirit, along with the indomitable courage and perseverance possessed by the founding generation of our armed forces, should shine brilliantly as our eternal soul of defence.

The destroyer *Choe Hyon*, which has been launched today, and other latest warships to be built will re-energize the heroic fighting spirit of our sailors and inject infinite vigour into them, thereby encouraging them to perform immortal feats to be admired by the coming generations.

Comrades,

That new-type destroyer will soon navigate the territorial waters of our Republic along the sacred course for defending its sovereignty, reflecting our people's burning desires for peace and prosperity.

For our state, the seas on its east and west are bases that are directly linked with the people's living, and they also belong to key territories over which it exercises its sovereign power.

A powerful navy guarantees peace and development—herein lies a geopolitical peculiarity of our country as a maritime state. Proceeding from this, as has ever been since the founding of our armed forces, it is our most pressing and natural option to quickly develop and incessantly expand the fighting capability of the Navy.

The maritime sovereignty of our state can be defended only by its naval supremacy.

In recent years, after we advanced a revolutionary line of strengthening the Navy, the anchor was raised for warship modernization with the birth of the first entity of this line. With this as a momentum, our Navy has secured its place as a powerful service responsible for one of the country's independent defence capabilities. In particular, as part of the nuclear war deterrent, it can enhance its position in the realm of nuclear use. This has resulted in the Navy growing more adaptable to the use of war deterrent.

Our destroyer will play an important role of firmly defending our maritime sovereignty and national interests in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Now our Navy has taken the first step of the times towards practical growth by leaps and bounds.

What we experience at this moment is extremely impressive as we are surely proud that we have at last kindled the initial spark of the new era's revolution in strengthening the Navy, as we have already declared.

Research, development and production of all modern equipment of the destroyer were a costly and hard challenge. But its overall armament system is based on the solid foundations of our self-supporting defence industry. So, we have a substantial guarantee for the effectiveness of its equipment operation, not to mention its military and economic significance.

This destroyer is perfect as planned, in all aspects ranging from designing and hull construction to on-board weapon systems. Seeing this entity, we can proudly say that a radical change has taken place in warship building.

Actually, this is a monumental product of the revolutionary industry that showcases the might of our defence science and technology and the inexhaustible creativity of our intelligent and loyal working class.

The workers, technicians and officials of the Nampho Shipyard, by dint of strenuous exertion, utmost sincerity and irreproachable work style, have proved the veracity of, and the inevitability of victory in, the revolution in

the warship-building industry as decided upon by our Party.

As an authoritative shipbuilding base with a history spanning nearly eight decades, the shipyard has built numerous vessels of varying sizes and kinds. Its shipbuilding techniques are admirable, and what impresses me more is the heroic mettle of its workers, who I am sure must have spent hundreds of days and nights working strenuously to complete their tasks unconditionally and as scheduled, in support of the Party's line of effecting a revolution in the warship-building industry.

On behalf of the DPRK government and all the people, particularly the officers and men of our Navy who are more excited than anybody else at this moment, I would like to express my greatest thanks and extend my warmest greetings once again to the workers, technicians and officials of the Nampho Shipyard for having wonderfully built the first destroyer of a new generation.

Comrades,

The present security environment for our state is very serious and the situation demands that we effect a drastic and rapid change in the existing military theories and practices and expand our nuclear armaments radically.

The security environment around the DPRK is as unpredictable as the changeable weather in the sea.

It is highly volatile, its tenseness and instability already having gone well beyond the danger limit.

The armies of the United States and its vassal countries, in disregard of the DPRK's concern for security, are aggravating the situation by engaging in provocative manoeuvres on a regular basis.

Recently, we have witnessed more of their moves growing dangerous.

The United States is bringing strategic strike means into the Korean peninsula at a level of constant deployment.

Worse still, the themes of its recent various military drills unambiguously reveal their aggressive character, casting off the cloak of being annual and defensive.

As our government commented some time ago, in 2024 the enemies set a new record by staging anti-DPRK war drills at unprecedented levels throughout the year, and this year, too, they are radically expanding their political and military provocations against us.

They have taken practical measures for action, openly revealing their intention to remain most hostile and confrontational to the DPRK, and become ever more undisguised in renewing all their past records.

Most recently, the US military opened to the public that last year it drew up a new wartime operations plan in collusion with the ROK army.

In his written answer to a hearing of the Armed Services Committee of the US House of Representatives, the commander of US forces in the ROK wrote that in 2024 the US and ROK military signed a new joint wartime operations plan, which had been completed over the past several years, and practically verified the plan through various allied joint military rehearsals.

It is no secret that during the joint military rehearsal in March last the US and the ROK applied OP-PLAN 2022 to jointly operate the nuclear forces of the US and the conventional forces of the ROK and conduct a drill of aggressive nature simulating nuclear strike against the DPRK, and we have already given a serious warning to the enemy states for their provocative signals.

The fact that the man in command of the US-ROK allied forces made public the existence of a new operations plan for unleashing a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is an outspoken expression of a frenzy of confrontation against the DPRK and an open escalation of the clash-provoking situation.

In the 1990s, OP-PLAN 5027 of the US and the ROK simulating an all-out war against us was opened to the public only to create a touch-and-go situation on the Korean peninsula, and the political and military situation in and around the Korean peninsula was brought to the worst stage for years after OP-PLAN 5015, which additionally included a preemptive strike strategy, was mapped out in 2015. Such facts clearly show the consequences to be entailed by the new wartime operations plan of the US on the security environment of the region.

The new nuclear war plan of the US and the ROK is an expression of their clearest will for fighting a war against the DPRK and poses a direct threat to the peace and security in the region and the rest of the world.

The mastermind behind the escalating tension on the Korean peninsula is none other than the US and its vassal allies that have become more daring in their military

manoeuvres for transplanting NATO's infrastructure in the region and raising the level of war preparedness.

The project of the US and the ROK to make preparations for translating a nuclear war into reality has reached the gravest stage. This situation and its development prospect show us more clearly what we must attach importance to and what we must do.

We will surely cope with such a geopolitical crisis and developments, and take countermeasures.

As for our nuclear policy which has been officially enshrined in the basic law of the DPRK, it was adopted in correct reflection of the state's apprehension about its security exposed to the existing and future threats, and the present reality highlights the validity, justness and necessity of the line of building up our nuclear forces.

Most recently, I saw to it that our intention was made public through our external news service.

If the US keeps renewing its records in demonstrating its military muscles, we are also compelled to break the records of exercising the strategic deterrent.

This is a legitimate counteraction.

The enemies are well-advised to refrain from trying to test our will to fully exercise our right to mobilize without hesitation all the means in our hands for the purpose of defending the sovereignty and security interests of the state.

We will continue to make steady efforts, full of redoubled self-confidence, to further round off the nuclear defence posture based on the strong counterattack capability everywhere in the sky, on the land and on the sea and, by dint of overwhelming strength, thoroughly deter various military activities of the enemies that constantly deploy huge strategic assets, posing serious threats to the sovereignty and interests of our state.

Today's launch of this destroyer is only the start of the project for modernizing our naval forces. However, it is a perfect demonstration of our grand ambition to build up the fighting capability of our Navy in keeping with the priority requirement for the state's security and the global trend in developing the naval forces.

Now is not an era of merely having a dream, but that of just translating the dream into reality.

It is no use dreaming an idle dream for hundreds, nay thousands of days; it is no better than dreaming no such dream.

What we are planning in the effort to strengthen the naval forces is to put the latest-type warships, capable of satisfying all the demands of national defence strategies, into commission at the earliest possible date with crucial importance given to the radical growth of the warship-building industry, and thus develop the Navy of our Republic into a modern service superior not only in the political and ideological aspects but also in the military and technical aspects.

Building multi-mission destroyers can be called a key to attaining this goal.

Even the enemies, who boast about their supremacy in marine operations and warships, cannot ignore such warships.

We will further accelerate the work of strengthening the surface and underwater forces, and continuously exert ourselves to equip the warships with new-generation hi-tech means and complex offensive and defensive systems and to improve and reinforce the coastal infrastructure.

Obtaining operational capabilities on the oceans is the most reliable means for controlling positively and safely the military threats pregnant with the use of nukes on the Korean peninsula and for containing and blocking the enemy's schemes to dispatch its additional overseas troops to the peninsula in case of emergency.

We are now planning to build a fleet for ocean operations that have long been around as a byword for the imperialists' aggression.

This is a demand put forward by the present reality facing us.

Our enemies that have formed the most reactionary military bloc and been sailing around the Korean peninsula are all maritime states; and the bridgeheads for their overseas aggression, the assembly points of their forces and their logistics bases are also located on the oceans and their coastal waters.

The stark reality, in which the oceans are turning into the first battlefield, clearly teaches us what the reliable policy is to defend our national sovereignty and peace.

From the point of view of strength, the strength that can make aggression is directly proportional to the strength that can check aggression.



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The term that refers to the level of the most reliable war deterrent is, in a word, a super-powerful capability for preemptive strike.

The forces that are capable of committing aggression and the forces that are actually committing it can be overwhelmed and repulsed only by the forces that are on an equal footing in terms of strength.

The defence line and policies of our state regard it as their mission to safeguard the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and security interests, but, if an unavoidable, necessary situation presents itself for this mission, we will never hesitate to choose the preemptive employment of the most powerful military muscles.

The range of employment of this preemptive striking capability is not limited to any place or to any line.

That is why our Navy can never limit its operations to our territorial waters to safeguard the national sovereignty and interests, but must stretch its fighting capability to the oceans.

This is the best option for the defence of the territorial integrity and complete peace of our state and a fair and square exercise of the right to self-defence.

No more explanation is needed about our maritime strategy to build up the capability for launching into any waters in the world so as to check on our own initiative the aggression by the enemy states and mount a preemptive or ultimate retaliatory attack on them.

As a warship equipped with such capability, *Choe Hyon*, to be launched today, is an epitome that gives a glimpse into the future of our naval forces.

We can say that the building of this new-type destroyer has made a breakthrough for the historic sacred cause of rapidly raising our country to the status of a maritime power in the 21st century.

Today's ceremony of launching a new-type destroyer

will serve as a signal flare for strengthening the Navy of the DPRK.

And the second signal flare will be just the building of a nuclear-powered submarine.

Comrades,

At present developing the shipbuilding industry has risen as a vital task for strengthening the naval forces and a main strategic task for safeguarding the national sovereignty.

Though it is a road new to us, we have a correct goal and methods and the strength with which to follow it.

Policies have been set forth to accelerate the qualitative, quantitative and technical transformations and signally improve the operational capabilities in building warships, and long-term plans for developing the industry of building various warships and grand plans for building warships have already been approved.

In the course of this, our warship-building industry is taking on the appearance of a modern industry, and has accumulated the self-confidence and experience for building any types of advanced warships with its own efforts and technology.

This makes stronger our will for the rejuvenation of warship-building industry and the building of a maritime power.

I believe that the officials and workers of the Nampho Shipyard who, with the building of this new wonderful destroyer, have now stood in the vanguard of the struggle to develop the warship-building industry and build up the Juche-oriented naval forces of the country, will turn out as one under the uplifted banner of realizing modernization of the shipbuilding industry and effect another revolution in warship building.

I expect your vigorous and proactive struggle which surpasses all the efforts you have made until now.

Leading officials of the Party and the state, as well as senior officials of various sectors, should also fulfil

their important mission and tasks, entrusted by the era of revolution in the warship-building industry, through active participation and unstinted contribution.

Comrades,

Witnessing this great reality that helps us draw a full picture of our shipbuilding industry's potentials and development prospect, I feel assured and proud.

Now everyone feels dignified and pleased with the strengthening of our Navy, and is offering congratulations on it.

This must be a high appreciation of the great exploits the Navy has performed for the country and its devotion and reliability displayed in the struggle to defend our national sovereignty and interests, and an expression of their earnest desire for the growth and development of our Navy, which will make a rapid rise to the status of a world-class service.

There is and there must be no limit to the rapid growth of the national defence capability and to our ideals which we are desirous of and are striving to achieve.

Our history of Navy building, which the world witnesses with a new eye, has set sail now and will make vigorous advance. In this advance, we will not rest even a minute.

Dear officers and men of the Navy,

Let us pay respect to the destroyer *Choe Hyon*, which will be famed as an invincible warship for its association with the peerless heroism and indomitable spirit of the dauntless anti-Japanese war general.

His soul and banner will illuminate the sea route of our sailors and help them always record victory in their ship's log.

I wish the officers and men of the Navy success and glory.

Glory to our heroic naval forces!

Long live our great state, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea!

## Respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un sends musical instruments to newly-built schools in flood-hit areas



KCNA

The deep love and affection of the benevolent father who spares nothing for the younger generation and glorifies the bright laughter of the children as the image of Korean-style socialism are overflowing in the schools wonderfully built in the northwestern parts of the DPRK, where the aftereffects of flood damage were removed.

The respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un sent pianos, accordions, guitars, oungum, kayagum, harmonicas and other musical instruments as gifts to the schools newly built in the flood-hit areas in North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces.

Last year he took special measures for the education of schoolchildren from the flood-hit areas and personally visited the April 25 Hostel to warmly bless the future of the children. He took a measure to build wonderful schools adding pride to their native villages whose looks had undergone radical changes, and supply

modern teaching aids and furnishings, educational equipment and sports apparatuses to them. This time he showed great benevolence of sending many musical instruments to them.

This reflects the meticulous love and affection of the fatherly Marshal who regards the children as priceless treasures and all hope and future and wants the schoolchildren to grow up cheerfully and bravely without envy in the world.

Meetings were held on the spot to convey the musical instruments sent by Kim Jong Un.

The venues of the meetings were in a festive mood with the deep gratitude and joy of the students and teaching staffs who were to receive the gifts.

Present at the meetings were officials of the Party and power organs, officials concerned, teaching staffs, students and their parents in North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces. Speeches of conveying the gifts were made at the meetings.

Speakers said with deep emotion that

the respected fatherly Marshal, cherishing the noble idea that there are our children before and above the people our Party upholds as Heaven, repeatedly provided the rising generations with dreamy happiness.

Representing the unanimous mind of schoolchildren and their parents, they respectfully extended deep thanks to Kim Jong Un who puts forward education as the first state affair to which priority should be given and the biggest efforts should be directed in any period and at any stage and brings the bright future of the rising generations into full bloom.

They called upon all the officials and teaching staffs to devote themselves to education and upon the students to study hard, take an active part in the organizational life and extracurricular activities and thus prepare themselves to be true sons and daughters of the fatherly Marshal, bearing deep in mind the great love and trust of the motherly Party.

The meetings were held at Hadan Senior Middle School No. 1 in Sinuiju

City, Soho Senior Middle School in Uiju County, Kwangmyong Senior Middle School in Songgan County, Muphyong Branch School under Hwaam Primary School in Jonchon County, Sampho Senior Middle School in Kim Hyong Jik County and other schools. After receiving with boundless emotion the gifts associated with the benevolence of the Party, the participants at the meetings said that the embrace of the respected Marshal is the greatest one in the world as he is taking good care of the children across the country with his paternal love and affection as their tender-hearted father and parent would do.

The cheerful laughter of the children and the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* will resound forever in the clear and blue sky over the country, conveying to the whole world the great benevolence of Kim Jong Un who is cultivating the socialist motherland more brightly and beautifully with his ardent love and boundless affection for the rising generations.



# On the occasion of founding anniv of KPRA

## Floral tribute paid at Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong

KCNA

Senior Party, government and military officials, including Pak Thae Song and Choe Ryong Hae, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, visited the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong in Pyongyang on April 25 to pay

floral tribute to anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs. The children of the anti-Japanese revolutionary and patriotic martyrs, teaching staff and students of revolutionary schools were also seen among the visitors. The cadres of the Party, government and military, together with the participants, observed a one-minute silence in memory

of the revolutionary martyrs who devoted their precious lives to the sacred cause of independence, sovereignty, development and prosperity of the country and freedom and happiness of the people. Then the participants went round the cemetery. The participants laid flowers at the busts of the martyrs and paid noble tribute to them.

Senior Party, government and military officials visit the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong in Pyongyang on April 25 to pay floral tribute to anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs.



## Defence ministry art troupe gives song and dance performance



The Song and Dance Ensemble of the Ministry of National Defence puts on a music and dance performance "Eternal echo from Paektu campus" at the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang on April 25 in celebration of the 93rd founding anniversary of the KPRA.

KCNA

The Song and Dance Ensemble of the Ministry of National Defence put on a music and dance performance "Eternal echo from Paektu campus" at the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang on April 25 in celebration of the 93rd founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

The performance was seen by 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, Choe Tong Myong, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Jong Kyong Thack, director of the

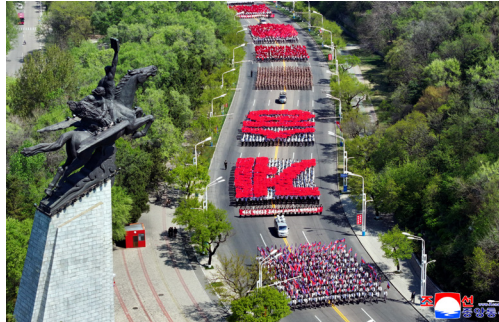
General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, other commanding officers of armed forces organs, service personnel, teaching staffs and students of Mangyongdae and Kang Pan Sok revolutionary schools and Pyongyang citizens. The national anthem of the DPRK was played solemnly and a variety of numbers were put on the stage, including famous songs of the times

demonstrating the tradition of invincibility of the Korean revolution. The performers sang highly of the bloody footprints of pioneering and the immortal history of resistance of the forerunners who defeated the imperialist tyranny, regarding the Juche-oriented idea and doctrine as absolute truth, and the brilliant heyday of a powerful country being ushered in on this land permeated with

the blood and soul of the guerrillas. The stage was also decorated distinctively by numbers on diverse themes including dance pieces "The Drum of Victory in the Guerrilla Zone" and "Azaleas in the Homeland" representing the fighting spirit and revolutionary optimism of the anti-Japanese fighters with refined and graceful rhythmic movements and small male ensemble "The

Horse Sledge of Guerrillas Runs". And song and dance "Dear Father" well represented the passion and joy of the Korean people who are opening up a new era of prosperity unprecedented in the history of the country, holding the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in high esteem at the helm of the revolution. The performance was acclaimed by the audience.

## Commemorative march of successors held to carry forward soul of anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners



A commemorative march of successors takes place in Pyongyang on April 25.

KCNA

A commemorative march of successors took place in Pyongyang on April 25 to carry forward the soul of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners. Prior to the march, Kim Jong Sun, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, made a speech. She said that the founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was a grand momentous event that declared the death-defying resistance against the imperialists under the banner of achieving national liberation and independence by national efforts. The new generations

have an important mission to carry forward the noble soul of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners under the guidance of General Kim Il Sung, she said, calling on them to purify their soul with the revolutionary spirit of Paektu and fully display their youthful strength and mettle at the worthwhile worksites for the comprehensive rejuvenation and development of socialism. Amid the playing of the song "We Are Successors to Revolution", the young vanguard started the march of succession at the plaza of the April 25 House of Culture. Choe Tong Myong, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers'

Party of Korea, Jong Kyong Thack, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, and other cadres warmly encouraged the participants in the march. A column holding the portraits of Kim Chaek, Kang Kon, Kim Il, Choe Hyon and other ardent loyalists, who had fought the protracted and bloody anti-Japanese war, holding General Kim Il Sung in high esteem as the centre of unity and leadership, advanced vigorously in the van of the procession. The participants in the march made a pledge of eternal succession before the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill.



# On the occasion of founding anniv of KPRA

## Nation celebrates KPRA anniversary

KCNA

All the Korean people and service personnel of the Korean People's Army significantly celebrated the 93rd anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

Crowds of people flowed to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

In the plaza park, visitors paid their noblest respect to the President and the Chairman who started the sacred cause of the Juche revolution and provided a firm military guarantee for the prosperity of all generations to come.

People and service personnel visited the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill and mosaic

murals representing the images of the peerlessly great men to lay flower baskets and bouquets and make a bow to the great peerless sages.

Officials, working people, youth and students in all parts of the country visited the homes of service members, war veterans and honoured disabled soldiers to share the joy of the holiday.

A variety of performances were given at theatres in Pyongyang and local areas.

Outdoor performances were given in different places of Pyongyang, revving up the holiday atmosphere.

The same was the case with South Phyongan, South Hwanghae, Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces, adding to people's pride and joy of greeting the significant holiday.

That day, public catering



The 93rd anniversary of the KPRA is significantly celebrated throughout the country.

establishments throughout the country provided diverse holiday services. The happy

laughter of working people, who spent a good time of rest, could also be heard



at the Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum, the Amusement Park of

Kaesong Youth Park and other bases of cultural and leisure activities.

## Working people's organizations hold celebrations

KCNA

### Trade union officials and members meet to mark anniversary of KPRA

Officials and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) met at the Kuksabong Revolutionary Battle Site in South Phyongan Province on April 23 to hear impressions of the reminiscences of anti-Japanese guerrillas on the occasion of the 93rd founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA).

Prior to the meeting, the participants made a study tour of the revolutionary battle site.

At the meeting the performers explained the undying exploits of President Kim Il Sung who founded the KPRA, the first revolutionary armed force of the Juche type and led the arduous anti-Japanese war to victory and thus accomplished the historic cause of national liberation.

The indomitable spirit and iron-willed strength to defeat the imperialist tyranny were bolstered up

and a great tradition which is of fundamental and permanent significance in the development of the Korean revolution was provided in the anti-Japanese armed ranks led by the President, they noted.

They noted that the images of the anti-Japanese forerunners are still shining in the front rank of the Korean revolution as they devotedly defended the headquarters of the revolution, holding the President in high esteem as the centre of unity and leadership and displaying matchless heroism and self-sacrificing spirit.

The performers called upon all the officials and members of the trade union to greet the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea with proud labour achievements, saying that only victory and glory are in store for them who are advancing under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

### Meeting of youth and students held

Youth and students held a meeting at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on April 24 to follow the

examples of the heroes of the revolutionary film "Star of Korea".

Present there were Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, officials of the youth league and youth and students in Pyongyang.

The participants watched the revolutionary film "Star of Korea" (Part 6).

The film dealing with the immortal revolutionary exploits of President Kim Il Sung who successfully realized the centuries-old desire of the Korean people to have their genuine revolutionary armed forces by founding the first revolutionary armed forces of the Juche type deeply moved the participants.

At the meeting speakers said that the President organized and waged the armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists after clarifying the immutable truth that the destiny of the nation and the victory of the revolution depend on arms, adding that it is an exploit that will be immortal along with the long history of the Korean revolution which was pioneered and emerged victorious by force of arms.

They noted that thanks to this historic day when the anti-imperialist, death-defying resistance was declared under the uplifted banner of national liberation and self-reliant independence, a turn could be brought about in the struggle for carving out the destiny of the Korean people and the whole course of the sacred Korean revolution

could be recorded with victory and glory.

They expressed their will to decorate their worthwhile youth with loyalty and feats on the road of carrying forward the glorious tradition of the Korean revolution which is great in its start and succession.

### UAWK officials and agricultural workers hold oath-taking meeting

Officials of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea (UAWK) and agricultural workers held an oath-taking meeting at the Kuksabong Revolutionary Battle Site in Nampho Municipality on April 23 on the occasion of the 93rd founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

Prior to the meeting, the participants made a study tour of the revolutionary battle site.

A resolution was read out at the meeting attended by Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the UAWK, officials concerned, officials of the UAWK and agricultural workers.

Then speeches were made.

### Women's union officials, members hold story-telling meeting

Women's union officials and members had a story-telling meeting "We will carry forward the brilliant traditions of the anti-Japanese war forever" at the Hall of Women in Pyongyang

on April 24 to mark the 93rd founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

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

The speakers referred to the immortal exploits of President Kim Il Sung who raised the anchor of the Juche revolution with the founding of the first genuine armed rank of Korea and led the revolutionary cause for the freedom and liberation of

and faith who devotedly defend the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un as the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters did the leader.

They called for making a positive contribution to consolidating in every way the military muscle of the country, keeping in mind the pride that no one in the world can match the Korean People's Army thanks to Kim Jong Un who is glorifying forever the outstanding military ideas of the peerlessly great men and ushering in a golden age of building the revolutionary armed forces.



A dance party of women's union officials and members takes place at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph in Pyongyang on April 25.

the country and the people to victory.

The first generation of the revolution who created the unprecedented resistance history still tells them that the succession to the revolution is not merely a succession but the inheritance of the fighting spirit and vigorous indomitable faith, the speakers said, calling upon all the women's union members to firmly prepare themselves to be persons strong in ideas

### Women's union officials, members hold dance party

A dance party of officials and members of the women's union took place at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph in Pyongyang on April 25 to mark the 93rd founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

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



A meeting of youth and students is held at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on April 24.





# Ninth April Spring People's Art Festival box-office success

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

## April spring people's art festival in praise of great man

The Ninth April Spring People's Art Festival took place with splendour at different theatres in the capital city of Pyongyang between April 10 and 17 on the occasion of the 113th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

Drawing artistic group members of different institutions, industrial establishments and farms, the festival was held, divided into the categories of city and county (combined) art groups, art groups of institutions, art groups of industrial establishments and art groups of farms.

Performances were given by art group members of Haeju City, Songchon County, Phyongchon District and Kumya County at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Hall of Culture of the Ministry of Railways, the Central Youth Hall and the Central Hall of Workers in Pyongyang.

Through narrative poem and chorus and other forms of numbers reflecting their yearning for the President and the exploits of the peerlessly great men associated with their units, performers sang in praise of the noble revolutionary career and exploits of the President, who adopted "The people are God" as his lifetime motto and continued

his field guidance tours without rest all his life.

The audience was greatly moved by the performances given by Haeju City and Songchon County art group members as they impressively showed the world of patriotic devotion to the people of General Secretary Kim Jong Un who has been making constant devoted efforts to provide the people with a rich and cultured life.

Through different numbers making the audience picture both the past and present of the Korean people, the performers impressively showed the pride of their localities, where the locals' laughter resounds in fairyland villages and modern regional industry factories built splendidly under the care of the Workers' Party of Korea and the faith and optimism of the Korean people who are advancing towards a bright future.

The members of the art groups of the Rason Municipal People's Committee and Kangwon Provincial Posts and Telecommunications Bureau displayed their pride and extolled the undying exploits of the President, who built an invincible socialist country, at the People's Palace of Culture and East Pyongyang

Grand Theatre.

The members of the similar groups of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm and September Textile Mill sang praise of the immortal exploits of the respected General Secretary who unfolded a gigantic blueprint for the rural revolution and the revolution in regional development in the new era and has brought about epoch-making miracles with his energetic guidance.

Famous songs, consistent with intense philosophical speculation about the country and national pride, filled the audience with boundless excitement with marching songs of the times redoubling the spirit of the powerful country.

The Ninth April Spring People's Art Festival, in which songs and dances reflected the boundless reverence for the President, founder of socialist Korea and eternal saviour of the nation, revved up the festive atmosphere of the April holiday as a grand political and art festival overflowing with the faith and will of all the people to hold the President in high esteem forever and add eternal lustre to the new era of national prosperity under the leadership of the great Party.

## Performances featured by tremendous admiration, confidence and optimism

The Ninth April Spring People's Art Festival held in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 113th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung aroused the deep admiration of the Korean people for him and injected great vitality to the general advance for the overall development of socialism.

The performances of all the participating units won a high accolade of the audiences. Especially, the shows staged by the members of the art groups of the Sangwon Cement Complex and Changsong County were extolled as they impressively represented the undying exploits and loving care of the peerlessly great men, associated with their unit and local area, and their present proud reality.

The art group members of the Sangwon Cement Complex showed well the pride and honour of the employees of the complex who are adding lustre to the great golden age of construction through increased cement production with deep yearning for the President who had visited the complex to open up a bright prospect for increased production and take great loving care of workers.

Changsong County, where a new history of "gold mountains" started, is well

known to the country.

The performers from the county depicted the history of their remote mountain county, which turned into a place of "gold and treasure mountains" under the wise guidance of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, and the present reality of the county, which is undergoing rejuvenation and change once again in the new era of regional transformation.

Honoured disabled soldiers also participated in the art festival.

The art group members of the Sariwon Disabled Soldiers' Sewing Thread Factory portrayed the history of love shown by the Workers' Party of Korea and the state for the honoured disabled soldiers and their resolve to return the favour, through natural and truthful representation.

Those of the September Textile Mill enjoyed popularity for the distinctive large-scale kayagum ensemble. They had made a deep impression on the audiences in the previous festivals by staging unique kayagum ensemble pieces. This time, they increased the scale of the ensemble. Scores of kayagum players in elegant and beautiful national costume, together with players of such national musical instruments as

janggu (hourglass drum), jottae (a kind of flute) and jangsaeonap (a kind of woodwind instrument), performed songs with gusto, vividly representing the present reality in which the Korean people, who enjoy the blessing of having great leaders generation after generation, are vigorously advancing towards a brighter future under the leadership of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

Among the performers there were innovator couples attracting special attention of the audiences.

O Un Chol and his wife Ri Un Ju are members of the art group of the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm. The husband played the trumpet and the wife took the narration and singing parts in their performance.

O Un Chol blew the trumpet with the skill as remarkable as experts' as he performed almost every number of their performance. Ri Un Ju, by dint of her characteristic narration, impressively represented the loving care of the General Secretary, who ensured that a large-scale greenhouse vegetable production base was built in the Kangdong area to supply the Pyongyang citizens with fresh vegetables all the year round, thereby capturing the imagination of the audience.



The Ninth April Spring People's Art Festival is held with splendour at theatres and halls in the capital city of Pyongyang.



# Historic event signals a new turning point in DPRK-Russia friendship

By Choe Song Jun PT

In April 2019, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un had the first meeting and talks with Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

His first visit to Russia was a historic event which provided a cornerstone for the DPRK-Russia relations in the new era and marked a new turning point in developing the strategic and traditional relations of friendship.

The meeting and talks the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un held with President Putin demonstrated to the international community the will and stand of the two countries to develop the bilateral friendly relations more solidly and soundly, ensure global peace and security and actively push forward

with the historic cause of building a just new world. The agreements reached at the talks between the top leaders of the two countries served as a clear landmark in strengthening the strategic cooperation for peace and security in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world and as a driving force for dynamically promoting the struggle of the peoples of the two countries for independence, peace and friendship.

He paid an official goodwill visit to the Russian Federation again in September 2023 to further develop the friendly relations between the two countries.

In particular, the news of his visit to the Vostochny Cosmodrome together with Putin and their open-minded and comprehensive exchange of views for the multi-faceted development of the DPRK-Russia friendly relations

attracted the worldwide attention.

As they met again in Pyongyang in 2024, the top leaders of the two countries discussed the issue of putting the bilateral relations on a comprehensive strategic partnership and expanding them in an all-round way and reached a perfect consensus of view. They also reached complete agreement on important issues arising in defending regional and global peace and international justice and the immediate matters of cooperation.

On December 4 last year, ratification instruments of the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the DPRK and the Russian Federation were exchanged.

Since the historic DPRK-Russia Pyongyang summit, the DPRK-Russia friendly relations have further developed into invincible

ones between comrades-in-arms and immortal strategic ones.

The DPRK-Russia friendly relations have further been expanded and strengthened into mutually beneficial cooperative relations in all fields under the deep care of the top leaders of the two countries.

The two countries have maintained close strategic communication through frequent high-level meetings and visits in various fields and enhanced cooperation and exchange in various fields including the economy and culture.

The unprecedentedly strengthening strategic and tactical cooperation between the two countries will inject increasing vigour into the struggle of the peoples of the two countries to build a powerful state and realize international justice.

## IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP



Han Song II, department head of the Intellectual Property Administration of the DPRK

April 26 is World Intellectual Property Day.

Marking the day, the WIPO and different countries organize a variety of events including commemorative lectures, symposiums, book and photo exhibitions, presentations of experience and commodity exhibitions for arousing social interest in IP rights so as to give people a better understanding of how the rights are connected with their life and how much the protection of the rights is important.

They also give wide publicity to such IP creators as inventors and innovators, who made distinguished contributions to economic and cultural development by exploring and pioneering the unknown world for mankind, so as to attract public interest in them.

The DPRK steadily enhances intellectual creativity according to the long-term goal and direction of IP work and constantly improves economic, social and legal environment favourable for the circulation and usage of IP.

It strengthens the IP rights protection system and speeds up sci-tech development under a well-regulated guidance system related to the rights.

Accordingly, many units have created IP and made the most of it skilfully in business activities.

Intellectual property contributing to promoting the overall rejuvenation of the country is on the steady increase day by day as it has become a social trait to preferentially treat and highly appreciate those who contribute to social progress and development by dint of knowledge and technology, especially sci-tech talents.

The intellectual property development exhibition-2024 took place last year amid a deep interest of all the people.

The theme for this year's World Intellectual Property Day is "IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP".

Music is the most universal element that is indispensable to all fields from science and technology to film and cultural amusements and the beat and rhythm of music deeply permeate our life.

Through a variety of activities conducted to mark World Intellectual Property Day, we will keenly feel that IP rights promote creation and innovation and inject greater vitality to music pulsing through our life.

## Press statement of spokesman for Korean Jurists Committee

KCNA

A spokesman for the Korean Jurists Committee on April 23 issued the following press statement titled "No one can infringe upon the sacred right of Koreans in Japan to democratic national education":

April 24 1948 is recorded in the history of the movement of Koreans in Japan as the day when the Koreans in Japan defended the right to democratic national education at the cost of their blood, resolutely countering through a massive struggle the fascist suppression by the US and the Japanese reactionaries to wipe out the Korean schools in their cradle.

Even after its defeat in August 1945, the Japanese reactionary government persistently forced the Koreans in Japan to receive "assimilation education" of the period of the Japanese imperialist colonial rule and, at the instigation of the US imperialists, issued the "closure order" to Korean schools in January 1948.

Moreover, it issued to all the prefectural governors of Japan a brigandish order that the Koreans' independent school establishment can never be recognized and the Korean children in Japan should enter Japanese schools

without condition.

Enraged by this, many Koreans in Japan turned out in a protest campaign to defend the democratic national education, but the Japanese reactionaries, ignoring their just demands, declared the "emergency situation" on April 24 1948 and ran amuck in such bloody suppression as firing water cannon and bullets and arresting and detaining them by mobilizing huge police force.

It has been nearly 80 years since the defeat of the Japanese imperialists, but there is no slight change in the Japanese authorities' extreme national chauvinism and unethical discrimination policy to obliterate the national education of Koreans in Japan.

A typical example is the fact that in August 2019 the Japanese authorities, referring to kindergartens under the Korean schools, issued an instruction to all local autonomous bodies not to receive the application for licensing of childcare facilities to dismiss all the applications they received.

It is quite natural for Koreans in Japan to teach their children the Korean language and it is the basic requirement of international law that the children should be provided with the best interests and financial assistance.

Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations stipulates that all signatories to it shall recognize the right of the child to education, and achieve this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity.

However, the Japanese authorities are foolish enough to interpret the convention in conformity with their chauvinism-stained law, and they have not kept even their commitment to equitably apply the "Child Rearing Support Act" to all the children.

It is a hideous violation of human rights that can never be found in the history of any country to deprive people of even their elementary right to teach the rising generations their mother tongue.

The Japanese authorities are imposing the same tax-paying obligation as the Japanese on Koreans in Japan, but they are excluding only the Korean schools for their children from various educational assistance systems including the application of "tuition-free programme for senior high schools" and "free education and upbringing of children" under unreasonable pretexts, thus hurting the innocent children in their hearts.

The enforcement of democratic national

education by Koreans in Japan is a natural exercise of their rights which fully conforms to international human rights conventions including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Discrimination in Education of UNESCO and many other international laws accepted by Japan and Japan's national laws such as the Constitution and the Fundamental Law of Education of Japan.

The Japanese government has a legal obligation as well as moral responsibility to provide the Koreans in Japan, the direct victims of the Japanese imperialists' military rule over Korea, and their children, with national rights such as the right to education and the right to life.

The legitimate right to national education of Koreans in Japan is a sacred one which can neither be denied in any case nor be infringed upon by anyone.

The Korean Jurists Committee strongly demands that the Japanese authorities immediately withdraw all illegal institutional and administrative discrimination measures encroaching upon the democratic national rights of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and Koreans in Japan and fulfil their legal and moral obligations.

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# TABLE-TENNIS PLAYERS AMONG TOP 10 PLAYERS OF DPRK



Kim Kum Yong

By Ri Sung Ik PT

## Dark horse in world table tennis

An Asian superstar and heroine who opened a new chapter for the development of world table tennis—this is the comment of the sporting world on Kim Kum Yong who surprised the table tennis circles of Asia and the world as well as that of the DPRK.

After learning the basic skills in the table tennis group of Unjong District extracurricular sports school, she began her playing career in a sports club and acquired unique and fierce attack, quick movement and close-range defence abilities.

Though she had little experience, Kim successively achieved good results at international events, emerging as a new star in the table tennis world.

She took the second place in the table tennis mixed doubles event at the 33rd Olympic Games last year and, after several months, cut a conspicuous figure at the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships, drawing global attention.

In the women's team event against China, she played the team's first match and defeated the world number one 3-1. She also won the women's singles by overwhelming a Japanese player by superior techniques and strategy in the final match, thus attaining the leading position in the Asian table tennis world.

She finished runner-up in the mixed doubles.

Foreign media outlets praised Kim Kum Yong's outstanding playing ability, high psychological quality and defensive and counteroffensive techniques.

The table-tennis player of the Hwaepul Sports Club has recently been selected as

one of the top ten players of the DPRK.

## Pooling skills and ideas

Ri Jong Sik of the Amnokgang Sports Club achieved good results in the mixed doubles of the 33rd Olympic Games and the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships, and secured a place among the top 10 players of the DPRK.

He was born and grew up in Sosong District, Pyongyang, and began to learn table tennis according to his liking. He always took the first place in age-specific games since primary school.

After joining the Amnokgang Sports Club, he took the first place in the men's singles event of the

2023 National Open Table Tennis Games and began to distinguish himself as a table tennis star in the country. He also fully displayed his capabilities in international games.

Pairing with Kim Kum Yong, he participated in the table tennis mixed doubles of the 33rd Olympic Games and demonstrated his high mental power and technical and tactical abilities, making a strong impression on experts and fans.

After losing to the DPRK team in their first match, the Japanese players said that Ri Jong Sik's competence was greater than imagined and he won admiration of many people through the match.

Meanwhile, many Chinese



Ri Jong Sik

people and news networks praised them as a magic combination of the DPRK and dark horses in table tennis.

In the event, Kim Kum Yong and Ri Jong Sik took the second place and won the country's first Olympic silver medals in the table tennis mixed doubles.

They came second in the mixed doubles of the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships.

## DPRK players bag four golds in international boxing competition

KCNA

DPRK players returned home after taking part in the 2025 Konstantin Korotkov International Boxing Tournament held in Khabarovsk, Russia.

The tournament brought together more than 140

men and women players from 16 countries and regions including the DPRK, Russia, Cuba, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The DPRK boxers won four gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

Kang Su Hyang, Hwang Un Jong, Ku Hyang Suk and Hwang Hyo Sun came first

in the women's 50kg, 54kg, 57kg and 66kg categories respectively.

The players, who returned home after exalting the honour of the country, were greeted at Pyongyang International Airport on April 21 by officials in the sports sector, sportspersons and their families.

## Qualification matches for Asian youth table tennis championships held

A scene of a match between the DPRK and the Chinese Hong Kong teams. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES



By Kim Hak Chol PT

The East Asian Qualification Tournament for the 29th Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships 2025 took place recently at the Table-Tennis Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang.

In the tournament attended by players of the DPRK and Hong Kong and Taipei of China, the men's and women's team matches were played on a round-robin basis.

The first and second placers would qualify for the 29th Asian Youth Table

Tennis Championships 2025.

Matches took place for two days of April 19 and 20.

The DPRK male players, who beat the Chinese Taipei team 3-0 on April 19, played the match with the Chinese Hong Kong team on April 20.

The two teams played matches very fiercely.

Defeated by the Chinese Taipei team 3-1 earlier, the players of the Chinese Hong Kong team did their best as they could obtain qualification only when they won.

But the DPRK players finished the matches 3-1 in their favour.

So they won first place in the men's team event by overpowering the Chinese Taipei team 3-0 and the Chinese Hong Kong team 3-1.

The Chinese Taipei team finished runner-up.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Hong Kong and DPRK teams came first and second respectively in the women's team event held on April 19.

As a result, the DPRK male and female players qualified for the 29th Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships 2025 to be held in Uzbekistan from June 26 to July 2 this year.

## Living monument—Mt Myohyang bombycis mulberry

By Jo Chol Ju PT

There is a large bombycis mulberry growing near the Pohyon Temple on Mt Myohyang.

It is a short broadleaved deciduous tree belonging to the mulberry family.

The bark of its trunk is greyish dark brown in colour and has some cracks.

The oval leaves are interlaced on branches.

The branches spread out around the middle part of the trunk and become larger going upwards to form a round luxuriant crown.

It is 14.6m high, 4m round at the root neck and 3m round at the chest height. The crown is 16.9m wide from east to west and 15.1m from north to south.

A living monument, Mt Myohyang bombycis mulberry is known to have been planted around 1680.

