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## People's ideal street symbolizing comprehensive development of prosperous powerful nation Inauguration ceremony of 10 000 flats at second stage in Hwasong area takes place with splendour Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un cuts inauguration tape and blesses owners of new houses

KCNA

Epoch-making changes have been made one after another in the promotion of the people's well-being under the wise leadership of the great Party Central Committee. The construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang is a project for building flourishing socialist living spaces in the capital of our dignified state every year. The whole country has greeted the birth of a new ideal street with joy with the completion of the task of the third year for the housing construction.

In accordance with the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK,



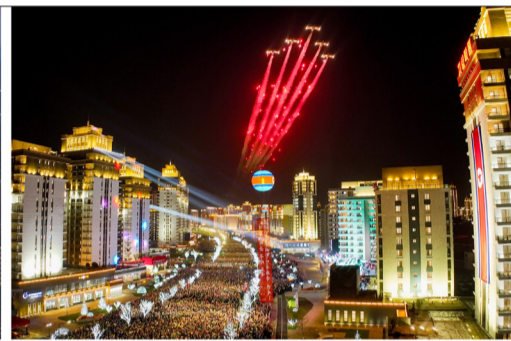
another monumental entity symbolizing the era of comprehensive national rejuvenation came into being. An inauguration ceremony of the 10 000 flats at the second stage in the Hwasong area was held with splendour on April 16.

The new large architectural group in the Hwasong area, which fully embodies the Party's idea on architectural aesthetics and successfully combines the Juche, national, modern and artistic characters, is a fruition of the noble loving care and a model edifice of socialist civilization, which has been created under the energetic guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who

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unfolded a plan to build a world-class ideal city full of people's happiness and leads it to be completed at the highest level. The architectural group is demonstrating the inexhaustible potentiality of the development of our state and its bright future.

The venue of the ceremony of a great auspicious event of the country, which will add joy to significant April, was filled with the boundless pride of the builders who are steadily realizing the long-cherished desire of the Party Central Committee for the people with their ardent loyalty and devoted patriotic struggle and with the great emotion of the blessed people including the owners of new wonderful dwelling houses.

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, attended the

ceremony.

When Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the ceremony amid the playing of welcome music, enthusiastic cheers broke out shaking heaven and earth.

All the participants paid the highest tribute to Kim Jong Un who is ushering in a comprehensive development of a prosperous socialist country where all the people's wishes are realized by uninterruptedly creating great epochal changes and unprecedentedly great events with his rare wisdom and outstanding leadership.

Present at the ceremony were Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Cabinet, secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK, officials of the Cabinet, armed forces organs, ministries and national agencies, builders and working people in Pyongyang.

The national anthem of the DPRK was

played.

Ri Il Hwan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, made an inaugural address.

Upon authorization of Kim Jong Un, he warmly congratulated the citizens of Pyongyang who are to enjoy a happy life in modern dwelling houses in Rimhung Street to be specially recorded in a page of the history of construction of the capital city, and extended heartfelt thanks and militant greetings in the name of the Party Central Committee to all the builders, officials and working people in the relevant fields who contributed to the completion of the new houses in significant April again, a "season of moving into new houses."

He said that at the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee which clarified the orientation of the struggle for 2023, the General Secretary unfolded a grand construction operation to build the

second-stage district of the Hwasong area into a unique street of modern beauty and, on the day of ground-breaking, he broke ground first. He visited the construction site again before the completion and meticulously led the builders to carry out the finishing process to be impeccable even in the distant future, the speaker said.

Indeed, the newly-built Rimhung Street is a fruition of Kim Jong Un's ardent sincerity to make the whole process of creation and construction consistent with the absolute service for the people and provide the people with only the best things in the world, he said, adding that it is a monumental architecture to convey the world of the nobleness and warmth of the people-first idea to posterity.

The construction unit of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang has grown into a militant

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and elite force taking the lead in the era of a new construction revolution along with structures built in every new street, he said, adding that the blasting of ground-breaking signalled by the respected General Secretary was followed by fireworks of completion thanks to the brave builders of the capital city who waged a courageous onward and three-dimensional campaign, united with the intention of the Party Central

Committee.

Stressing that all the builders in the Hwasong area should turn out in attaining the third- and fourth-stage goals set forth by the Party Central Committee, build excellent new streets and thus continue to lead the development of socialist civilization in the van, he ardently called upon them to more dynamically advance toward the bright future of the capital and state to be turned into the most beautiful socialist paradise under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un cut the inauguration tape.

A scene to be eternally recorded in the sacred journey of the WPK in its efforts for the promotion of the wellbeing of the beloved people was displayed at the venue of the ceremony. Stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" were raised, fireworks were set off and balloons rose up into the sky, beautifully decorating the Hwasong area.

An art performance was given to mark the inauguration of 10 000 flats at the second stage in the Hwasong area.

The area resounded with the songs sung by the people in praise of the great Workers' Party of Korea which is building a flower garden of all blessings on the basis of the idea of believing in the people as in Heaven while taking care of them in the sacred red flag.

The participants were moved by the songs representing the era of change, the great era of Kim Jong Un, in which an ideal society of the people and thriving

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# Father of the people

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Celebrating the anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung (April 15), the Korean people felt growing yearning for him.

President Kim Il Sung, who devoted his all to the people all his life, was the benevolent father of the people before being their leader.

"The people are my God" was his cherished opinion and lifelong motto.

He started the revolution by going among the people.

Saying that the commander is the son of the people, he carried on the 20-year-long bloody anti-Japanese struggle with love for and devotion to the people. And he defended the lives and property of the people and shared joy and sorrow with them, saying that as fish would not live without water, the guerrilla army

would not live without the people, and finally achieved the historic cause of national liberation.

He always put the interests of the people first and dealt with all the state affairs in conformity with the desire and opinion of the people.

One day in September 1947, two years after the country's liberation, he visited the then Songjin Steel Works.

It was a time when the country felt a pressing need for steel. But after learning about the situation of the steel works, he came to know that the ball iron workshop of the plant was a place of backbreaking labour which claimed many lives of Koreans before the country's liberation.

After gazing at the workers engaged in their job, he said that no matter how precious steel is, it can never be exchanged for the lives of the workers, and directly ordered

officials to blow up the workshop completely.

And thanks to the noble outlook on the people of the President, who always dealt with everything by prioritizing the promotion of the interests and health of the people, such people-oriented policies as the universal free medical care at the state's expense were enforced during the Fatherland Liberation War.

People's demands and interests were the criteria for all his thinking and practice, and sharing joy and sorrow with them was his consistent principle of leadership.

The famous Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-ri method, the revolutionary guiding ideology and method of leadership over the masses, were also the ones he advanced in the early 1960s after going among the farmers in Chongsan-ri and sharing

board and lodging with them to comprehensively reflect their desire and will in them.

He continued his field guidance tour to visit the people till the last moments of his life, saying he had to go everywhere they live.

He visited every nook and cranny of the country, making his way through the path of a marsh in the northern area, the ridgeway between paddy fields of farms early in the morning and the underground cutting faces of coal and ore mines.

He regarded it as his greatest pleasure to be among the people and found pleasure in the growing happiness of the people all his life.

In April 32 years ago, a delegation of *The Washington Times* journalists visited the DPRK and had an audience with the President.

As time passed and the dialogue began to heat up, they asked him about his feelings on his birthday

and his hobbies.

He answered that he regarded it as the greatest happiness that he had lived under the love and trust of the people for 80 years of his life and he would make every effort to live up to their expectations and trust in the future, too. And he added that he had no special hobby to speak to them and that he liked reading books and would often go among the people and spend time with them and it could be claimed to be his hobby.

It was a meaningful remark about his uncommon view on life and happiness.

The name of the DPRK shining with the name of the people, the gains of the revolution and monumental edifices built in different parts of the country tell forever the stories about the legendary affection and devotion of the President for the people.

## Old home at Mangyongdae

By Han Jong Ho PT

Many people visit the native home of President Kim Il Sung at Mangyongdae in April every year.

In the straw-thatched house with low-angle rafters, Kim Il Sung was born as the eldest son of his father Kim Hyong Jik and his mother Kang Pan Sok on April 15 1912.

It was around 1860 that his great-grandfather Kim Ung U moved into the house. As he could not afford even a small cottage, he became a grave keeper for a landlord in Pyongyang and settled in the grave keeper's house, the old home at Mangyongdae.

Though the President's family lived in severe poverty generation after generation, they had a strong sense of

patriotism and love for the people and dedicated their lives unhesitatingly to the struggle against the feudal bureaucrats and foreign aggressors.

Kim Hyong Jik, an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of Korea, devoted his noble life to the revolutionary struggle for the freedom and independence of the country and the education of the rising generations cherishing the idea of "Aim High" and Kang Pan Sok, an outstanding leader of the Korean women's movement, devoted her all to the sacred cause for the country and the people's happiness while bringing up the President to be a revolutionary.

From his childhood, Kim Il Sung nurtured a great patriotic will under the revolutionary influence of his

parents and family members.

He left his native home at the age of 14 with a firm determination that he would not return unless Korea became independent and embarked on the road of revolution, and returned to Mangyongdae he had missed so dearly after 20 years.

Many of his family members left the old home at Mangyongdae to take part in the revolution, but he was the only one who returned.

Though he had always missed his native home during the bloody anti-Japanese war, he visited Mangyongdae only after exchanging warm greetings with the people in the liberated country.

That day, his grandmother Ri Po Ik hurried out to the yard without stopping to put on her shoes and took him in her arms, and said in a choked

voice: "Why have you come alone? Where have you left your father and mother?"

His grandparents did not ask for any special favours but did farming till the last moments of their lives to contribute to nation-building while leading a frugal life in the low-roofed thatched house in Mangyongdae, though their grandson was the General of the country and the leader of the nation.

Preserved in the old home are historic relics associated with the memories of the President and his family members.

The old home at Mangyongdae is shining as the spiritual home of all the Korean people, the historic home, for the brilliant life of the President as the son of the people and the patriotic soul of his family members.

## Life of great man and anecdotes

By Kim Hak Chol PT

**Gruel and sore throat**

President Kim Il Sung would always have gruel in his childhood.

The gruel was prepared by powdering uncleaned sorghum with handmill, and it was difficult and painful to swallow.

That was why one of his uncle hit hard a bowl of gruel.

Once he had a sore throat. When one rubs and eats lard, the disease can be healed.

So the young President with a sore throat had to eat lard. But it was a big worry for poor living circumstances.

Worried about the disease of her eldest grandson, grandmother Ri Po Ik obtained a few pieces of pork by inquiring here and there.

He healed his disease after eating the pork.

Since then on, whenever he wanted to eat pork he had wished that he had a sore throat again in his childhood.

**President personally climbs up a factory's roof**

President Kim Il Sung got to know that there was a chemical fibre mill in a country during his visit to Eastern Europe in the summer of 1956. He visited the factory where it was difficult to breathe due to the smell of poisonous gas, although the leaders of the country dissuaded him from doing that and acquainted

himself with the mill for a long time.

He tried to get up on its roof though it was very slippery owing to the drizzling rain.

The President told attendants dissuading him that we should rebuild a chemical fibre mill as soon as possible in order to make clothes for the Korean people who lost everything in the war. To this end, we should first find out a way to remove harmful gas, he said, and climbed up the roof by holding a rough vertical ladder which was fixed on the wall.

When he got to the roof, an official majoring in chemistry said that there was nothing to consider on the roof and earnestly asked him to get down. At that time, the President asked him why did he say that there was nothing to consider and that he should learn how much harmful gas was discharged from the factory, adding that he would visit such a place a thousand times if his poorly clothed fellow countrymen could be dressed in silk clothes and Korean workers could do work without smelling the repulsive odour.

And he went to the edge of the slippery roof to put his hand on the bottom.

"I have never been to the roof when I looked round the factory. The respected Comrade Kim Il Sung is really a great man," the president of the country said with deep emotion after hearing the impressive news about his love for the people.



Birthplace of President Kim Il Sung at Mangyongdae.



# In celebration of 112th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung

## Korean people celebrate April holiday

KCNA

All the people and service personnel across the DPRK significantly celebrated the 112th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

Officials, working people, service personnel, youth and schoolchildren visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, and the statues of the peerlessly great men across the country to pay homage to them.

At the President's birthplace at Mangyongdae, the people keenly felt once again the great personality traits of the President and his family members who had inherited the spirit of patriotism and love for the nation and people generation after generation.

Students of revolutionary schools, pupils of primary schools and other children across the country received gifts associated with benevolent love of the



People from all walks of life pay floral tributes to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill on April 15.

Workers' Party of Korea on the occasion of the spring holiday of April.

The venues of photo exhibitions in provinces (municipalities) were filled with humble reverence for the peerlessly great man.

National flags of the DPRK were hoisted and visual aids were displayed at major places in Pyongyang, provincial capitals, seats of cities and counties,

institutions, enterprises, factories and farms to rev up the festive atmosphere.

Colourful art performances were given in Pyongyang and the provinces.

A women's volleyball game between the Pyongyang and Kigwancha teams was held at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and sports and amusement games were held in different parts of the country.

Working people, youth

and schoolchildren enjoyed themselves at the Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum, the People's Open-air Ice Rink and other recreation grounds.

Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants in Pyongyang, Sinhung Restaurant in Hamhung and other public catering establishments across the country served special holiday dishes to delight the people.

## Joint national meeting of KCU organizations held

KCNA

A joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union (KCU) organizations took place at Changdok School in the capital city of Pyongyang on April 14 to celebrate the 112th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

Attending it were students of Mangyongdae

Revolutionary School and Kang Pan Sok Revolutionary School, representatives of the KCU organizations in all provinces, schoolchildren in Pyongyang and pupils joining the KCU.

Present there at invitation were Kim Su Gil, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the

Workers' Party of Korea, Ri Tu Song, department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, officials of the youth league and persons of merit in the city.

Prior to the meeting, the participants laid flower baskets and bouquets at the statue of President Kim Il Sung at Changdok School and paid tribute to

him. Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, made a report.

The pupils joining the KCU made an oath, led by Kim Su Gil, and made the first greetings of the KCU, responding to the slogan "Let us always be ready for the socialist country!"

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nation, where the most beautiful socialist civilization is in full bloom, are built.

The venue of the ceremony was filled with patriotic passion as the national anthem of a powerful Korea led by the great father, a grateful socialist country where every desire of the people is translated into a reality, was solemnly played.

A flying corps flew in the nocturnal sky over Rimhung Street, displaying fascinating fireworks, blessing the people who are enjoying happiness with nothing to envy under the care of the Party.

Fireworks were set off again decorating the nocturnal view of the new street amid the playing of the song "Don't Advance, Night of Pyongyang" in the beautiful night of the splendid street in the capital, full of noble emotion peculiar to our

state and people.

When the performance was over, the venue of the ceremony turned into a sea of enthusiastic cheers again.

Kim Jong Un expressed great expectations and belief that the reliable builders of the capital who built more than 30 000 modern flats in a matter of three years would as ever successfully attain the next-stage goals of the five-year plan for the capital city construction advanced at the Eighth Party Congress with pure patriotism and loyalty and revolutionary mettle so as to turn Pyongyang into a world-class civilized city fit for the might of a powerful Korea in name and reality.

He warmly wished happiness to all the families who received the new flats in Rimhung Street in auspicious April.

The owners of the new street and all other participants, who are

deeply moved by the loving care of the motherly Party, extended deep gratitude to Kim Jong Un, who is working heart and soul day and night to provide the people with the highest civilization and the greatest wellbeing in the world.

Kim Jong Un warmly acknowledged the enthusiastic cheers for a long time.

The inauguration of 10 000 flats at the second stage in the Hwasong area served as a significant occasion in instilling full confidence in a bright future into the all-people general onward march for attaining the goals of struggle set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Party while fully demonstrating the strength of patriotism and unity under the leadership of the great Party Central Committee and in demonstrating once again the invincibility of the cause of building a socialist power of Juche to the whole world.

## Kim Il Sung honour prizes conferred

KCNA

The Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and Kim Il Sung Children Honour Prize were awarded to exemplary primary (sub-primary) youth league committees and youth league officials and members and Korean Children's Union (KCU) members on the occasion of the greatest national holiday of April.

An awarding ceremony

took place at the Youth League Hall on April 14.

Decrees of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly were read out.

Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize was conferred on 20 primary youth league committees and 26 youth league officials and members.

Kim Il Sung Children Honour Prize was awarded to 108 KCU members.

## Academic degrees and titles conferred on intellectuals

KCNA

Academic degrees and titles were conferred on intellectuals on the occasion of the greatest national holiday in April.

According to the decision of the State Commission for Conferment of Academic Degrees and Titles, the title

of candidate academician was awarded to section chief Im Song Jin and researcher Nam Il Ryong of Kim Il Sung University, and two others.

Professorship went to nine intellectuals and doctorate to 49 others.

Associate professorship was conferred on 101 persons and master's degree on 1 061.

## Art groups of university students give performance

KCNA

A performance was given by art groups of university students at the Youth Park Open-Air Theatre in Pyongyang on April 14 to celebrate the 112th birthday of President Kim Il Sung as the people's boundless reverence for him revved up on the

occasion of the April holiday.

Among the audience were Ri Tu Song, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, officials of the youth league and youth and students in Pyongyang.

## Evening gala of youth and students held

KCNA

There took place an evening gala of youth and students at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on

April 14.

Fireworks were displayed over the square where flags of the DPRK and the youth league fluttered and a sea of dances unfolded.

## Schoolchildren's camping starts at Songdowon International Children's Camp

KCNA

The camping of schoolchildren started at the Songdowon International Children's Camp on the occasion of the greatest national and auspicious April holiday of the DPRK.

Present at a ceremony held on April 15 were Paek

Song Guk, chief secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, officials and teaching staff of the camp and campers.

The camping flag was hoisted amid the playing of the song "March of the Children's Union".



# Int'l seminar on Juche idea held in Pyongyang



An international seminar on the Juche idea for independence, justice and future of mankind takes place in Pyongyang under the co-sponsorship of the International Institute of the Juche Idea and the Korean Association of Social Scientists on April 14.

KCNA

An international seminar on the Juche idea for independence, justice and future of mankind took place in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on April 14 under the co-sponsorship of the International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI) and the Korean Association of Social Scientists (KASS) on the occasion of the 112th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

Present there were Kenichi Ogami, secretary general of the IIJI, Matteo Carbonelli, vice director-general of the IIJI, and delegations and delegates of Juche idea study organizations from different countries and regions.

Also attending it were Thae Hyong Chol, president of the Academy of Social Sciences and first vice-chairman of the KASS, and scientists and officials in the field of social sciences.

At the seminar, Kenichi Ogami made an opening address to be followed by a congratulatory speech by Thae Hyong Chol.

They warmly congratulated the delegations and delegates of Juche idea study organizations from different countries and regions who took part in the seminar with unshakable faith and will for independence and justice at a time when the aspirations of

mankind for an independent future society are being expressed more ardently than ever before.

They stressed the need to hold higher the banner of the Juche idea and the banner of independence in order to build a just new world, a beautiful future of mankind, which guarantees the sovereignty and dignity of countries and nations, global peace and stability, development and prosperity of humankind.

Saying that followers of the Juche idea should make positive contributions to the building of an independent world, fully aware of the honour and mission of being pioneers and propagators of the great idea of the times, they expressed their belief that the seminar would be a significant gathering for more deeply grasping the principle of independence and dynamically accelerating the advance of humankind toward a beautiful future.

Matteo Carbonelli delivered a keynote report.

Expressing boundless reverence for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who founded the immortal Juche idea and developed it into the great guiding ideology in the era of independence, the reporter extended the greatest glory and most heartfelt gratitude to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who provided the grand meeting of

followers of the Juche idea by reflecting the minds of progressive humankind.

It is the immutable truth of history that sovereignty precisely means the national power and if a nation fails to defend its sovereignty, it cannot defend the destiny of the country and nation as well as those of individuals, he said, highly praising the immortal exploits of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il who had built the DPRK into a socialist state independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in defence by thoroughly applying the Juche idea to the revolution and construction and devoted their all to the victorious advance of the cause of independence against imperialism all their lives.

He lauded the great personality traits of Kim Jong Un who formulated the essence of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the people-first principle and is leading the struggle of progressive humankind for realizing international justice while ushering in a new era of comprehensive national rejuvenation.

He said that the DPRK is demonstrating its dignity and might as the only country of single-hearted unity in the world, a fortress of socialism and a powerful nation true to its name, while performing

world-startling miracles one after another despite the worst adversity. This gives great confidence and courage to the world revolutionary peoples, he noted.

The enthusiasm for following the Juche idea is getting stronger worldwide, he said, affirming that the victory of the cause of global independence will be hastened when the anti-imperialist independent forces advance with their united efforts along the road indicated by the great idea of the times.

The seminar heard speeches on such themes as "The revolutionary ideas of the great Comrade Kim Jong Un constitute an immortal banner safeguarding independence and justice and guaranteeing a rosy future of humankind", "Let us build a new world of independence and justice by dint of unity and cooperation", "Independence, justice and future of mankind", "African countries should fight against neo-colonialism with the independent idea as their guidelines" and others.

The speakers said it is the truth proven by history that independence is the only way for a nation to survive and for a country to prosper, noting that only when independence is maintained can the genuine dignity of a nation and the happy future of rising generations be guaranteed.

They called on the peoples of all countries to have an independent and creative stand, solve by their own efforts the problems arising in the revolutionary struggle and construction work in conformity with the actual conditions of their countries and thoroughly maintain independence for the building of a just new society.

They branded the imperialists and dominationists as the common enemy of the world progressive peoples struggling for independence and justice, the main target of struggle that should be waged by a united force, irrespective of difference in ideology, religious belief, nationality and race.

They unanimously affirmed that it is an important way for strengthening the anti-imperialist independent forces to further rev up the atmosphere of the struggle for suppressing the high-handed and arbitrary practices of the US imperialists and other reactionaries in the international arena by promoting solidarity with all countries aspiring after justice under the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

The imperialists are most afraid of the world people's firm unity, solidarity and advance along the road of independence, they said, calling for frustrating the imperialists' crafty moves to divide and disintegrate them and uniting and cooperating with each other.

The DPRK, the most independent country in the world and bulwark of the anti-imperialist struggle, represents the future of mankind, they said, noting that the history of the Korean revolution and the appearance of the DPRK today offer clear answers to questions about how to firmly defend national dignity and sovereignty and how to build a future society.

They said that the present world, where a weak nation, however honest and just, can neither say anything in the international arena but will become a plaything of the strong, nor defend national sovereignty and international justice, proves that only when the Juche idea is maintained can the nations advance the revolution and construction, achieve their development and boost their strength.

The speakers explained that

the original revolutionary ideas and theories of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, a gifted thinker and theoretician and outstanding leader, are an immortal militant banner powerfully encouraging the progressive mankind in their struggle to frustrate the aggression, plunder and high-handed and arbitrary practices of the imperialist reactionary forces, defend the sovereignty and rights to existence and development of countries and nations and establish a just and equal international order.

Saying the revolutionary ideas of Comrade Kim Jong Un displaying great vitality and attraction in carrying out the Korean revolution and accomplishing the cause of global independence are a symbol of hope for the progressive mankind, they noted that he advanced the path and fighting plans for remarkably expanding and strengthening the anti-imperialist independent forces. They praised it as an immortal ideological and theoretical exploit performed by him for accomplishing the cause of independence for humankind.

They expressed their will to study and disseminate the Juche idea more actively on a global scale, fully convinced that the progressive mankind will invariably advance along the road of independence and justice and a new world free from exploitation, oppression and subjugation will surely be built as the great idea of the times illuminates the road ahead of them.

At the end of their speeches they chanted such slogans as "Long live the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un!" and "Long live the great Juche idea!"

A letter to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was adopted at the seminar amid enthusiastic applause of the participants.

The international seminar on the Juche idea, which was held amid the great expectations and interest of the Juche idea followers of the whole world, served as a significant occasion for strengthening international solidarity among all countries and peoples fighting for independence and justice and for further intensifying the activities for the study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

## IIJI Board of Directors meets for 22nd meeting

KCNA

The 22nd meeting of the Board of Directors of the

International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI) took place in Pyongyang on Sunday.

Present there were Secretary

General Ogami Kenichi, Vice Director-General Matteo Carbonelli and directors of the IIJI and Pak Chol Jun,

vice-chairman of the Korean Association of Social Scientists.

The meeting reviewed the results of the activities

conducted for the Juche idea study and dissemination on an international scale since the 21st meeting, discussed the future

action programme and decided on the issue of recall and by-election of some members of the IIJI Board of Directors.



# April Spring Friendship Art Festival overflowing with reverence and friendship

The 33rd April Spring Friendship Art Festival takes place in Pyongyang from April 11 to 25. The festival brought together many state-level art organizations, renowned art troupes, artistes and overseas Koreans from more than 20 countries.



The Alexandrov Academic Ensemble of Song and Dance of the Russian Army.



Russian Dance Ensemble "OGONKI" of the Altai Territory Philharmonic.



Circus of State Acrobatic Company of Russia.



Vocal band "KVATRO" of Russia.



The State Dance Ensemble "Ural" of the OGBUK "Chelyabinsk Philharmonic Society" of Russia.

By To Kyong Chol PT

The 33rd April Spring Friendship Art Festival is going on in Pyongyang amid the great expectations and interest of the Korean people and progressive mankind of the world.

The festival brought together many state-level art organizations, renowned art troupes and artistes from more than 20 countries. The colourful numbers of the festival fully reflect the profound reverence and praise for President Kim Il Sung and the mind of the progressive mankind aspiring after friendship with Korean people.

Head of the Lyudmila Zykina State Academic Folk Ensemble of Russia said that the festival has been held for decades on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the DPRK, adding that their performance will be a symbol of friendship between the two countries and show the excellent music of Russia.

Head of the ballet group of the Novosibirsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre of Russia said that it is a great honour and significant event for the opera and ballet group in Novosibirsk with a deep connection with President Kim Il Sung to take part in the 33rd April Spring Friendship Art Festival at invitation and extended heartfelt gratitude to the

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Chinese Art Group.





# 8 FESTIVAL

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DPRK and festival organizing committee. Indonesia is the birthplace of immortal flower Kimilsungia, said the head of the Jaya Suprana Art Troupe of Indonesia, adding that Indonesian President Soekarno presented the flower to President Kim Il Sung when he visited Indonesia, and hoped that the art troupe would take part in the festival and contribute to the development and friendship between the two countries.

Regarding the festival as an important occasion for strengthening the exchange and cooperation of art and culture between China and the DPRK and deepening friendship and fraternity between the two countries and between their peoples, China made the prestigious National Symphony Orchestra take part in the festival and the Shanghai Circus stage the circus Fighting Shanghai it produced recently.

The Minister of Culture and Tourism of China said in his congratulatory speech that China would jointly write a new chapter of the Sino-DPRK friendship while developing traditional friendship, promoting strategic communication and boosting cooperation and exchange on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the Year of the Sino-DPRK Friendship.

Laos which has established long cooperative relations took part in the festival by preparing excellent pieces of works including dance, song, instrumental music and circus to strengthen friendship and solidarity between Laos and the DPRK and celebrate the birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

A variety of performances in the festival are introduced by many media organizations and publications including the Korean Central TV, radio and Korean Art website in succession, drawing the admiration of the audience.

In particular, the immortal revolutionary songs *Song of General Kim Il Sung*, *Song of General Kim Jong Il*, *Ode to General Kim Jong Un* and other hymns sung by many art troupes and artistes with solemn feeling deeply engrave in the mind of the audience the philosophy that President Kim Il Sung will live forever in the hearts of all people, the undying exploits of Chairman Kim Jong Il, who firmly safeguarded socialist Korea, and the personality of respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who leads a powerful socialist country along the road of victory.

Many other numbers, especially distinctive and colourful songs, instrumental music, dance, opera and acrobatics showing the unique culture and traditions of their countries and nations, have recorded a high rating day by day.

The festival runs from April 11 to 25.



Lao National Circus.



Lao National Art Troupe.



Ulan Bator Circus of Mongolia.



Classical Ballet Troupe of the Belarus State Academic Musical Theatre.



Group Choro Livre of Brazil.



Art Troupe of Koreans Resident in China.



A Korean singer resident in Russia.



Art Troupe of Koreans Resident in Japan.



# Premier inspects farms in South Hwanghae Province

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected the agricultural sector of South Hwanghae Province.

Going round farms in Unnyul, Samchon, Ongjin, Kangnyong, Jaeryong, Sinchon, Anak and other counties, he learned in detail about the overall farming process.

Farming in South Hwanghae Province, the biggest agricultural province

of the country, is very important in attaining the national grain production goal for this year, he said, calling on the agricultural production units in the province to meet the scientific and technological requirements in manuring and cultivating crops.

He called for proactively exploring water resources to cope with drought, making an effective use of them, increasing the capacity of pumping facilities, steadily enhancing the operating and utilizing rate of water-sprinkling equipment, introducing advanced farming methods like mulching cultivation suited to specific conditions and

applying various nutrients so as to bring good results in the cultivation of wheat and barley in the latter half of their growth.

He also underlined the need to sow rice and other crops at the right time and cultivate young rice-plants on a higher sci-tech footing by taking into account the biological characteristics of each rice variety and weather conditions, urging agricultural scientific research institutions to conduct in a far-sighted way the work for studying and introducing the technology of industrially cultivating rice seedlings.

The field consultative meetings discussed the issue

of dynamically conducting the organizational and political work to give fuller play to enthusiasm of the agricultural workers, the issue of finishing the ploughing of paddy and non-paddy fields qualitatively, and the issues for relevant fields and units to ensure the normal operation of farm machines and the production of equipment, materials and parts needed for irrigation projects.

Meanwhile, the premier visited the construction sites of regional-industry factories in Jaeryong and Unchon counties. He encouraged the soldier-builders who are pushing ahead with the projects as scheduled, while ensuring the speed



Premier Kim Tok Hun (fourth from right) inspects the Kumsan Farm in Unnyul County.

and quality of the projects by pushing forward with simultaneously. He called on officials in the relevant areas the work for creating raw material bases and training technicians and skilled workers in a far-sighted way.

# Secretary of WPK Central Committee meets participants in int'l seminar on Juche idea

KCNA

Ri Il Hwan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, met with Ogami Kenichi, secretary general of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, Matteo Carbonelli, vice director-general of the IJJI, and heads and members of delegations of Juche idea study organizations in different countries and regions, who took part in the international seminar on the Juche idea, on April 14.

Present there was Thae Hyong Chol, first vice-chairman of the Korean Association of Social Scientists and concurrently president of the Academy of Social Sciences.



Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, meets with foreign personsages on a visit to the DPRK to attend the international seminar on the Juche idea.

# DPRK government hosts reception for visiting Juche idea followers

KCNA

The DPRK government hosted a reception at the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel on April 14 in honour of the participants in the international seminar on the Juche idea.

Invited there were Ogami Kenichi, secretary general of the International Institute of the Juche Idea (IJI), Matteo Carbonelli, vice-director general of the IJJI, and delegations and delegates of Juche idea study organizations from different countries and regions.

Present there were Ri

Il Hwan, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Thae Hyong Chol, first vice-chairman of the Korean Association of Social Scientists, and officials of the Korean Association of Social Scientists.

Ri Il Hwan made a speech at the reception.

He said that the participants in the international seminar on the Juche idea proved in a theoretical and profound way that the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the most scientific revolutionary theory.

Matteo Carbonelli in his speech praised the undying exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who initiated and developed the immortal Juche idea and made great contributions to the accomplishment of the cause of global independence, and spoke highly of the personality of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who is wisely leading the struggle for the comprehensive development of socialism.

# DPRK doctorate conferred

KCNA

A DPRK doctorate in socio-politics was conferred on the head of a department of the National Veterinary Academy in Vitebsk,



Belarus.

He explained and proved the validity and advantages of the Juche-oriented educational idea and policy of the DPRK based on the revolutionary educational tradition provided by President Kim Il Sung.

A conferring ceremony took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on April 15.

Present there were Jon Sung Guk, vice-premier of the DPRK Cabinet, Pak Chol Jun, vice-chairman of the Korean Association of Social Scientists, officials concerned and members of Juche idea study groups from different countries.

# Delegations and delegates of Juche idea study organizations tour Pyongyang

KCNA

Delegations and delegates of organizations for the study of the Juche idea from different countries and regions, which took part in the international seminar on the Juche idea held on the occasion of the 112th birthday of President Kim Il Sung, visited the Tower of the Juche Idea.

Being briefed on the grand monument

telling the immortal ideological and theoretical exploits of Kim Il Sung, the visitors went round different places of the tower.

They also visited the National Gifts Exhibition House, the Kangdong Greenhouse Complex, the Korean Art Gallery and other places and enjoyed a concert given by the National Symphony Orchestra.



Delegations and delegates of organizations for the study of the Juche idea look round the Natural History Museum.

# Korean children prove successful at int'l festival

KCNA

Kindergarteners and schoolchildren of the DPRK created a great stir at the 33rd international festival of child and juvenile art works recently held in Khabarovsk

of Russia.

At the festival attended by 1 000 children from Russia, China, Mongolia and other countries, music prodigies of Kyongsang Kindergarten flaunted their talents.

In the music contest, Pak

Ye Un of the DPRK won the top prize by playing piano solo with high artistic skill.

Ri Ta Jong, who put on the stage *sohaegum* (Korean folk instrument) solo "Merry Dancing Music", won the first prize in the field of

national musical instruments by sustaining the soft tone and unique playing technique.

Ho Ye Ryong and Pak Cha Jin took the second and third places in the piano event of the 7-10 year-old group, and Ri Ye Gwon and Pak Sin Yong won

high appreciation by playing national instruments well.

Meanwhile, in the fine art contest, Han Ho Song, Kim Yu Gyong and Kim Won Bin, fine art group members of the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, presented works depicting beautiful appearance of the

country with unique ideas to leave deep impressions on the audience.

The sponsor of the festival expressed admiration for the distinguished artistic skills of Korean children, saying that the talents of the well-educated Korean children were unanimously recognized by the participants in the festival.



# People voice excitement on new street

## Don't advance, night of Pyongyang

I simply cannot believe that I, a common worker, could live in such a modern flat. I cannot find better words than "beautiful" and "wonderful" to describe my new flat.

Overwhelmed by the joy and excitement of having received new homes for free, all my family members and many other people walked along our splendid new street till midnight singing the song "Don't Advance, Night of Pyongyang".

I made up my mind to work devotedly for my home, our Pyongyang and the motherly Workers' Party of Korea.

*Kim Myong Hak, worker at the Mansudae Art Studio*

## 'We will build more beautiful streets on this land'

I think I am so lucky to be a builder who have taken part in many construction projects for decades.

In the great golden age of construction, well over 30 000 flats have been built in a few years and great progress has been made in construction methods in keeping with the developing architectural styles.

Now we are confident that we can build any kind of structures on the highest level.

I have not been more proud to be a builder in my life.

I just did my duty as a builder with construction materials supplied by the state, but these days everyone thanks me and tells me that I have done a good job.

As I realized through the construction projects how much the state invests into solving the housing problem from the supply of materials, labour and equipment to design and construction, I feel really proud to live in this country.

Cherishing this pride in mind, we will build more

beautiful streets on this land.

*Ri Il Gon, chief of staff of the Pyongyang Construction Commission*

## 'I've keenly realized WPK's ardent love and national power'

Every year, flourishing socialist living space and fairyland villages come into being in our country.

It is really satisfying to think of Changjon, Mirac Scientists and Ryomyong streets, Kyongru-dong, which was built as a village of patriots on the banks of the Pothong River, and Songhwa, Hwasong and Rimhung streets.

Rimhung Street which has recently been inaugurated strikes many people with admiration as it has been built in an architectural style strikingly different from previous ones.

Whenever inaugural news heralding cataclysmic changes are known

throughout the country, I feel the pride in our country which is advancing vigorously without a moment's halt even in difficult situation and in my being a citizen of this country.

*Ri Han, researcher of Kim Chol Ju University of Education*

## Gratitude for our Party gets deeper

I'm one of the blessed people who moved into very wonderful flats on Hwasong Street which sprang up as a flourishing socialist living space in April last year.

Our relatives and workshop fellows envied me so much. Today, as more modern

Rimhung Street has been built, it has become our turn to envy the masters of the new street.

That is why I always ask all my family members to return the favour shown by the country by working harder.

*Jang Sun Gum, worker of the Sosong Lift Operation Company*



New dwellers of Rimhung Street are delighted to enjoy the distinctive view of the new street. RODONG SINMUN

## Health complex overflows with laughter of smelters

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

The Kangson Health Complex in the Chollima Steel Complex is a favourite haunt of workers.

It is a comprehensive welfare service base for workers.

The joy and optimism of workers, who live a cultural life, overflow as the health complex is furnished with bathrooms, a physical training room, swimming pool, table tennis room and gymnasium.

The swimming pool is most liked by the workers.

Sim Chol U, a service worker, said that the swimming pool where clean water always surge is crowded with workers who swim not only in hot summer but in winter, adding that smelters are particularly fond of it as there is the swimming pool in the compound of the complex.

"I'm relieved of my fatigue and feel refreshed as I swim in the pool after working hard at the furnace," said smelter Han Myong Gun.

The physical training and table tennis rooms are full of the spirit of young people.

When a journalist visited the Kangson Health Complex, young people of the rolling workshop were operating different sporting apparatuses at the physical training room and those of the steel and drawing workshops were competing at the table tennis room. Girls exclaimed whenever players scored

with refined techniques and players competed fiercely in high spirits, adding optimism to the atmosphere. They said that as they trained physical strength and played table tennis between individuals and between workteams every week, their life becomes more exciting and they get more enthusiastic in production.

The bright appearance of workers can also be seen in the barber shop and beauty parlour.

"Our duty is to put forward workers brightly. Whenever production was in full swing, we often organized a field service for welders and smelters and got familiar with them in this course," said barber Ri Mi Ran.

Women workers come out of the beauty parlour with radiant faces and other workers drink beer and soda pop at the soft drink stand after having a bath.

According to director Ri Jong Suk, various special services, nourishing meals and meetings to congratulate innovators and their birthday parties have been provided and arranged at the Kangson Health Complex over the past 10 years. She

added that workers receive deep impression from various special services including the parties where officials congratulate innovators on such major occasions as March 8 International Women's Day, May Day, Youth Day and Mother's Day, while sharing a meal and singing with them.

Thanks to the efforts of its employees who try to provide workers with more hospitable and impressive service, the Kangson Health Complex is full of workers' laughter.



Workers have a good time enjoying various services at the Kangson Health Complex. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Twenty years of devotion to restoring vision of rising generations

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

Hong Il Ok, a doctor of the paediatric ophthalmology department in the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, explored the way of operating the paralysis of superior oblique muscle which took an important position in raising the treatment of squint and amblyopia onto the world's level.

After graduating from Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences nearly 20 years ago, she started her career as a medical specialist of the paediatric ophthalmology department. She succeeded in the operations for 20-odd incurable diseases including the operations of special squint and amblyopia of high degrees of difficulty, which hold the largest proportion in the treatment of children's eye diseases, by unsparingly devoting her painstaking speculation and great efforts.

One day, five-year-old O Song Ra and her mother living in Rangnang District came to her not long after she started to work at the newly-built Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital.

Song Ra was unusually pretty and sang songs well that kindergarten teachers wanted to cultivate her skills with much effort. But, her one eye was turned to outside, so every viewer felt regret at her and her parents suffered great distress.

At the time, the mother of Song Ra held Hong's hands and said: "I have come to this hospital in the hope that the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital which was built under the loving care of fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un would cure the eye of my daughter without fail."

The feelings of ophthalmologists were very complicated as she was diagnosed with esotropia and special squint caused by the paralysis of superior oblique muscle.

It is required to operate superior and inferior oblique muscles. It means that they will have to operate three muscles at the same time in order to succeed in horizontal strabismus surgery and esotropia. A synthesis of squint surgery, it is literally a difficult and nerve-straining operation. They would completely lose chance forever, if they failed to succeed at one go.

Though it was a surgical operation that Hong had never tries, she acquired

each operation stage one by one through the survey of documents, animal experiment and simulated surgery with an attitude of learning strabismology again in order to succeed in the surgical operation at one go.

The following day after the surgical operation was over, doctors and nurses, who looked at her bright eyes after unbandaging, shouted for joy as they hugged Song Ra.

Hong has carried out over 1 500 surgical operations including more than 20 operations of high degrees of difficulty, cured the eye diseases of at least 34 000 children to restore their sights. She goes on with regular check-ups and treatment of parentless children across the country every year.

"I will devote everything to making our children reflect the bright looks of the beautiful country on their eyes as seen on the facade of the hospital."

This is all that Hong wishes as an ophthalmologist.

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# Iran strives to accomplish independent development, prosperity

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The name of Iran located in the southwest of the Asian continent signifies the "land inhabited by Aryans".

More than 150 billion barrels of oil are deposited in the country where deserts and semi-deserts cover one sixth of the territory and the plains account for 10% of it. Iran has the second largest deposits of natural gas and gypsum in the world. And it has so far found out two billion tons of iron ore resources.

As it is rich in underground resources and located in a place of geographical and strategic importance, the country has been subjected to aggression and intervention by hegemony-seekers for a long time.

The Iranian people embarked on the creation of a new independent life after the overthrow of the Pahlavi dictatorship in February 1979 and the establishment of the Islamic republic on April 1 that year.

It has rapidly developed the economy by relying on its abundant underground resources,

while channelling big efforts into developing science, education and other cultural fields.

As it has increased investment in military buildup for self-defence and stepped up the domestic production and modernization of military hardware, Iran has given spurs to expanding its defence capabilities to smash the dominationists' intervention that has got ever more undisguised in recent years and defend its sovereignty.

Its armed forces equipped with domestically-made reconnaissance and combat drones make steady efforts to increase its combat capabilities for strengthening national defence.

At a ceremony held in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas in January this year, the commander-in-chief of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps vowed to safeguard national interests against the insidious manoeuvres of hostile forces. Saying that Iran is on the brink of an all-out war against enemies, he pointed to the need to defend national interests and added that if the enemies are spotted on the surrounding waters,

the consequences will be bad, and that they must withdraw from the water areas.

Iran's tough stand is not an empty talk.

Recently, Iran mounted a large-scale attack on Israel on the early morning of April 14 in retaliation for its air raid on the consular department building of the Iranian embassy in Syria. The Iranian foreign minister in an article posted on SNS said that the retaliatory attack of his country against Israel was an exercise of its legitimate right to self-defence, noting that the recent attack was a responsible action to defend regional and global peace and security.

The country has made remarkable progress also in economic, scientific and technological and other fields.

Seyed Ali Khamenei, leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, appealed to the Iranian people to take an active part in economic activities and boost domestic production in a televised speech delivered on March 20 in celebration of Iran's New Year. Noting that the most important task facing the government this

year is economic development as in the previous year, he said that the growth in domestic production is the key to the settlement of the country's economic problem and the problem of the people's living standards, which is unthinkable apart from active participation of the people. He then declared this year as a year of production growth through the participation of the people.

After launching the research satellite "Sorayya" it developed and made by its own efforts on January 19, the country sent off another homemade satellite by a homemade carrier rocket on January 28.

Iran exerting considerable influence in the region works to develop relations with its neighbours and other countries on the principle of opposing dominationism and promoting mutual respect and cooperation.

The DPRK established diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on April 15 1973 and has extended firm solidarity to its people in their struggle to defend national sovereignty and achieve peace and security.

## Japan on rush to a war state

By Choe Song Jun PT

Japan's rush toward a warlike state is taking on a more dangerous character.

At a Cabinet meeting on March 26, Japan decided to lift the embargo on export to a third country of a next-generation fighter jet which is jointly developed with the UK and Italy.

In connection with this, the Japanese government held a national security council meeting to revise the working guide of the "three principles of transfer of defence equipment" and stipulated necessary conditions.

According to the revised working guide, a new provision has been added to it to approve the export of a finished weapon, which is developed jointly with other countries, to a third country and, this time, a next-generation fighter jet has been fixed as an export.

Japan concluded the agreement on the transfer of defence equipment and technology with 15 countries, including the US, India, the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates.

Objections against the decision of the Cabinet meeting are being voiced in Japan.

About 80 Japanese persons staged a demonstration against the decision in front of the Prime Minister's residence at the end of March.

Some opposition parties are appealing that the decision should be taken after going through the deliberation in the Diet.

"According to the usual way of thinking, we do not transfer weapons with killing power as their transfer would encourage international dispute. Discussion should be held in a way that the people can also

consent," said the secretary general of the constitutional democratic party.

Since the end of World War II, Japan has professed itself as a "pacifist state".

But its veil is being removed day by day.

Japan introduced offensive military hardware like latest stealth fighters into the country and stretched out its hands even to outer space and cyberspace in the past in its ceaseless bid to become a military power. In recent years it has drastically readjusted its security policy, increased defence budget every year, constantly eased restrictions on arms export and pursued an epochal development of military capabilities.

Japan gave a hearty welcome to AUKUS when it was formed and now it tries to set up "AUKUS+" by joining it. Therefore, the world public is of the opinion that Japan is the major springboard and guide of the NATO in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Japanese authorities revised three security-related documents including the "national security strategy" in December last year, and formulated the possession of "counterattack capability" to destroy the launch base at the detection stage in case there is a sign of an opponent attempting to launch a ballistic missile to Japan.

Their behaviour reminds us of the militaristic Japan in the past century which went wild for overseas expansion.

He who likes playing with fire perishes in it. Japan has already been resigned to such a fate.

He who fails to draw a lesson from his wrong past repeats his tragic fate.

## Global warming a menace to humankind

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

Now, extreme weather conditions caused by global warming have unprecedentedly frequented the world, followed by continuous catastrophic consequences.

The number of disasters caused by extreme climate in the world has increased five times as much as those 50 years ago, with the loss amounting to seven-fold.

Recently, casualties were caused, many dwelling houses, public buildings, schools and bridges were destroyed and traffic was paralyzed by heavy rain in Indonesia.

In Bolivia, 50 people were killed and five others went missing by flash flood and landslide caused by heavy rain across the country in the past several months.

On the other hand, the Philippines is suffering from prolonged drought.

In Zimbabwe 2.7 million people suffered food shortage till mid-February due to drought. In Afghanistan underground water resources have decreased and nearly half of its population were not supplied with drinking water.

Meanwhile, unprecedented biting cold and heavy snow have swept many countries and regions.

It was terribly cold and snowed heavily in European countries from the beginning of the year, causing confusion.

Meteorologists expressed serious concern over the accelerating global warming which causes not only record-breaking heat wave, drought and flood, but also extreme cold and other disastrous weather

phenomena.

As last year saw a record increase in greenhouse gas emissions and temperature rise on the ground and sea, the World Meteorological Organization has recently issued a red alert. Saying that 2024 is highly likely to be hotter than ever, it warned that it becomes more difficult to attain the climate-related goal to limit the extent of global temperature rise to less than 1.5°C from the level before the industrial revolution.

Scientists argued that if global warming continues, the incidence of extreme high temperature, which occurred about every 50 years before the industrial revolution, would increase 8.6 times and its intensity would grow stronger, with the result that many people will suffer from extreme heat.

And they predicted that if the global temperature rises by 2°C, hundreds of millions of people would suffer from water shortage and millions of people would die of climate-related diseases.

Some are of the opinion that by 2050 the average grain production will fall by 10% across the world and by 50% in some regions.

"In the coming 30 years, 4 billion people will live in the arid areas and

50 to 700 million people will have to leave their native places, fostering social instability," said a researcher.

The ever-worsening global warming demand all countries and regions of the world take more active measures in all aspects including social life, economic activity and environmental protection.

## Briefly

### Russia

#### UNSC criticized for negligence over Mideast crisis

The Russian permanent representative to the United Nations censured the UN Security Council for negligence related to the Middle East crisis.

He asserted at a UNSC meeting on April 14 that Iran's retaliatory attack on Israel has not occurred unexpectedly, but was an answer to the negligence revealed by the UNSC after Israel made an attack on the building of consular department in the Iranian embassy.

He noted that Russia cannot tolerate such silence over the root cause of the current crisis and furthermore can never permit the US and other countries to deteriorate the situation around Iran.

### China

#### FM spokesman rejects criticism of US, Japan

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected the argument of the US and Japan at the press conference on April 11.

In connection with the fact that the US president and Japanese prime minister issued a joint statement to blame China's nuclear-related policy on April 10, he said that China resolutely opposes the misconduct of the US and Japan as an expression of false and sinister intention.

The wrongful conduct of the US and Japan destroyed the strategic balance and stability in the world and region, hindered the process of international arms control and disturbed regional peace and stability, he criticized.

Referring to the fact that his country enforces the policy of not using nuclear weapons first, he noted that if they do not use nuclear weapons against China, no country should feel any threat from China's nuclear weapons.

### Iran

#### Warning sent to US, Israel

The UN-based Iranian permanent mission recently sent a warning to the US and Israel in connection with the country's military measure against Israel.

The measure was taken according to Article 51 of the UN Charter on the legitimate right to self-defence and in response to the fatal attack by Israel on the consular building of the Iranian embassy in Syria, it said.

It stressed that the countermeasure from the Islamic Republic of Iran will be fiercer and more gruesome in case Israel makes another mistake and urged the US not to poke its nose into the affair.

### Qatar, Kuwait

#### US banned from using airports, airspace

Qatar and Kuwait recently forbade the US to use their airports and airspace for anti-Iranian military operations.

In relevant notifications, the two countries announced that they would not allow the US to use their airports for attacking Iran.





The sun rises over Mt Chilbo, a scenic attraction on the east coast of the DPRK.

## DPRK players snatch golds at Asian Wrestling Championship

By Choe Yong Nam PT

DPRK wrestlers Kim Ji Hyang and Ro Yu Chol bagged gold medals at the 2024 Asian Wrestling Championship.

The championship which kicked off in Kyrgyzstan on April 11 brought together more than 360 men and women players selected from 20-odd countries and regions including the DPRK,

China and Kazakhstan.

On April 14, Kim Ji Hyang defeated a Mongolian player 10-0 in the preliminary of the women's 53kg category, an Uzbek player 12-2 in the quarterfinals and a Vietnamese 8-0 in the semifinals.

In the final, she beat her Indian rival 10-0 and took the first place.

Ro Yu Chol defeated all his opponents in the men's Greco-Roman 55kg category on April

15 and took the first place.

Meanwhile, O Kyong Ryong finished runner-up in the women's 55kg category and Kim Kum Hyok and Ri Kum Chol took the third place in the men's 57kg and 61kg categories of freestyle wrestling, Hwang Yong Ok and Yun Hyon Ju in the women's 50kg and 57kg categories and Kim Chan in the men's Greco-Roman 63kg category.

## Table-tennis players qualified for 33rd Olympic Games

By Song Jong Ho PT

The 2024 ITTF world mixed doubles table-tennis qualification for

the 33rd Olympic Games took place in the Czech Republic on April 11-12.

DPRK players Ri Jong Sik and Kim Kum Yong defeated

Slovak, Indian and Hungarian teams 4-1 respectively and beat the Spanish team 4-3 in the final match, thus booking a berth in the Olympic Games.

## Natural monument—Sangwonam ginkgo tree

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

The Sangwonam ginkgo is a staminate tree in the front yard of Sangwon Hermitage belonging to the Pohyon Temple in Mt Myohyang.

It stands alongside the Myohyangsan pine tree, another natural monument.

It is said that the seedling of the ginkgo was planted and grown by a monk who had lived there in around 1895.

The tree is 20.3 metres tall, 2.2 metres round at the root neck and 1.8 metres round at the chest height. The crown is 12 metres wide from east to west and 9 metres from north to south.

The bark of its trunk is light grey with cracks.

As the ginkgo grows at the highest place among its kind in the DPRK, it is of great significance in studying the limit of vertical distribution of the species.

## Spring national sports festival closes

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The 2024 Spring National Sports Festival took place from March 14 to April 18.

The national martial arts championship was held as part of the festival at the Taekwon-Do Hall, the Taekwon-Do Holy House and the Pyongyang Gold Lane.

Pyongyang Municipality came first in total standings and North Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces took the second and third places in the championship.

In the Taekwon-Do competition, the Pyongyang municipal Taekwon-Do team that distinguished themselves and other teams that enjoyed unexpected successes in the pattern events won the top three places as predicted by experts.

Therefore, the Pyongyang team won the trophy and the South Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces were placed the second and third in the competition.

Meanwhile, in the paduk event, the paduk team of the Pyongyang Municipal Paduk Centre won the first place, and those of the North Hamgyong and Kangwon provincial paduk centres won the second and third places respectively. In the Korean chess event, the paduk team of the North Hwanghae Provincial Paduk Centre took the first place and those of the Pyongyang municipal and Nampho city paduk centres took the second and third places.

The men's and women's football tournaments of the 2024 Spring National Sports Festival were held in such a way that the teams played league matches, divided into two groups. And the first and second placers in each group competed on a knockout basis.

The men's football final match between the April 25 and Sobaeksu teams took place at Kim Il Sung Stadium on April 14.

Both teams played an energetic game trying to take the lead from the kickoff and displayed fine scoring scenes based on tactful combinations, leaving a deep impression on the spectators.

The April 25 beat the Sobaeksu 4-0 and defended its reputation as a national power and lived up to the expectations of their enthusiastically cheering fans.

The Sobaeksu and Rimyongsu teams came second and third.

Meanwhile, the women's football final took place on the same day between the Naegohyang and Sobaeksu teams.

The match turned out to be a seesaw battle with some palm-sweating scenes.

The Naegohyang beat the Sobaeksu 1-0 and triumphed in the event.

The Sobaeksu and Pyongyang teams were placed second and third.

In the recent festival 10 new national records were established in weightlifting, shooting and track and field events.

