

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un has photo session with participants in Ninth GFTUK Congress

KCNA

The respected Comrade 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, had a photo session with the participants in the Ninth Congress of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea on May 14.

The venue of the photo session was filled with great excitement and joy of the participants who took part in the significant congress held amid the great interest of the working people across the country out in the struggle for a new stage of transformation in socialist construction and had the highest honour and happiness they wished for even in their dreams.

When Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue, stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" burst out.

All the participants paid the highest tribute to him, who respectfully put forward the working class and trade union members as the core unit of the revolution and self-reliant vanguard and bestowed deep trust and love on them so that they could demonstrate the proud honour of the socialist patriotic workers in the van of the struggle for national prosperity.

Comrade Kim Jong Un met and



congratulated the newly elected chairman and vice-chairmen of the Ninth Central Committee of the GFTUK. And he appreciated the efforts of the meritorious trade union officials and members.

Acknowledging the enthusiastic cheers of the participants, he encouraged them who glorified the Ninth Congress of the GFTUK as a significant occasion for demonstrating the cohesion and revolutionary disposition of the working class and trade union members rallied closely around the Party and accelerating the all-people advance for implementing the Party's decisions.

He said that in the last five years after

the Eighth Congress of the GFTUK the working people fully demonstrated their intense loyalty to the Party, patriotic consciousness and inexhaustible creativity. He highly appreciated that the outstanding feats of the working class, who broke precedents, went beyond limitations and proved that nothing is impossible to push ahead with the overall socialist construction, and the role of the GFTUK in mobilizing the ideological power served as a great strength for the Party which ushered in the great pioneering period of comprehensive rejuvenation.

He stressed that there is no such group

in the world as the reliable and loyal working class as they firmly defend the cause of the Party, being a fortress of unshakable faith, despite the change of the times and generations with the passage of time. He added that the Party Central Committee is vigorously waging the struggle of new-stage transformation for the eye-opening development of the state, believing in the strong revolutionary disposition and patriotic loyalty of all the working people including the heroic working class.

The period of gigantic transformation facing us requires the constant active role of the working class, the main force of creation and construction, as standard-bearers and their

extraordinary efforts, he said, noting that it is the basic task facing the working class and trade union members at the present stage of socialist construction to give fuller play to the fighting spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency in all spheres of ideology, technology and culture with absolute confidence in the Party's lines and policies.

Noting that all the workers and trade union members should play a vanguard role for the change of the times and dynamically lead the whole country to

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Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un inspects munitions industry enterprises



KCNA

The respected Comrade 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, gave field guidance at several munitions industry enterprises on May 11.

He was accompanied by Jo Chun Ryong, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Jong Sik, first deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, Pak Jong Chon, advisor to the Ministry of National Defence, Kim Kang Il, vice-minister of National Defence and director of the General Armaments

Bureau, Yu Chang Son, director of the Artillery Bureau of the General Staff, Kim Myong Son, director of the Armaments Examination Bureau of the Ministry of National Defence, and Kim Yong Hwan, president of the Academy of Defence Sciences.

Comrade Kim Jong Un visited several munitions industry enterprises to learn about the implementation of munitions production assignments for the first half of the year 2026.

He expressed thanks for the patriotic devotion of the workers in the munitions industry, who are making a great contribution to boosting the combat capability of the DPRK armed forces by

achieving record growth in the production of various shells and bullets, true to the decisions of the First Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Central Committee of the WPK, and gave encouragement to them.

Referring to the defects still latent in the structure, production system and facilities of the munitions industry, he stressed the need to concentrate on modernization, including the practical upgrading of the production structure and the rational arrangement of production lines, and to wage a dynamic struggle for optimizing the management of technology, talents and workforce and for steadily increasing the efficiency of production.

He also underlined the need for the munitions industry enterprises to further modernize the product inspection process and system and to subdivide the inspection indices in a more scientific way and thoroughly establish a habit of strictly adhering to them.

He pointed to the necessity to consistently hold fast to the modernization of munitions production equipment and the improvement of production environments and conditions and the supply service for the employees.

Acquainting himself with the production

at a bullet factory that day, he set forth an important task for establishing a production system to meet the demands for high-precision multi-purpose bullets, special-function bullets and training bullets according to different calibres.

He repeatedly stressed the need to strengthen the mortar and howitzer forces and advanced a series of important tasks for setting up a specialized complex and factory producing artillery and small arms to meet the prospective demand of the armed forces and for improving the production structure and the level of modernization and specialization of bullet and shell factories.

He expressed expectations and belief that the officials and workers in the munitions industry sector would make strenuous efforts to achieve the higher goal of boosting the defence capability with redoubled self-confidence and inexhaustible creativity, true to the spirit of the Ninth Congress of the WPK and the tasks set forth at the congress.

The tasks and important instructions, which Comrade Kim Jong Un gave during his field guidance at the enterprises, are scientific and important guidelines indicating the quickest and most correct way to the modernization of the country's munitions industry, and serve as an important milestone for bringing about a radical turn in implementing the Party's policy of building up national defence by further speeding up the qualitative, quantitative and technical transformation in munitions production.



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attain the new five-year goals under the uplifted banner of the three revolutions, he emphasized that it is important for the GFTUK to fulfil its mission and duty as an organization for ideological education in firmly preparing them as a revolutionized and patriotic core force for national

development and the powerful vanguard for carrying out the three revolutions.

He expressed expectation and belief that all the participants in the congress would become standard-bearers and core elements leading the rapid development of all sectors and units in the worthwhile struggle to build an eternally powerful and prosperous country through a more fierce,

innovative and determined struggle, and had a meaningful photo session with them.

When the photo session was over, the participants broke into enthusiastic and thunderous cheers again, representing the faith and pledge of the working class and trade union members to remain boundlessly loyal to the leadership of the Party.

All the participants made a firm

determination to fully demonstrate the self-respect, pluck, resourcefulness and courage of the heroic DPRK working class, socialist workers, and more vigorously struggle for the prosperity of the glorious country and the promotion of the wellbeing of its people, bearing in mind the great trust shown by Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Special envoy of general secretary of the CPV Central Committee and president of Vietnam visits Pyongyang

KCNA

Le Hoai Trung, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who is a special envoy of To Lam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and his party visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from May 12.

Kim Song Nam, member of the Political Bureau, secretary and director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, met Le Hoai Trung, the special envoy of the general secretary of the CPV Central Committee and president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on May 13.

Kim Song Nam said that the WPK would further boost

exchange and cooperation with the CPV as the DPRK-Vietnam friendly relations have been put on a new level with the historic Pyongyang meeting of Comrade Kim Jong Un and Comrade To Lam in October last year as an occasion.

Le Hoai Trung informed him of the successful 14th Congress of the CPV and expressed the steadfast stand of the CPV to develop the friendly relations between Vietnam and the DPRK which have been firmly consolidated on the road of advancing the socialist cause.

Both sides discussed the issue of strengthening the political ties between the WPK and the CPV and other issues of common concern and reached a consensus of views on them.

Present there from the DPRK side were deputy department director Mun Song Hyok and other officials of the International

Department of the WPK Central Committee and from the Vietnamese side the special envoy's party and Le Ba Vinh, Vietnamese ambassador to the DPRK.

Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had talks with Le Hoai Trung, foreign minister of Vietnam, at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on May 13.

Choe Son Hui expressed the stand of the DPRK government to develop the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and Vietnam in conformity with the aspirations and desire of the two peoples on the basis of the spirit of the agreement made between the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries at the historic Pyongyang meeting in October 2025.

Le Hoai Trung said that To Lam, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee and president of the SRV, and

the Vietnamese party, state and people are always paying deep attention to consistently giving importance to and strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK, wishing the Korean people bigger success in their struggle to implement the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

At the talks both sides agreed to further deepen exchange and cooperation between the two countries in various fields and strengthen strategic communication and



Kim Song Nam, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and director of its International Department, meets Le Hoai Trung, the special envoy of the general secretary of the CPV Central Committee who is president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on May 13.

support and collaboration between foreign policy organs. And they exchanged views on regional and international issues.

Present at the talks from the DPRK side were Vice-minister Pak Sang Gil and other officials of the

Foreign Ministry and from the Vietnamese side the special envoy's party and Le Ba Vinh, Vietnamese ambassador to the DPRK.

The Foreign Ministry of the DPRK gave a reception to welcome the special envoy that evening.

Mixed column of KPA three services attends military parade in Moscow

KCNA

A military parade was held at Red Square in Moscow on May 9 to celebrate the 81st anniversary of Russia's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

A mixed column of the

three services of the Korean People's Army attended the military parade.

Led by Senior Colonel Choe Yong Hun, the KPA column marched through Red Square.

After the military parade was over, Russian President

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin met the commanding officer of the KPA parade column and expressed thanks.

The KPA column attended the victory military parade in Moscow at the invitation of Russia.



Led by Senior Colonel Choe Yong Hun, the mixed column of KPA three services marches through Red Square.

NEWS IN BRIEF

KCNA

Birthday spread sent to centenarian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Kim Ju Hyon, a woman living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 17 of Jangchung-dong No. 2 in Songyo District of Pyongyang, on her 100th birthday.

Deeply moved to receive the birthday spread amid congratulations of officials of the Songyo District Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and neighbours, the centenarian expressed thanks to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, the benevolent father of a large socialist family.

May 21 architectural festival takes place

The 23rd May 21 Architectural Festival took place at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang between May 12 and 15 under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the Architects Union of Korea.

Presented to the festival on the theme of "Comprehensive development of socialism to a higher stage and Juche-oriented architecture" were more than 580 multi-dimensional layouts, dozens of construction equipment and tools and over 90 achievements in introducing the architectural information modelling technology, all of which were highly appreciated at provincial

(municipal) architectural festivals.

During the festival there were a drawing contest, video show, presentation of experience gained in creation and dissemination and exchange of data on latest architectural science and technology.

Spring aesthetic symposium in urban management sector held

The 2026 spring aesthetic symposium in the urban management sector took place at the Sci-Tech Complex via video conferencing on May 13.

Attending the symposium held on the theme of "Flowers and Creation of Landscape" were Kim Son Il, minister of Urban Management, and officials, scientists and technicians from relevant fields.

Speakers at the symposium explained the ways for creating landscape in a Korean way and putting flower production on a scientific and industrialized basis in conformity with the daily-increasing level of cultural and emotional life of the people and the developing world trend.

Symposium on architectural aesthetics held

The 18th Symposium on Architectural Aesthetics took place through video-conferencing at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang on May 13.

Present at the symposium on the theme of "New

era of transformation for national rejuvenation and Juche-based architecture" were officials and technicians in the fields of construction design, supervision of construction, building operation, urban management, land and environment protection and industrial art.

National schoolchildren's art festival closes

The 61st National Schoolchildren's Art Festival closed with due ceremony at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on May 13.

At the festival, the participants showed well their artistic talents they had cultivated through after-school activities in the past.

Pyongyang Municipality took first place in the total standings of the festival, and South Phyongan Province and North Hamgyong Province were placed second and third respectively.

National paduk contest held

The 2026 national paduk contest in the field of education took place at the Taekwon-Do Palace in Pyongyang from May 7 to 13.

More than 300 children and pupils, selected from all provinces, competed in men's and women's individual and team games, divided into kindergarten and primary school categories.

Pyongyang Municipality, South Hamgyong Province, Nampho Municipality and North Hamgyong Province proved successful in the contest.

Ninth Congress of General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea held

KCNA

The Ninth Congress of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea was held in Pyongyang on May 11 and 12.

The congress analyzed and reviewed in depth the work done by the GFTUK during the period under review and discussed the practical tasks and ways for the federation to fully discharge its mission and role as an ideological education organization in implementing the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea by radically improving its work as required by the era of comprehensive development.

Present there were the members of the eighth-term GFTUK central leadership and delegates elected by trade union organizations at all levels.

Officials of the Party, armed forces organs, ministries and national agencies and those concerned were on hand as observers.

The platform was taken by Kim Jae Ryong and Ri Il Hwan, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, Ju Chang Il, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Tok Hun, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and first vice-premier of the Cabinet, executive members of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, chairpersons of the provincial committees of the GFTUK, exemplary trade union officials and members and officials in charge of the trade union work of armed forces organs.

The congress elected the presidium and the secretariat.

The agenda items discussed at the congress are as follows:

1. Review of the Work of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea
2. On the Revision of the GFTUK Rules
3. Election of the Central



Leadership of the GFTUK

Kim Jae Ryong read out a congratulatory letter of the Central Committee of the WPK to the participants in the Ninth Congress of the GFTUK and all the workers and trade union members across the country.

The WPK Central Committee in the letter said that the period under review of the GFTUK is shining with the pride and honour of the trade union organizations and their officials and workers who injected vigour and vitality into the advance of the Korean revolution by turning out as one to live up to the expectations of the Party Central Committee which put them forward in the vanguard of the struggle for fresh upswing and development in socialist construction, and highly appreciated their responsible and devoted efforts for it.

The period of the new Five-Year Plan is a very important period when the patriotic enthusiasm and practical ability of the working class and trade union members, who are intensely loyal to the cause of the Party and the state and their responsibility

as the eldest son of the country, should be redoubled, the letter said, indicating the basic tasks and ways for the GFTUK in inspiring the working people to perform proud feats from the first year of implementing the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the WPK.

Ri Won Jong, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, made a report on the first agenda item.

The reporter reviewed the work of the eighth-term GFTUK Central Committee.

He referred to the fact that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un put forward the working class and trade union members as the vanguard and backbone unit that are taking the lead in ushering in a new era of upsurge for the comprehensive national prosperity and developed the GFTUK into an ideologically pure and organizationally integrated entity in the past five years.

He noted that a great upsurge in production was brought about and unprecedented successes achieved in increasing production in the major fields of implementing the Five-Year Plan set forth by the Eighth Congress of the

WPK thanks to the patriotic devotion and extraordinary creativity of the working class and trade union members.

He said that true to the intention of the Party Central Committee to prepare the GFTUK to be a revolutionary organization by preserving its nature as a mass political organization of the working class, the GFTUK attached importance to its internal work and raised a strong wind of enhancing its fighting efficiency and strengthening its primary organizations.

All the successes achieved during the period under review are the brilliant fruition of the wise leadership of the respected Comrade General Secretary Kim Jong Un who led the workers to remain faithful to the historic mission they assumed before the Party and the country, the times and the revolution, the reporter stressed.

He called for bringing about a radical improvement in the GFTUK work as required by the era of comprehensive development.

The report analyzed and reviewed a series of deviations revealed by trade union organizations at all levels during the period under

review and their causes on the basis of detailed data and indicated practical ways for putting the GFTUK work on the track of new qualitative development.

The reporter called for more dynamically conducting the revolutionary mass movement, the socialist patriotic movement to arouse the enthusiasm, initiative and ingenuity of the trade union members and perform miracles and make innovations on all fronts of economic construction.

Speeches were made on the first agenda item.

Twenty delegates including Kong Un Chol, delegate of the trade union organization of South Hamgyong Province, Ri Kwang Dok, delegate of the trade union organization of the Pyongyang Construction Commission, and Kim Yong Chol, delegate of the trade union organization of the Ministry of Railways made speeches and presented written speeches.

The congress discussed the revision of the GFTUK Rules as its second agenda item.

There was a report on the revision of the trade union rules.

The reporter submitted the

revised rules for deliberation at the congress.

The congress adopted a decision on the revision of the GFTUK rules with full approval.

The congress discussed the election of the central leadership of the GFTUK as the third agenda item.

First, the Central Committee of the GFTUK was elected.

All the candidates were elected members and alternate members of the GFTUK Central Committee with the unanimous approval of the delegates.

The First Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Central Committee of the GFTUK was held.

Ju Chang Il, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, made public a decision of the plenary meeting.

The Executive Committee of the GFTUK Central Committee was elected.

Ri Won Jong was elected chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK and Choe Jong Chol, Choe Song Nam, Pak Yang Thae and Kim Song Ho were elected vice-chairmen.

The Organizing Committee of the Central Committee of the GFTUK was formed.

The chairperson, vice-chairpersons and members of the Central Inspection Commission of the GFTUK were elected.

Department directors of the Central Committee of the GFTUK were appointed.

The congress elected a committee for drafting the decision of the congress with members of the newly elected ninth-term central leadership of the GFTUK, and the committee deliberated the realistic and constructive opinions raised by delegates and supplemented the draft decision.

The decision of the Ninth Congress of the GFTUK was adopted with unanimous approval.

A letter of pledge to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was adopted at the congress.



The Ninth Congress of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea is held in Pyongyang on May 11 and 12.

Scientific research promoted in different economic sectors

By To Kyong Chol PT

Scientific research has been stepped up in different sectors of the national economy.

A technical group of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex established a bearing steel production method using pig iron cast in oxygen-blast furnace.

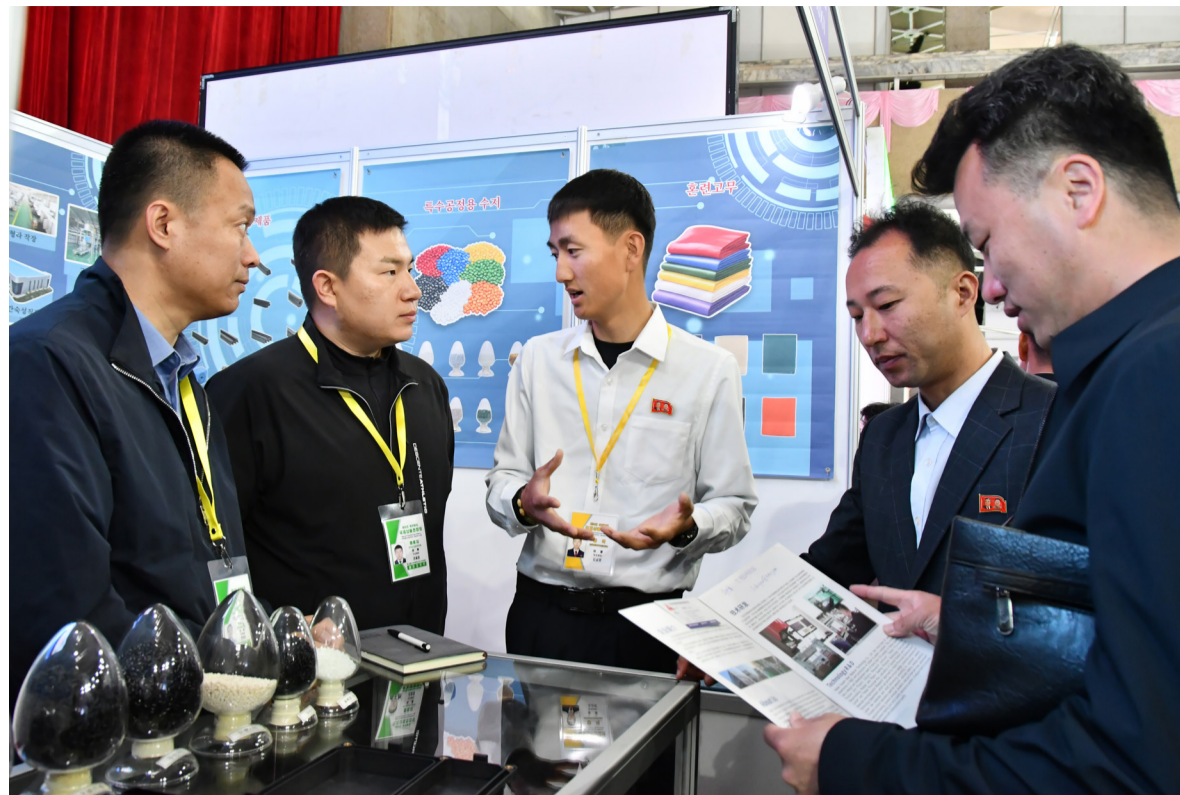
The establishment of the new bearing steel production method is of great significance in meeting the demand for different kinds of bearing steel and it has placed the production of bearing steel on a Juche-oriented basis.

The group for the promotion of scientific farming achieved a success in establishing the production process of biodegradable paper for soil clothing which is effective in preventing soil pollution and erosion and loss of nutrients of soil and reducing various farming processes. Scientists are concentrating on completing a new paper production technique capable of doubling the productivity of paper while saving much energy and labour and a production technique of clothing paper which can be used in both paddy and non-paddy fields.

The State Hydro-Meteorological Administration developed an integrated weather forecast system using AI technology, thus making a positive contribution to protecting the people's life and property from disastrous meteorological phenomena and minimizing damage to different national economic sectors.

The Academy of Food and Consumer Goods Industries under the Ministry of Regional Industry gives technical guidance to improve the quality of products at regional-industry factories and solves technical problems arising in setting up speciality production processes relying on raw material resources in each region, while making active efforts to develop new products.

The Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences is stepping up the work for generalizing the advanced energy-saving sugar syrup concentration technique to regional-industry factories across the country, and increasing the variety of synthetic perfumes and pigments, which are necessary for the production of high-quality consumer goods, and improving their quality.



Participants are busy with economic and trade transactions and exchange of science and technology.
WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

'For common development, prosperity'

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The 24th Pyongyang Spring International Trade Fair took place in Pyongyang between May 4 and 8 on the theme of "For common development and prosperity".

It drew businesses and companies at home and abroad more than double those in the previous fair held last year.

To be concrete, more than 120 businesses and companies from the DPRK presented good products in 860-odd kinds made by applying advanced science and technology, and over 160 foreign businesses and companies those in 890-odd kinds.

Insam products presented by the Kaesong Koryo Insam Trading Company are in great demand in several countries and regions of the world including Russia, China and Southeast Asia.

According to information available, Kaesong Koryo insam is very effective in boosting immunity of the human body and preventing and treating diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic

system disorders. It is also good for invigorating humans, relieving them of mental and physical fatigue and making their skin clear and soft.

Therefore, many local and foreign visitors to the fair bought Kaesong Koryo insam products.

The Kumdang-2 Injection and Royal Blood-Fresh (Hyojungpullojong) from the Pugang Pharmaceutical Company were also in great demand.

According to Manager Rim Kum Chol, the former, as a plant immunity optimizer, is especially efficacious for disorders of the digestive system including liver and pancreas and various kinds of cancerous diseases, and the latter, a kind of health food, is good for preventing and treating cerebral thrombosis and cerebral hemorrhage and helps consolidate vessel walls, improve intelligence, strengthen the heart and purify the blood.

These products won diplomas at international exhibitions and are gaining growing popularity among the peoples of European and Asian countries including

Russia, China, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan.

The Kumgangsan specialty exchange centre put on display royal jelly, native bee honey, wild fruit jam, Inonotus obliquus tea and others made from natural raw materials in Mt Kumgang, a world celebrated mountain and pollution-free area.

The products of foreign companies also attracted the interest of visitors.

Crowd-pullers included a household heating system using solar energy and refrigerator, deep-freezer and other products using renewables.

Widely encouraged at the fair were economic and trade transactions and sci-tech exchanges between participants.

"Foreign businesses were very eager to promote and develop economic exchanges with our country in transport, building materials, machine building and other sectors. It was a characteristic feature of the recent fair," said Kim Il Hyok, department chief of the Korea International Exhibition Corporation.



Secret of becoming top IT enterprise

By An Hyok Chol PT

Among the DPRK's top ten IT businesses for 2025 is the Samhung Economic Information Technology Company.

It has been selected as one of the top ten enterprises once and included in the top ten IT businesses six times.

The secret of its success lies in attaching importance to talents, ensuring convenience of people in IT service and having an innovative insight in business management.

The company puts much effort into training talents.

Employees with creative thinking and high ability are chosen as talents to lead the company's development.

According to a well-planned in-service training system set up in the development department, experienced and competent talents become "teachers" to give "students" lessons in keeping with the worldwide trend of development.

Also, the company puts effort into improving the overall technical standard of the unit rather than prioritizing technical abilities of individual employees, while arousing the creative enthusiasm of employees.

It is noteworthy that it attaches utmost importance to the demands and interests of people in the IT service.

It collects user feedback through its service apps, which includes requests for development of new technologies and novel ideas related to IT products.

It put it forward as a rule of work to value people's demands and realize them without fail even though it might require much programming effort.

It takes pride in the nationwide, exponential increase in the number of users of "Samhung e-wallet" developed and operated by it in recent years, which is attributed to the IT service and business management of attaching importance to demands and interests of people.

Another noticeable thing in its management is the creation of new things through constant challenge to the limits of ability.

With an innovative working attitude of constantly aspiring to and pursuing new things and developing and introducing advanced technologies by its own efforts, the company has recently developed dozens of major information service systems and many other software products favoured by customers, including an e-payment system and economic information service system.

"It is not easy to obtain the honour of a top business but it is more difficult to retain it. However, we will maintain our reputation by making strenuous efforts," said Mun Ryu Jin, a staffer of the company.

Machine-building industry spurs stable growth of overall economy

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Officials and working people of the machine-building industry sector work hard to spur the steady growth of the whole economy.

Officials of the Ministry of Machine-building Industry and the relevant units effectively step up the preparations for expanding the production capacity and improving the level of technical equipment while focusing on producing and supplying custom-built equipment in a responsible manner.

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex concentrates its efforts on solving technical problems arising in fully automating all the production processes

and takes measures to raise the operation rate of machine tools and actual output ratio of products in order to increase production. Workers and technicians are eager to enhance their technical knowledge and skills, full of burning enthusiasm to carry out the technical innovation tasks conducive to strengthening the material and technical foundations and improving the quality of steel castings.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 boosts the production of electric cables of different sizes by putting the management of equipment and technical control on a scientific basis and making effective use of the existing capacities, while improving the processing capacity of

materials.

The Anju Pump Factory directs efforts to lowering the production cost, ensuring the smooth operation of all processes and improving the efficiency of casting work to provide a guarantee for producing high-performance pumps.

The workers and technicians of the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Factory and the Taedonggang Electrical Appliances Factory secure enough necessary materials and parts and solve scientific and technological problems by their efforts, making marked progress in the production and modernization of equipment.

The Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory and the Munchon

Valve Factory take practical measures to upgrade equipment and strengthen talent force, regarding it as their priority task to enhance productivity and develop new products.

The officials and working people of the Pyongyang Bearing Factory reenergize its production by introducing original ideas conducive to raising the utilization rate of materials and improving the quality of bearings, and the technicians and skilled workers of the Ryangchaek Bearing Factory set themselves a goal of minimizing energy consumption and ensuring the precision of parts on a high level and press forward with technical development.

One hundred percent and zero



Officials hold a discussion to develop green building materials at the Phyongsong City Hwangryongsan Green Technology Exchange Company. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Choe Song Jun PT

Many units across the country are introducing green technologies to make a positive contribution to the promotion of people's health and the economic development. Among them is the Phyongsong City Hwangryongsan Green Technology Exchange Company.

the cement is used in the construction of underground and hydraulic structures and the production of different building materials.

Sand and gravel from the separation and washing processes can be used for construction.

This production method which recycles waste concrete one hundred percent is attracting much attention as it is beneficial in many ways.

Waste concrete is not useless

The company has recently established a cost-effective process for recycling waste concrete which is hard to treat.

Waste concrete is crushed into pieces that are less than 40mm in size and separated into hardened cement powder, sand and gravel.

The cement powder deposited as dregs is mixed with fly ash, cinder and other substances and calcined at a high temperature to make polymer and then mixed with cement or cement clinker and pulverized to produce blended cement. For its high intensity,

Aspiring to closed environmental economy

The company uses fly ash from thermal power stations to produce various materials like silica, iron oxide and calcined coal, and finishing building materials such as coloured mortar, paint and coloured roof tiles.

The gas generated in the course of production is used to make amino acid active nutrient solution with the help of the oxidative liquid graphene technology.

On the other hand, the company produces nutrient liquid fertilizer by separating organic matters from domestic sewage and adding nutrient solution. The fertilizer is used for hydroponic cultivation in greenhouses and for increasing crop yield.

It is also turning sludge from rivers into polymers and using them in cement production.

Aspiring to the closed environmental economy, a green economy, which ensures profitability at one hundred percent with all production processes put on a cost-effective and labour-, energy- and site-saving basis and wastes nothing, it is continuously developing the relevant technologies.

Its products were highly appreciated at several exhibitions and shows including the advanced science and technology and products exhibition-2024, national exhibition of sci-tech achievements in the field of furniture and finishing building materials-2024 and provincial building-materials exhibition-2025.

"If we value everything on this land, we can surely turn trash into treasure," said Kwon Tok Il, director of the company.

Factory aspires to technically-intensive enterprise

By Kil Chung Il PT

The Kangso Sprayer Factory is one of the units that increase production through innovative management activities.

The factory aspiring to a technically-intensive enterprise steadily improves the scientific level of production and management activities.

It has channelled big efforts into enlisting the creativity of the masses, masters of production, in working out the sci-tech

development plan and implementing it.

All the employees come up with good ideas for improving the quality of sprayers and developing new products, contributing to producing good quality products while lowering the costs.

In addition, the factory set up a technical guidance system centring on its new technology development lab in order to enhance cooperation among technicians, production guidance officials and workers and introduce new

technologies and ideas into production in time, thereby intensifying technical guidance over production.

The factory has also introduced a scientific quality management system into the whole process of production.

To this end, it drew up and issued the guidelines for employees about how to inspect the quality of products by themselves at each process so that workers can test the quality of their products and quality inspectors can enhance their role.

It arranges the regular technical study by focusing on how to control the factors affecting quality in production processes and dispatches relevant personnel to farms to get acquainted with the performance of its products and take relevant measures.

It has also positively introduced new quality management techniques in close contact with a scientific research unit.

The Kangso Sprayer Factory was selected as one of top ten enterprises for 2024.

MT PAEKTU AND KOREAN PEOPLE



By Ri Sung Ik PT

Mt Paektu has been called the ancestral mountain of the Korean nation from olden times and held an important position in the development of its society and history.

Historical records and literature tell that the founders of states in historical periods, including King Tangun who founded Ancient Joseon (the first slave state of Korea that existed from the early 30th century BC to 108 BC) and Tae Jo Yong who founded Palhae (a feudal state of Korea that existed from the late 7th century to the early 10th century), worshipped Mt Paektu as a site of their sacred cause of state-building and an ancestral mountain, not regarding it as merely a natural concept.

A book published in the 17th century records, "All the mountains of our country originate from Mt Paektu," and a map made by a well-known Korean geographer marked the Great Paektu Mountains in bold lines and made a distinction between the mountain and other mountains in order, thereby indicating that Mt Paektu is the ancestor of all mountains in the country.

Various kinds of literary works created by many writers after personally exploring Mt Paektu, including accounts of trips to the mountain in the Middle Ages, show that the Korean people recognized and worshipped Mt Paektu as the ancestral mountain, from which all the mountains of the country stretch out.

"Mt Paektu Travelogue" introduces in detail the rivers, valleys, soil and trees witnessed on a 1 300-ri trip made from May 14 to June 2 1764. Especially, it vividly depicts the landscape of the peaks of Mt Paektu and Lake Chon, describing that the time-honoured history and brilliant cultural tradition of the Korean people "benefited from the noble spirit of Mt Paektu".

Another travelogue,

recounting the course of several days of expedition to Mt Paektu, portrays the shore of Lake Chon and the sunrise on Mt Paektu with a skilful stroke and devotes a good deal of space to describing the wonderful scenery of Lake Samji, calling it a true scenic spot.

Along with travelogues, the topographies of Mt Paektu are also remarkable.

One of the topographies introduces the wonderful natural scenery in the Mt Paektu area by means of personification, noting that even the fairy's palace in heaven as well as boastful scenic spots would "bow their heads or fall over in fright" before it, and calls for using its rich natural resources for "making the country wealthy and providing welfare for the people".

Precious historical relics have recently been unearthed and verified to show the patriotic spirit and customs of the Korean people who have worshipped Mt Paektu as the ancestral mountain.

In the course of the survey and excavation of historical relics in the area of Mt Paektu, a research team of the History Faculty

of Kim Il Sung University unearthed tombs on the shore of Lake Chon and in Tachongdan County of Ryanggang Province and Musan County of North Hamgyong Province, which are in the same style as the Korean tomb discovered on an islet in the first pond of Lake Samji, and scientifically explained the characteristics, origin and age of the tombs.

The Archaeology Society of the DPRK deliberated and commented that the owners of the tombs unearthed in the areas of Ryanggang and North Hamgyong provinces, including the shore of Lake Chon on Mt Paektu, were Koreans who inherited the tomb custom of Palhae.

The recent discovery of the tombs proved scientifically the clear historical fact that the Korean ancestors worshipped Mt Paektu as an ancestral mountain and regarded it as an inviolable part of their territory, climbing the mountain through hundreds of ris of primeval forests and burying the remains of their ancestors and relics on the shore of Lake Chon.

Thanks to the nature

conservation policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government, the Mt Paektu area was set as the Paektusan Plant Reserve, the Paektusan Nature Reserve and the Paektusan Revolutionary Battle Sites Special Reserve. It was inscribed on the list of world biosphere reserves in April 1989 and registered as a global geopark last year.

Mt Paektu, which had been venerated by the Korean people generation after generation, became the beacon of their life and hope and their sacred mountain of the revolution after General Kim Il Sung, a legendary hero, came there to lead the anti-Japanese war.

In the dark period of Korea's ruin due to the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, he embarked on the road of the revolution in his early teens. After declaring an all-people resistance against the aggressors, he continued to wage bloody battles in the primitive forests of Mt Paektu.

As the General was headquartered in the mountain to save the destiny of the Korean people and shoulder the future of their

country, they felt inclined towards the sacred mountain of the revolution.

He rallied the people under the banner of independence and led them, thus achieving the historic cause of national liberation.

That is why Jo Ki Chon, a well-known revolutionary poet of the DPRK, wrote the first full-length epic "Mt Paektu" after national liberation to highly praise the greatest-ever exploits of the General.

Since the study tour of Mt Paektu began in the 1950s, many people have toured the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area to learn the indomitable spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

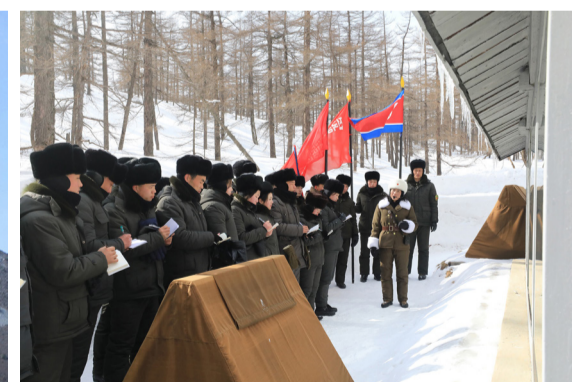
Among the revolutionary battle sites in the area associated with the immortal history of resistance there is the Paektusan Secret Camp which was restored to its original state and opened in the 1980s.

In the secret camp there are the Headquarters log cabin where General Kim Il Sung stayed, Chairman Kim Jong Il's birthplace, the sites of the guerrillas' quarters, slogan-

bearing trees and others.

While looking round the revolutionary battle sites in the area in December 2019, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said that it is the consistent determination and will of the Workers' Party of Korea to permanently defend and carry forward the glorious revolutionary traditions which took root in Mt Paektu and thus overcome the difficult situation and open up the way of the revolution by dint of the indomitable offensive idea based on those great traditions and indicated the ways for educating all the Party members and other working people in the revolutionary traditions of Paektu and thoroughly embodying them in all fields of social life.

With it as an occasion, the nationwide enthusiasm for the study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the area has been further heightened, and the noble and lofty spirit displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters serve as the ideological and spiritual strength of the people in the struggle for a new victory in the overall development of socialism.



Many people take part in the study tours of the revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu to learn the fighting spirit of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

Fifty-odd years of patriotic devotion



Choe Jong Suk is called a patriotic grandmother.

By Jong Chol PT

Choe Jong Suk living in Central District, Pyongyang, is called a patriotic grandmother.

One day over 50 years ago, she called on her husband, an officer of the then

military band of the Korean People's Army, who went to the construction site of a motorway to conduct motivational activities for builders.

As she saw the builders removing soil and building structures without taking a rest in order to carry out their assignments, Choe decided to do something for them.

Some days later, she went there again to give them aid materials she had prepared with sincerity, which marked the beginning of her contribution to the country.

Since then, she has rendered assistance to grand socialist construction sites on hundreds of occasions over the past five decades.

She also paid close attention to fostering love for the country in her four children from their childhood.

Receiving education from their mother, the eldest and second sons rendered distinguished service to the country, with the result that the former won the title of DPRK Hero and the latter was awarded the title of People's Athlete and selected as one of the top ten coaches of the country six times.

Choe Jong Suk, who dedicates herself to any work if it is of help and adds lustre to the country, rendered much assistance to her second son in selecting his players when he became a weightlifting coach of the then April 25 Sports Club.

While working at the Mass Gymnastics Production Company, she encouraged students with natural aptitude for weightlifting to take up the sport.

"In those days, my mother used to say to me that she would be very happy if those selected grew up to be excellent players exalting the honour of the country under my coaching," recalled the second son, So Un Hak.

She devoted all her sincerity to his trainees for over 20 years and they called her "our weightlifting grandmother".

In 2015, a medium-length real-life story about her was produced.

The state awarded high state decorations and citations to her, who has devoted all her life to the country with a high sense of patriotism, and invited her as a delegate to the Fourth National Conference of Mothers and the Seventh National Conference of Sportspersons.

Choe Jong Suk is now at the advanced age of 80 but still follows the road of patriotism with her children.

Educator registers eight intangible cultural heritage elements



Jo Jong Won, lecturer of the History Faculty of Kim Il Sung University.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Jo Jong Won, lecturer of the History Faculty of Kim Il Sung University, was awarded a special diploma at the closing ceremony of the intangible cultural heritage exhibition-2025 held for the first time in the DPRK last year.

It is because he made a distinguished contribution to unearthing and ascertaining the cultural heritage elements created by the Korean people for a long time.

Kim Pong Nam, deputy director of the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, said, "Jo found out many cultural heritage elements of our country and registered them as national ICH elements though he was busy with education. He devoted his sincere efforts to this work."

While working as a lecturer of Kim Il Sung University, he attended the short course on ICH protection held under the sponsorship of the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage one day in 2013.

The course dealt with the situation in which the protection of cultural diversity was faced with a serious threat due to the rapid deterioration, disappearance and destruction of ICH in different countries during the negative social change at the end of the last century and the rising generations' lack of understanding of such heritage and their conservation.

It also seriously discussed the significance of the conservation of ICH and the measures to revitalize it.

That day he was lost in deep thought.

It was important for him to present the doctoral thesis prepared with much effort in the past, but he decided to unearth even one more ICH element to contribute to enriching the spiritual and cultural assets created by the Korean people.

So he chose the registering of ICH as a research task and began the work with registering "sleighting", a folk game enjoyed by Korean

children from olden times, as an ICH element.

Busy as he was giving lectures, he avidly read national classics and other necessary books and talked a lot with relevant experts to discover such heritage elements one by one.

Sometimes he visited old natives in the remote mountain villages of Ryanggang Province in the northern part of the country to discover and ascertain the data on the culture related to Phungsan, the national dog of the DPRK.

Without wasting time, he devoted a lot of efforts to collecting data needed for registering heritage elements by clarifying their origins and defining their concepts.

In those days he registered "Korean wedding custom", "Korean greeting etiquette", "custom of moving into new houses", "horse riding" and "top spinning" as ICH elements.

When the custom of the 24 seasonal divisions of the year by the lunar calendar was registered as such a heritage element, he proved historically and scientifically all the topics of the academic circles such as the resourcefulness and wisdom of the Korean people, who already invented the unique 24 seasonal divisions with a profound knowledge of the movements of heavenly bodies in ancient times, and the history of the custom, thereby drawing the admiration of historians and examiners.

Thus he has discovered and registered eight ICH elements over the past nine years.

In August last year he was acclaimed by the participants in the international symposium held on the theme of "Independence, equality and regional development" at Kim Il Sung University as he, as chairman of the panel of economics and humanities, proved that to preserve and develop national cultural traditions is an important requirement for the countries and nations aspiring to an independent and peaceful new society.

His research to unearth ICH elements is going on.

By An Hyok Chol PT

The DPRK, rich in mineral water resources, has many streams in mountains.

From olden times, the Korean ancestors have used the good spring water from the mountains widely, calling them as *sanchonsu* (water from mountain) or *jangsusaem* (longevity spring water).

most of the spring water is also effective for the protection of health and prevention and treatment of diseases.

According to experts, there are many long-lived ones among the people in the areas with spring water, whose pH is slightly alkaline and calcium ions are relatively more abundant than sodium ions.

The hygienic criteria

cardiovascular diseases.

The Sindok Spring Water in Onchon County, registered as a natural monument, is renowned in the world for its high water quality.

There are many other spring water sources that are mild in taste and good



Rich resources of spring water in mountains in the country

The DPRK has conducted a full-scale survey of spring water in mountains for several decades and registered hundreds of its sources so far.

Generally, spring water with a relatively high mineral content is called spring water in mountains; especially, the natural spring water must meet the hygienically defined standards.

The country's mountain spring water has some characteristics in its distribution compared with that in other countries.

There are many sources of the water compared to the area of its territory.

And they are relatively even in their distribution in regional areas, and in terms of the chemical content,

of mountain spring water demand it be colourless, clear and odourless. It should also be free from mixed taste and moderate in temperature.

At the same time, its chemical composition should meet the hygienic requirements.

It should also be good for health and longevity.

In Pyongyang alone, there are dozens of good spring water sources that contain a relatively large amount of minerals, including Mangyongdae Spring Water Nos. 1 and 2, Ponghwari Spring Water, Taesonggol Spring Water and Sammagongwon Spring Water.

They are drawing experts' attention for their effectiveness in preventing and treating digestive and

for health and longevity in various parts of the country, including Yangdok Spring Water and Okkye Spring Water, which are rich in mineral content, good for health and taste good, Tami Spring Water, which tastes savory and refreshing, and Thaethan Spring Water, which has long been known as marvelous water for its effectiveness in treating various diseases.

Spring water is used internally or externally, and the internal therapy has long been used.

The water, when taken early in the morning, is absorbed easily in the empty gastrointestinal tract and helps purify the blood, expand the blood vessels, improve the blood circulation and enhance

the elastic functions of the blood vessels, thus lowering the blood pressure and preventing the development of vascular diseases in the heart and the brain.

If it is taken regularly, it can improve the functions of the endocrine glands, the heart, the liver and the stomach and enhance immunocompetence, thus preventing cold, skin diseases, arthritis and pharyngitis.

Several modern spring water factories have sprung up, including the Ryongaksan Spring Water Factory, the Taesongsan Spring Water Factory and the Ryongsusan Spring Water Factory, and they are contributing to promoting the people's health.

Amusement park rings with laughter

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Many people visit the Amusement Park of Kaeson Youth Park at the foot of Moran Hill in Pyongyang to spend a pleasant time.

The amusement park, which blends in well with the scenic hill, looks like a picture by day and is as bright as day at night for illuminations.

The whole park seems as if it is moving as all the amusement facilities, including Disco, Sky Drop, Twin Dragon, Treble Twister and Flying Car, run dynamically, decorated with beautiful and distinctive illuminations.

The towering Sky Drop is a facility every visitor to the park wants to try. When the bell rings, the machine gradually moves up to the top and stops before moving downwards quickly and it moves upwards and downwards repeatedly at lightning speed. So the riders wear various expressions,

drawing laughter from the viewing crowd. Some riders shriek with laughter, some girls can hardly open their eyes and some boys wave their arms, demonstrating their bravery. Amusedly looking at various funny facial expressions of the riders, viewers laugh uproariously, waving their hands or snapping photos.

Hearty laughs also ring out from the electronic entertainment hall in the amusement park.

Boys and girls "dance" to the tune of lilting music on the rhythmic stepping boards, drawing the attention of visitors. And dull sounds come from the other side of the hall where there are hitting power measuring machines. Among the male visitors who test their punching power, there is a boy wearing a red neckerchief of the Children's Union.

Children are so deeply absorbed in amusement activities they lose track of time at the claw doll grabber

machine and such electronic game facilities as those for car and motorcycle races.

After spending a fun time

at the park, many people have photos taken against the background of its distinctive nocturnal view.

"I spent a marvellous time at the park, unaware of the passage of time. I feel as if I have become ten years

younger for the enjoyable environment," said an old man, who came there with his grandchildren.



People enjoy a fun time at the Amusement Park of Kaeson Youth Park. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Wealth of clan

By Sin Pyol PT

In Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, there lives a clan known to all residents of the district and amazing and inspiring new acquaintances to have respect for it.

It is the clan of Choe Yong Ik with 19 enlistment certificates of the Korean People's Army.

The certificates belong to Choe Yong Ik, his brothers and their children. Nine of them are now in military service.

Explaining the reason why his clan has so many enlistment certificates of the KPA, Choe Yong Ik told the following story of his mother's childhood which she had told them since their

childhood.

The parents of Choe's mother Kim Pong Nyo worked as servants of a landlord before Korea's liberation. Although they worked so for more than ten years with a desire to provide their children even with sufficient thin gruel, they failed to fulfil that simple desire and died with four children left behind. Out of great anger, Kim's elder brother ran away from home. In place of him, she had to work as a servant of the landlord in order to provide for her little brothers. She, who was subjected to inhuman maltreatment, could begin to enjoy a true and fulfilling life as a human being only after national liberation. She

went to school together with her younger brothers and the four siblings including her elder brother lived happily in one house. Five years later, however, she and her younger brothers had to undergo the trials of war. Her elder brother joined the army and she had to look after the younger brothers again. But she did not feel lonely at that time thanks to the great care and benefits of the country which looked after them like their own parents should do and enabled them to keep studying despite ceaseless bombings by the enemy.

Then one day she got a notice of her elder brother's death in battle. According to Choe, his mother often said that only then could she understand what the elder

brother sacrificed himself for.

As they grew up listening to the mother's story about her past and the maternal uncle who had not returned home, Choe and his younger brothers were the first to join the army after finishing middle school and their offspring have followed in their footsteps, increasing the number of such enlistment certificates to 19.

Choe regards the certificates as the unusual wealth of his clan.

"Whenever I hear the news about recent bloodshed in different countries of the world and the relevant refugees, I look at the enlistment certificates on the wall. They will further increase in number in my clan in the future," Choe said.



Choe Yong Ik (third from left) tells his sons and daughters that they can lead a happy life only when they have their own country. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Mothers' wish

By Kil Chung Il PT

In April every year, graduates of senior middle schools throughout the country leave the schools full of hope. Many of them opt to join the army for national defence, regarding it as the most vivid expression of patriotism.

Mothers actively encourage their children to think of the country before their hopes.

Kim Song Hui, worker at the Taesongsan Amusement Facility Management Station, is a mother with only one son. Whenever she heard her son's teachers praising him for studying well, she visualized him becoming a university student. Their neighbours frequently said that he would go to university.

However, when her son told her he would volunteer to join the People's Army together with his classmates, Song Hui positively supported his determination without hesitation. Because she knows that only when the socialist country is strong can his future and talent be ensured.

Little different from her feelings are those of Jon Un Bok, worker at the Moranbong Lift Operation Management Station who has just sent her daughter to an army post after sending her son to a post for national

defence some years ago.

Her husband is a patriotic martyr who sacrificed himself on the road of national defence. It was her desire to send her children to posts for national defence to follow in their father's footsteps.

She was glad and happy now that her children all grew up and read her mind.

Pak Un Hye, a woman living in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, said she wrote in the pocketbook of her son who will soon leave for a post for national defence the poems and songs on the hometown and the country. Then she told what happened before his graduation from senior middle school.

One day, back home from school, her son said to her and his father that his teacher had told them to write about their desires. Then he asked his parents about their intention. His mother said, "If you join the army for national defence, I will regard it as a pride."

His father Jong Kwang Ho, who is an official of the Ministry of Land and Maritime Transport, told him about the preceding generations who defended the country at the cost of their lives and repeatedly asked him to become an admirable son of the country like them.

Behind good children are always good mothers.

Starting points of transformation and leap forward

Chae Mi Gyong

Over the past five years, remarkable achievements have been made for the promotion of the people's well-being and realization of their ideals, a proud fruition of the people-first policy pursued by the Workers' Party of Korea.

New policies and decisions were adopted at several Party meetings during its eighth term to provide the people with a happy life.

The WPK, which adopted it as its long-cherished desire to resolve the housing problem for the people, set it as an important goal at its Eighth Congress to build 50 000 flats in Pyongyang in the five-year plan period and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK decided to build 10 000 flats in Pyongyang every

year.

Housing construction was forcefully pushed ahead as the most important task, and modern new streets including Songhwa and Hwasong were built every year.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK adopted the childcare policy to supply the children throughout the country with nutritional foods including dairy produce at state expense.

As this policy was taken at the time when the country was experiencing great difficulties owing to the worldwide public health crisis, it touched the heartstrings of all people.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK put forward the supply of school uniforms and things to the students throughout the

country as a consistent policy of the Party and government; the Eighth Plenary Meeting discussed it as an independent agenda item to reform the country's educational structure for an advanced education and take radical measures for decisively improving and strengthening education; the Ninth Plenary Meeting discussed as an important agenda item the task of displaying a high sense of responsibility in implementing the socialist policies for schoolchildren.

Drastic changes also took place in the appearance of the regions.

It is the plan of the WPK in the new era to make Pyongyang be envious of the regions, the development of the regions feature the state's advance and development and the ideal appearance of the regions represent the

genuine looks of Korean-style socialism.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting put forward it as a priority task in socialist rural construction to decisively transform the looks and environment of the rural communities, and the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK adopted a decision on forcefully pushing ahead with the Regional Development 20x10 Policy of the Party.

The major meetings of the WPK, held during its eighth term, brought about changes in the people's living and the people's dreams and ideals became greater.

The meetings were starting points of the changes and a leap forward, and they served as occasions for further deepening the people's trust in the Party.

To achieve simultaneous, balanced development of regional economy

According to the regional development policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, regional-industry factories are being built in 20 cities and counties every year and the drive for developing the regional economy simultaneously and in a balanced way is gaining momentum.

A nationwide undertaking of training technicians and skilled workers needed for the operation of regional-industry factories is progressing apace.

Even though new factories are built excellently, they cannot steadily develop and sustainably produce goods that are favoured by the people and representative of their localities unless the technical forces for operating them are prepared.

According to a skilled worker training programme, the trainees acquire a wide range of knowledge and techniques needed for the normal operation of regional-industry factories, improvement of product quality and skilful handling of equipment and then improve their skills at light industry factories in Pyongyang and other areas.

Over the past two years, thousands of workers from regional-industry factories in 40 cities and counties received technical training to become skilled workers.

Meanwhile, efforts are also directed to creating raw materials bases in a far-sighted way and increasing their per-hectare yields.

The supply of raw materials is a prerequisite for production.

Cities and counties are acquiring forests of economic value like those for oil and wild fruit production, planting high-yielding species and manuring and tending them well to provide the regional-industry factories with sufficient raw materials needed for putting production on a normal footing.

The units in charge of supplying raw materials are increasing the per-hectare yields by raising a strong wind of scientific farming as they improve soil fertility, obtain seeds of raw-material crops suited to the climatic and soil conditions of their localities and introduce advanced cultivation methods on a wide scale.

The improvement of the quality of products made by regional-industry factories is being pushed ahead as an important undertaking.

The show of products of regional-industry factories in 20 cities and counties held in Pyongyang last year served as an important occasion in increasing the enthusiasm for the improvement of product quality. Through the show which brought together hundreds of products in dozens of kinds, the producers boosted their sense of emulation for improving the quality of products while exchanging experience achieved in their efforts for ensuring quality.

Many products of city and county regional-industry factories were highly appreciated at the light industrial goods exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2025" and the national foodstuff exhibitions held last year and this year amid the public interest and expectations.

The regional industry is constantly developing to improve the people's material and cultural living standards by tapping regional raw material resources.

Kim Chol Nam, *staffer of the Ministry of Regional Industry*

Child health and social development

By Choe Song Jun PT

May 20 is Child Health Day.

Raising children healthily is an important issue related to the social development.

But many children in the world are now hopelessly withering away, catching diseases and suffering pains due to the long-standing climate change and armed conflicts and other causes.

A few years ago, UNICEF released a white paper which offered for the first time its prediction on the environment with which children under 18 years old would be faced in the 2050s. According to it, the issue of climate change will surface and the present situation, called the climate crisis, be further aggravated, with more children being

exposed to extreme danger. Concretely, the number of children suffering heat wave will increase 8 times and those suffering flood damage 3.1 times more than those in the 2000s and children to be faced with drought, typhoon and other threats will also grow in number, it added.

The disastrous abnormal weather conditions which have increased due to global climate change in recent years severely threaten the lives and health of children with a low capacity to cope with them.

Various kinds of epidemic diseases spreading the world also claim many lives of children.

The continuing armed conflicts and disputes throughout the world presents a constant threat to the health and lives of children.

According to data

available, after the outbreak of the Gaza crisis the Israeli troops indiscriminately killed over 20 000 children. More than 40 000 children were wounded and some 20 000 became disabled.

Those, who narrowly escaped death, are faced with severe famine.

The governments of all countries should not turn a blind eye to the plight of these children, but fulfil their responsibility.

Close attention is paid to the health and personal safety of children in the DPRK, in which children are held up as the "king" of the country and everything related to the rising generation is regarded as the top-priority affair.

Nutritious foods including dairy products are regularly supplied to all children across the country and good conditions are provided for

their upbringing.

Nurseries and kindergartens are found everywhere the children are. Baby homes and orphanages built in the capital and provinces are provided with all conditions needed for the upbringing and life of the children.

Children enjoy the medical benefits, free from worries about receiving medical treatment, in the wonderful medical service facilities including the Okryu Children's Hospital.

As it has become the mode of advance and development of the Korean revolution to show more sincere love for children in hard times and vigorously advance towards the future of communism on the strength of this love, the DPRK continues to intensify and develop the work to protect and promote the health of children.

BYWORD

Climate of prioritizing science and technology

A climate of prioritizing science and technology is prevailing throughout society in the DPRK. The climate is to attach importance to the development of science and technology and solve all problems by dint of them.

All the sectors and units put primary efforts into the

development of science and technology, solve all problems by dint of them and make a tangible contribution to developing society and themselves through technical innovation.

With the constant

improvement of the social climate of maximizing the role of sci-tech talents and attaching importance to knowledge and technology, many people are nominated as top scientists and technicians in the country.

And the number of winners of relevant prizes is on a steady rise, such as the February 16 Science and Technology Prize, Natural Science Prize, Technical Innovation Prize and the Best Inventor Prize.

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Russia celebrates V-Day with military parade

KCNA

A military parade took place at Red Square in Moscow on May 9 in celebration of the 81st anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War.

Amid the playing of song "Just War", the national flag of the Russian Federation and the flag of victory entered the square.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation and supreme commander of its armed forces, made a speech.

He congratulated Russian citizens on the V-Day, including veterans, soldiers, commissioned officers, officers, generals and the combatants and commanding officers who participated in the special military operations.

Bearing in mind the pride in and love for their country and a common obligation of defending the interests and future of the country, the

Russian people are now celebrating the war victory day with sincere gratitude of descendants towards the great victorious wartime generation, he said, and continued:

Russia holds sacred the last wishes and inheritance of the service personnel who brought victory. The feeling of love for the country unites as one all the people across the country and it is an honour to preserve the memories of the events, historical truth and genuine heroes of the Great Patriotic War.

It is none other than the Russian people who made a crucial contribution to destroying Nazism, saved their country and the world and terminated the brutal evil, thus enabling those countries, which were reduced to the accomplices of Hitlerite Germany by surrendering to it, to regain their sovereignty.

Russian service personnel paid dearly for the freedom and dignity of the European people. They became

the incarnation of bravery, nobility, perseverance and humanity and are winning praise for the great victory.

The Russian people prevented the enemies from advancing as human walls and demonstrated that allegiance to the country is the top justice that can unite all people.

The great feats performed by the victorious wartime generation are encouraging service personnel fulfilling their missions at the special military operations. Although they are fighting against the aggressor forces equipped with NATO's military hardware and backed by all the NATO members, they are advancing forward heroically.

The Russian President affirmed that the cause of Russia is justice and victory will always belong to it as in the past.

A gun salute was fired and the national anthem of the Russian Federation was played.

Then followed the military

parade.

A column of service personnel of the DPRK, who performed undying feats in battles for liberating Kursk, passed Red Square together with the columns of Russian service personnel.

Fighters represented the Russian flag in the sky above the square.

After the military parade was over, President Putin laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier beside the Kremlin walls and paid a silent tribute to the memory of the fallen soldiers of the Soviet army.

He met veterans and participants in the special military operations and the commanding officer of the mixed column of the three services of the Korean People's Army which attended the military parade.

That day, military parades were also staged in St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Ulan-Ude, Yekaterinburg, Vladivostok and other major cities of Russia.

Criminal past should surely be settled

By Song Jong Ho PT

After occupying Korea by force of arms in the past century, the Japanese imperialists plundered lots of resources from it.

This can be proved by the "forest land survey act" fabricated and proclaimed by the Japanese imperialists.

From the early days of their military occupation of Korea, the Japanese imperialists regarded its abundant forest resources as an important material foundation for securing the financial resources for the execution of the war of aggression.

Accordingly, they conducted a survey of all forests of the country from March to August 1910 and on the basis of it fabricated and announced the "forest act" in June the following year.

In the act, they stipulated that "the governor-general of Korea can include all forests in the forest reserves if necessary" and thus created conditions for plundering any forest under the signboard of forest reserve. And the law also stipulated that the forests of Korea can be turned into "state-owned forests" and they can be freely transferred and sold to Japanese capitalists or organizations or exchanged with them.

The moves of the Japanese imperialists for plundering forest resources were not confined to this.

They proclaimed the "forest land survey act" in May 1918 and carried out the "survey" on forest lands in order to plunder the forests of Korea in an organized way.

The act which was fabricated and proclaimed on the pretext of finally establishing the right to ownership

of forests in Korea was in essence aimed at turning the forests into completely their own.

During the survey, the Japanese imperialists completely seized all the forests of Korea under the cloak of classifying the ownership of forests and investigating, confirming and registering their economic conditions and turned them into the "state-owned" ones at will to plunder them. After the survey, they took preferential measures for them to cut down many forests.

The area of the forests seized by the Japanese imperialists under the pretext of "state-owned forests" amounted to 13 million hectares out of the 16 million hectares of the country's total forest lands. The rest were owned by some Japanese and their stooges.

In order to plunder the inland resources including the vast primeval forests in the area of the Paektu Plateau, in particular, they built the railway between Kilju and Hyesan in the mid-1930s and the one between Paegam and Musan from the late 1930s to the early 1940s to plunder the forest resources on a large scale.

Just before their defeat in the war, they set fire to forests in different parts of the country and burned many forests.

Owing to their plundering of forest resources, the natural environment of the country was completely destroyed and the Korean people suffered severe natural disasters.

Japan should bear responsibility for this and pay appropriate reparations.

The historical fact can never be covered up even with the passage of time and it should be settled without fail.

International community critical of unethical practices of Israel

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Recently, the Israeli troops committed an outrage of attacking an international fleet, which was carrying humanitarian aid materials to the Gaza Strip, in the open sea.

The unethical conduct of Israel hindering the humanitarian efforts for the residents of Gaza has raised strong criticism from the international community.

The Gaza Strip is now faced with the worst humanitarian crisis.

According to a report issued by the World Food Programme on April 20, one in five families eats a meal a day in Gaza. Many people are forced untimely deaths as power plants, hospitals and others essential for human existence were completely destroyed as well as food.

In June last year, Israel captured a vessel carrying humanitarian aid materials to the Gaza Strip in Palestine, confiscated the materials and banished the members of a humanitarian organization, sparking international criticism.

Israel does not hesitate to commit any violent atrocities against the members of international organizations working in Palestine.

It did not allow the activities of humanitarian organizations at the end of last year and destroyed the office building of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East in

January.

It also aims at members of the organization who were out to reduce the poverty in the Gaza Strip as the target of its attack. Hundreds of humanitarian activists have been killed since the tragic situation occurred in Gaza.

Facts show that the Israeli attack on the international fleet carrying humanitarian aid materials was not an accidental event, but a continuation of human rights violations Israel has systematically committed with the aim of exterminating the Palestinians.

Foreign ministers of 11 countries including Pakistan, Türkiye, Brazil, Jordan, Bangladesh and Columbia released statements, in which they bitterly denounced Israel's misconduct as a blatant violation of international and humanitarian law and an act of hindering humanitarian efforts for the residents of Gaza.

And they called on the international community to fully discharge its legal and moral obligation by respecting international law, protecting civilians and punishing the acts of violating international law.

Now, the international community further raises its voices of protest against the unethical practices of Israel, which is hell-bent on its moves to seize the territory of Palestine while mercilessly infringing upon the elementary right to existence of the Palestinians.

Briefly

Belarus

Lukashenko clarifies stand to defend peace

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko clarified his stand to defend peace in a speech to mark V-Day on May 9.

May 9 1945 remains a sacred day for Belarus people and it is a duty of Belarus to defend global peace, he said.

He warned of the dangers that the aggressive forces are now rising again and historical facts being forgotten, calling on all to put dialogue above confrontation and development above destruction and defend the gains of victory bequeathed by the forerunners for the future.

Russia

FM censures European countries for reviving Nazism

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticized European countries for their vicious attempts at spreading Nazism at a press conference on May 10.

He said that some European countries are working to revive Nazism while actively instilling it in society.

Europe, without a doubt, openly supports and encourages the Nazi regime, he noted.

China

Defence Ministry urges Japan to show act of repenting

A spokesman for the Chinese Defence Ministry criticized Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi for asserting that the Japanese constitution should be regularly updated.

Over the past 80 years since the International Military Tribunal for the Far East was held, the Japanese right-wing forces have resorted to all possible means to attenuate the stern judgment which represents human conscience, history and justice and distorted and negated the crimes of aggression by Japanese militarism which were recorded with clear evidence, he said.

The Japanese right-wing forces have turned from secretly expanding their military expenses to openly making war preparations, he noted.

China strongly demands that the Japanese ruling authorities abandon their dangerous wild ambition of military expansion and war preparations and sincerely show how they see the history rightly and feel genuine remorse for the crimes, he added.

Energy

Oil prices skyrocket worldwide

Oil prices are shooting up in the world.

According to the recent report of Ria-Novosti of Russia, the global average oil price increased by 36.5% in April as compared to last year, the highest record since July 2022.

Foreign media outlets and experts express concern over the soaring oil price, attributing the eruption of the worst-ever energy crisis to the military intervention of the US in the Middle East.



Saeppyo Street at dusk

Pang Un Chol and Kim Il Gyong win gold medals in 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships



KCNA
DPRK weightlifters Pang Un Chol and Kim Il Gyong won gold medals at the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships which are being held in India. The championships brought

together more than 170 men and women players from over 20 countries and regions, including the DPRK, China, Uzbekistan and Iran. In the men's 60kg category held on May 11, Pang lifted 130kg in snatch, 174kg in clean and jerk (new world record, new Asian record)

and 304kg in total to win first place in snatch, clean and jerk and total respectively and bagged three gold medals. Kim Il Gyong snatched three gold medals in the women's 58kg category of the championships. In the event held on May 13, she lifted 105kg in snatch

(new Asian record), 125kg in clean and jerk and 230kg in total, thus taking the first place in snatch, jerk and total. Meanwhile, Pak Myong Jin bagged silver medals in jerk and total and a bronze in snatch of the men's 65kg category.

Historical site Sohyon Confucian School

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Sohyon Confucian School is situated in the most scenic place of Suktamgukok, a scenic beauty, in Suktam-ri of Pyoksong County, South Hwanghae Province.

It was one of the local private educational institutions in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

Sohyon Confucian School means a village school for training good-natured and wise men.

There is a *sammun* (the main three-entrance gate) and lecture hall along the axis from east to west and a shrine and pavilions for

to face in the north and west and *morutanchoong*, a moderate form of colourful painting, was applied to all buildings.

And the Yogum Pavilion stands in front of the main gate and not far from it is seen the Chonggye Hall, the first building of the school.

The Yogum Pavilion and Chonggye Hall showcase the excellent contemporary architecture.

During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25 1950-July 27 1953), parts of the old Confucian school were destroyed. But it was restored to its original state thanks to the national heritage protection policy of the country.

