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Kim Jong Un visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun to pay homage to great leaders

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, together with his wife Ri Sol Ju, on April 15, the Day of the Sun (birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung),

the greatest auspicious holiday of the nation.

Accompanying him were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the Party Central Committee, Marshal of the

Korean People's Army Pak Jong Chon, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and chief of the General Staff of the KPA, and Kim Yo Jong and Hyon Song Wol, deputy department directors of the Central Committee of the WPK.

Placed at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il was a flower basket in the name of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un, together with his wife, paid high tribute to the President and the Chairman in front of their statues and extended

the best wishes of immortality to them at the halls where they are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

He recollected with deep emotion the noble revolutionary careers and immortal exploits of the President and the Chairman who, regarding "The people are God" as their

motto throughout their lives, made a new history of Juche Korea which is winning victory after victory by dint of the people-first principle and provided the eternal foundations for the happiness of all generations to come.

KCNA



Kim Jong Un sees joint performance in celebration of Day of Sun

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, on Thursday watched the joint performance "Following the Party Forever" given by major art troupes in celebration of the Day of the Sun.

When he appeared at the auditorium of the theatre with his wife Ri Sol Ju amid the playing of welcome music, all the participants burst into enthusiastic cheers of "Hurrah!" in deep reverence for the General Secretary who is vigorously leading the socialist cause along the road of victory by enhancing in every way the guiding ability and fighting efficiency of the great Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist



Party. The performance was also seen by Choe Ryong Hac, Jo Yong Won, Ri Pyong Chol and Kim Tok Hun, who are members of the Presidium of the

Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, leading officials and staff of the departments of the Party Central Committee and their family members.

When the performance was over, the audience again broke into thunderous cheers for the General Secretary.

KCNA



CELEBRATION

Nation celebrates greatest national holiday

People across the DPRK celebrated the Day of the Sun, the greatest national holiday.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun was overflowing with the feeling of immense reverence for President Kim Il Sung.

The visitors extended the best wishes of immortality to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who consolidated the eternal foundation of a powerful socialist country and guaranteed the eternal future of the revolution, in front of their smiling portraits.

Looking back with deep emotion on the revolutionary careers of the peerlessly great men who made the people-first

history by building a socialist country independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, working people and service personnel across the country paid tribute to the President and the Chairman at their statues and portraits of their beaming images.

Baskets of flowers were sent to the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang by the Beijing Sino-DPRK international cultural development centre, Denmark-DPRK Friendship Association, the German Group for the Study of Korean Culture, the Switzerland-Korea Committee,

the Swedish committee for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, the association of Koreans in Dandong and the general trading company of Koreans in Dandong.

A basket of flowers was also sent to the statues by Svetlana Odintzova, member of the Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il Foundation.

Baskets of flowers were sent to the statues on Mansu Hill also by the family of Ryang Song Ryong, Korean anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr, in China, family of Kim Sun Ok who is related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, families of Zhou Baozhong, Chen Lei,

Feng Zhongyun, Chai Shiyang, Jie Qing, Hu Zhenyi and Jiang Zihua, Chinese related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the family of Ya. T. Nobichenko, a Russian internationalist, and the Anti-Imperialist Forum of Germany and Giancarlo Elia Valori, president of the International Group of Italy.

Floral tribute was also paid at their statues by the missions of international organizations in the DPRK.

A national photo exhibition and a national pencil drawing and calligraphy festival were held.

Visitors to them looked round the photos, pencil drawings and calligraphic works showing the President who regarded "The people are God" as his lifetime motto and made tireless efforts to translate the people's centuries-old desires into reality.

Colourful celebration

performances were given in Pyongyang and localities.

The Mansudae Art Troupe gave a song and dance performance at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

The artistes of the Phibada Opera Troupe staged a performance of famous songs and scenes from revolutionary operas at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

Revolutionary drama "Blood at an International Conference" was performed at the National Theatre.

A song and dance performance and acrobatic performance given by the National Folk Art Troupe and the National Circus at the Ponghwa Art Theatre and the Pyongyang Circus Theatre added excitement and joy to the citizens of Pyongyang.

Outdoor performances were also given by artistes of the

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Kim Jong Un has photo session with participants in conference of Party cell secretaries



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, had a photo session with the participants in the Sixth Conference of Cell Secretaries of the WPK on April 13.

Attending the session were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the Party Central Committee, and Jong Sang

Hak and Ri Il Hwan, secretaries of the Party Central Committee, Kim Jae Ryong and O Il Jong, department directors of the Party Central Committee, and Kwon Yong Jin, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army.

When the General Secretary appeared at the venue, all the participants raised thunderous cheers

of "Hurrah!" extending the highest glory to him.

Waving back to the cheering participants, he extended a warm greeting of encouragement to them.

He had a photo taken with them with the conference venue for a background, expressing his hope that all the cell secretaries, bearing deep in mind the idea and task of strengthening the Party cell and achieving

its unity set forth at the conference, would redouble their efforts to further strengthen the hundreds of thousands of Party cells into the healthy and viable groups closely knitted in the bonds of kinship and the vanguard groups in implementing Party policies that dynamically spur the ongoing general march.

KCNA

WORKSHOP

Short course given for participants in conference of Party cell secretaries

A short course was run for participants in the Sixth Conference of Cell Secretaries of the Workers' Party of Korea from April 9 to 11.

The short course comprehensively dealt with practical matters to decisively enhance the work traits, militant ability and fighting efficiency of all the Party cells to the level desired by the Party Central Committee by brilliantly carrying forward the revolutionary spirit and fighting tradition peculiar to the Workers' Party of Korea, true to the basic idea of the conference.

Stressed during the short course was the matter of building Party cells into the vanguard organizations in which the unified leadership

system of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un is firmly established.

The lecturers said that the work of establishing the unified leadership system of the General Secretary is the most important work facing the revolution to which all the organizations of the whole Party including Party cells should put primary efforts and that there can never be perfection in this work and there must never be even an inch of concession and deviation in it.

They referred to the need to give education in loyalty to the leaders and their greatness in an offensive way, properly offer education to make sure the loyalty to the Party results in practical achievements in work and establish within the Party cells the revolutionary

discipline by which work is done only according to the idea and intention of the General Secretary.

It also pointed out that the Party members should be prepared to be reliable Kimilsungists-Kimjongilists.

The course dealt with the issue for the Party cell secretaries to give meticulous guidance over the Party organizational life with the main emphasis put on promoting the Party spirit of its members and on implementing the Party's policies and fulfilling main revolutionary tasks entrusted to their own units, the issue of arming the Party members with the revolutionary idea of the Party and encouraging them to implement the Party's decisions by directing efforts

to strengthening their Party ideological life, and the issue of conducting more dynamically the work to make the Party cells loyal cells and help them glorify their honour of being loyal cells.

Lecturers said that Party cells should be made the stones supporting the citadel of single-minded unity by putting great efforts into the work among the masses. They also stressed the necessity for the Party cell secretaries to correctly evaluate the present life of the people and take motherly care of them and to intensify the fight against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices and thus turn Party cells into revolutionary posts.

They said the Party cell secretaries should bear in mind the respected General Secretary's noble idea of "The people are God" and devoted service for the good of people and become roots and foundations in rallying the broad masses around the General Secretary more closely and in consolidating the revolutionary

position and the class position.

The short course also dealt with the issue of concentrating the focus of the work of the Party cells on strengthening them into ranks of vanguard fighters for implementing the Party's policies.

The lecturers called for upholding the respected General Secretary with revolutionary conscience and obligation as they stressed the need to more dynamically wage the work to establish socialist moral traits.

They said the Party cell secretaries should take the lead in establishing noble moral traits among people, adopting sound and civilized lifestyle in society and working conscientiously and devotedly for the Party, revolution, state and society.

The participants directed their thinking and study to finding out clear goals and ways to effect fundamental innovation in the Party cell work as intended by the General Secretary during the short course.

KCNA

LEAD

A life devoted to the good of people

On the Day of the Sun, the Korean people felt deep yearning for President Kim Il Sung who always found himself among them and held them in high esteem.

His lifetime motto was "The people are God".

He always gave top priority to the people's interests and managed all state affairs according to their desires and intentions.

It was when he visited the then Songjin Steel Works in September 1947, two years after Korea's liberation.

As he looked at those working at an outdated and dangerous induction furnace, he said that however precious steel might be, the lives of workers could never be bartered for that and resolutely ordered officials to blow up the furnace.

The people whom the President held as "God" were none other than those who had lived without political rights for ages including workers, farmers and intellectuals.

His cherished, greatest desire was to provide the people with the happiest life in the world.

Once he saw a rare chicken



President Kim Il Sung meets with university students engaged in the construction of Pyongyang in June 1957.

with long colourful furs at the feet. After learning about its annual amount of egg laying, he said that a good hen is a good layer and a fine-looking hen is of no use, adding that he would come there every day if there were any prolific layers, even though they

might be ugly-looking.

It was the President's yardstick for evaluation that however gorgeous and novel a thing may be, it is needless if it brings no substantial benefit to the people.

Every parent wants to bring gifts to their children after a

trip.

Always with such paternal love, the President had been to foreign countries. He would learn about something helpful for improving the people's livelihood on foreign tours and tell that to officials after returning to the homeland

tasted the soup its employees were eating and examined the thickness of their quilts.

The Korean people will always remember the President's noble life dedicated to their well-being.

Kim Chang Su

SITE

Mangyongdae in spring

In mid-spring the whole country is seething with life, covered with greens and flowers. And the spring scenery at Mangyongdae is so beautiful that it reminds viewers of a flower garden.

Since ancient times its landscape was counted as one of the finest beauty spots and the kaleidoscopic views enjoyed from Mangyongdae was condensed into 10 to be called the "10 famous views of flower village".

Mangyong Hill, 45m above sea level, is the highest of all hills around Mangyongdae. It is called thus as it commands a bird's eye view over the kaleidoscopic views from the top.

Mangyongdae is not only noted for its natural beauty. It is the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung, the eternal leader

of the Korean people.

The old straw-thatched home of the President is preserved in its original state, reflecting the miserable life of the Korean people.

The President grew up here receiving patriotic education from the revolutionary family members in his early years. He set out on the road of revolution with a lofty intention to liberate his country in his early teens. After achieving national liberation as he overcame a multitude of difficulties, he built socialist Korea.

It is now visited by an endless stream of Korean people and they look back on the tearful life of him who devoted his all to the people and his undying revolutionary exploits.

Kim Kwang Chol

HOMAGE

Central Party leadership members pay homage to great leaders

Members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Choe Ryong Hae, Ri Pyong Chol and Kim Tok Hun and other members of the leadership body of the Party Central Committee visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche, on the occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

Placed at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il were flower baskets in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

The members of the leadership body of the Party Central



Members of the Party central leadership body visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to mark the 109th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

Committee paid deep respects to the great leaders before the statues.

At the halls of immortality where Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il

are preserved in their lifetime appearance, they made a deep bow to them with deepest reverence.

KCNA

Celebration: Nation celebrates Day of Sun

FROM PAGE 2

central artistic motivational squads and members of artistic motivational teams in Pyongyang in different parts of the city, brightening the festive mood.

The central artistic motivational team, central youth artistic motivational team, central workers' artistic motivational team of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, central agricultural workers' artistic motivational team and artistic motivational teams of the railway sector, the Capital City Construction Commission and Pyongyang Municipality put on stage the songs in praise of the great people's leader and songs of loyalty to be resounded forever with the history of the DPRK.

Members of art groups in districts, universities, industrial establishments, Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and other units gave distinctive outdoor performances in different parts of Pyongyang to enhance the holiday atmosphere.

Artistes of the provincial art troupes and provincial artistic motivational teams gave performances at their localities.

Young people held dance

parties in Pyongyang and the provinces on April 15.

The April 25 House of Culture, Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and other places of dance parties in Pyongyang were filled with great excitement and joy of young people and students celebrating the Day of the Sun with profound yearning and reverence for President Kim Il Sung.

Young people held dances amid the playing of song *Let Us Sing of the Day of the Sun*.

The venues for dance parties were overflowing with great yearning for Chairman Kim Jong Il who had trained young people to be ardent patriots and those strong in idea and faith by carrying on the President's original idea of attaching importance to youth.

The dancers were full of conviction and will to remain faithful to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who has ushered in the new golden age of the Juche-oriented youth movement with love and trust in young people as they danced to the tune of the songs, *Glory to General Kim Jong Un* and *People's Jubilation*.

Dance parties also took place in provincial capitals, cities and counties across the country.

Officials and members of the women's union held dance parties at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph on April 15.



People from all walks of life visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay homage to the great leaders.

The venue was overflowing with great yearning for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who had ushered in the rise of the Juche-oriented women's movement and administered the politics of attaching importance to and respecting women.

The dancers were full of great pride in being Korean women, who bloom into the flowers of the country, life and families under the warm care of the respected Comrade

Kim Jong Un.

Officials and members of the women's union across the country also gave dance parties that day.

The dance party of youth and students and fireworks display took place at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on the evening of April 15.

National and youth league flags fluttered in all places and various ornaments decorated the venue of the evening party.

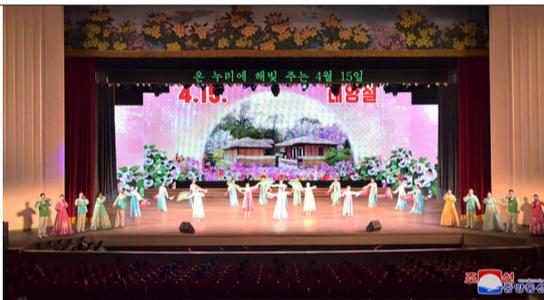
When the song *Let Us Sing of*

the Day of the Sun reverberated through the night sky of the capital city, young people started evening gala party.

As the party hotted up for the joy and optimism of youth with the passage of time, a shower of fireworks soared up all of a sudden, beautifully decorating the nocturnal sky.

That day, public catering amenities served the customers to enliven the holiday.

KCNA



A variety of celebrations take place to mark the Day of the Sun including the national photo exhibition, national pencil drawing and calligraphy festival, art performances and fireworks display.

SCENE

Moran Hill unfolds spectacular scenery in spring

Moran Hill is well-known as a scenic beauty in the capital city of Pyongyang.

In this balmy spring various kinds of flowers begin to bud and the fragrant smell of pine resin fills the air in every peak of the hill in the shape of a full-blown peony, as if boasting their beauty.

“Most conspicuous in this season are the looks of wedding couples. They come here to plant trees to celebrate their weddings,” said a gardener of the Moranbong District landscaping station.

Young pine trees, which seemed to have just been planted, were seen here and

there in sunny places of the hill.

A wedding couple told the journalist of *The Pyongyang Times* that they planted a tree as they hoped their love would last forever like the tree and wanted to add beauty to Moran Hill, though a little.

For both professional and amateur artists alike, spring scenery of Moran Hill is a must-see.

“Beautiful natural scenery of Moran Hill and the looks of people enjoying it always give us fresh creative inspiration,” said a Korean painting expert.

Amateur artists met for a

collective critique of their paintings on the hill.

One of them said that it is important to apply line drawing technique and miniature well to vividly show the unique spring tint in the painting, adding he had to study more to fully represent the beauty of Moran Hill with every line and brush stroke.

“I have come up here to take photos around this time for several years. But I am unhappy I lack skills to fully represent the exquisite beauty of Moran Hill,” said Kim Hyok Chol, an amateur photographer.

By Kil Chung Il PT



PAK KWANG HUN

Counter-clockwise from top: A bridal party poses for their wedding photo in Moran Hill. Two girls in sportswear bearing the national flag sit on a bench to enjoy the scene of Moran Hill. An artist is engrossed in creating a painting. A woman takes a photo of the white blossoms.

LIBRARY

Grand People's Study House a temple for all-people learning

There is the Grand People's Study House boasting the magnificence of Korean-style architecture on Namsan Hill, one of the best locations in the heart of Pyongyang.

The construction of the study house was initiated by President Kim Il Sung.

He decided to build a temple for all-people learning in order to make the Korean people have high cultural attainments and advanced scientific and

technological knowledge as required by the developing times and, to this end, appointed the site for it in the excellent place which officials suggested as a plot for a government office building.

The large house has a total floor space of a hundred thousand square metres and two storeys under and eight above the ground and is crowned with gabled roofs. Its interior is also as dignified as a palace as it has a floor height of over ten metres

and is decorated with gorgeous chandeliers and marble pillars.

With a housing capacity of 30 million books, it holds old books of national treasure value, publications brought out in the DPRK since Korea's liberation, old printed books, books printed from wood blocks and manuscripts showing the history of printing culture of Korea, many foreign sci-tech books, periodicals, documents on special technologies and

BOOK

Writer renowned for his history books



“My dad's old stories were so lifelike that I felt as if I went back to the past and lived in the same period.”

Jo Chong Un, member of the Writers Union of Korea

training course at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, he buried himself in writing a history book.

He made painstaking efforts for several years and finally completed *Biography of Korean Martial Art Masters*. It was his first smash hit.

The book shows in detail that the Korean ancestors had regarded physical training as the right course of character building since ancient times and established the habit of attaching importance to military affairs, following up the traces of the patriotic generals who made their name with distinguished services in the fights to defend the country.

Jo introduced renowned Korean martial artists in the extended historical period from the mid-3rd century BC to the early 20th century in the five-volume book.

Practised writers including those of the Writers Union of Korea refer to it as a “book that tactfully shows the individuality of famous generals and talents” and a “book inspiring pride in the nation's orthodox martial art in the people”.

After writing the book, Jo brought out historical novels *King Yongnak* and *Oh, Heaven and Earth* in succession to become more familiar to the readers.

He is now working on a new history book.

Five-volume *Biography of Korean Martial Art Masters* was published several years ago, but it is still much sought after in the DPRK.

Readers of the book say in unison that it recounts Korean history through the lives of famous martial artists and the more they read it, the more appealing they find it.

They also hold out hope that the book would be adapted for the screen on historical theme.

Biography of Korean Martial Art Masters is an absorbing read as it tells about the outstanding skills of famous Korean martial artists, the journey of life of each of them and why they are still remembered by people.

The book was authored by Jo Chong Un (pictured).

Now in his early forties, Jo heard many stories about the patriotic generals, known and unknown, of the Korean nation who repulsed foreign invasion and defended the country from his father, a historian, in his childhood.

“My dad's old stories were so lifelike that I felt as if I went back to the past and lived in the same period. I just wanted to write all that seemed to be happening so vividly before my eyes. That is how I began to write historical novels,” said Jo.

After finishing the writers

By Choe Yong Nam PT

sci-tech news reports of international organizations.

All services at the study house are free.

“It provides people with not only library service but also education as the country's major social educational base. This is its essential feature that makes it distinct from other libraries,” said Nam Sun Nyo, vice-president of the study house.

Its educational service is diverse including lecture, short course and sci-tech field service and they are offered by its lecturers and such extramural lecturers as distinguished scientists and other experts holding academic degrees and titles and officials at state organs.

The study house directs efforts

into improving the quality of library service and education.

It makes information about books more specific and detailed, constantly updates teaching contents, converts lots of books into digital format, builds a database of latest sci-tech information and diversifies service.

The service plan of the house, which is announced through newspapers, radios and TV, is now much awaited by users and millions of people receive various services at the house annually.

The Grand People's Study House was established on April 1 1982.

By Yun Ki Song PT

COMMENT

Western countries not in a position to point fingers at others in human rights issue

Some Western countries, as if they are advanced in the field of human rights, recently analysed the human rights situation of each country to give it mark and rankings and brand those standing last as “human rights desert”.

But is the human rights situation of such faultfinders so advanced to be modelled on by all other nations of the world?

Human rights practice in UK

A British newspaper recently released police information. According to it, 85 000 women are raped annually in England and Wales and 400 000 are subjected to sexual assaults, but the rate of prosecution against suspects is only about 2.6 percent.

Another terrible incident occurred in the country, testifying to the embarrassing human rights situation of women.

On March 3, a woman named Sarah Everard went missing. Some days later a policeman in charge of guarding the diplomatic corps was arrested on suspicion of abduction and homicide of the 33-year-old woman. It was followed by a women’s

demonstration in a London park on the evening of March 13 in demand of eradication of men’s sexual assaults against women. The demo assumed a peaceful character in the form of memorial service for attracting attention to sexual violence against women.

That evening, however, the police clamped down on them and took them away in handcuffs. This greatly enraged the public and the demo grew in scale, extending to the open spaces in front of government and parliament buildings.

Some British people including politicians denounced the police, but such media as BBC and other organizations shielded the policemen, claiming that they tried to maintain public order and that the mourners should not have held such a meeting by complying with the restrictive measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

No one knows since when Britons and their media have been concerned about social distancing and other restrictive measures related to the pandemic, but their arguments are nothing more than an excuse to cover up the police outrage.

After all, the peaceful remembrance meeting organized against anti-woman violence was terminated by police violence against more women.

The world seems to be distorted to a warped mind. Some Brits including politicians and journalists need to reflect on their country’s human rights record including women’s human rights issue, before talking about the human rights situation of other countries under the eyes of the world.

Australian human rights situation

The political circles of the country have been thrown into confusion following a series of revelations of sexual violence by victims. Most recently, Brittany Higgins, who had worked in the Australian military, asserted she was sexually assaulted by her colleague in the defence minister’s office two years ago.

According to information published by the Ministry of the Interior of the country on March 18, fraud and swindling increased by 70 percent in society in 2020 as compared to the previous year and 43 murder cases with 54 victims were

reported.

Of them, 70 percent occurred between assaulters and victims who were familiar with each other, and family violence increased by 13 percent after the lockdown measure was taken against COVID-19.

Meanwhile, the international community has been vocal against the violation of the rights of aborigines in the country.

As such abuse is commonly practised in the country, the Australian troops stationed overseas are brutally killing Afghan prisoners and residents as they infringe foreigners’ human rights.

As the facts tell, such Western countries as the UK and Australia are not qualified to instruct other nations over human rights or impudently trample on humanitarianism itself.

Those that like to talk about human rights should refrain from getting into confrontation over the basic rights, abandoning the evil intention to use the issue as a tool for interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

By Om Ryong PT

SOLIDARITY

Full support to and solidarity with Syrian people

Syria had been “prey” for big powers for hundreds of years as it is situated at a point of strategic importance in the Middle East.

Thanks to the undaunted resistance of the Syrian people, foreign aggression forces withdrew in April 1946 and Syria achieved independence.

The Syrian people celebrate

April 17 as a national holiday.

It is 75 years since foreign aggression forces withdrew from Syria, but enormous difficulties and obstacles still remain in the way of its people.

They are shedding blood even at the moment due to the vicious schemes of the hostile and reactionary forces at home and the reckless military attack

of Israel.

Last year alone the Israeli army made 39 rounds of air raids on Syria, killing about 220 people. On January 22 this year it carried out a missile attack on Hama province of Syria, killing four civilians including children.

The international community provides active support to the Syrian people.

The Iranian foreign minister at an event in February said his country would offer assistance to Syria continuously in various fields and express support to the efforts to ensure security and stability in Syria.

Russia also voiced full support to the independent and just struggle of Syria in the joint statement published with Syria in March.

The Korean people will continue to side with the Syrian people in their efforts to achieve the country’s stability and build a peaceful and prospering state.

By Min Chol PT

IRAN

Endeavour to build independent, powerful state

After they toppled the Pahlavi dictatorship with a popular uprising on February 11 1979, the Iranian people established the Islamic republic on April 1. Since then, they have been building an independent new society.

They are striving to achieve independent development and prosperity of the country while smashing the interference and dominationist moves by outside forces.

Iran puts a big effort into strengthening its defence

power to reliably safeguard its sovereignty.

It produces advanced military hardware by relying on its own scientific and technical forces and copes with all sorts of threats to the revolution and territorial integrity on the strength of capable soldiers and advanced weaponry.

The Iranian presidential office in a statement denouncing Israel’s threat against the country late last January stressed that the Iranian armed forces were fully

prepared to defend the country and cope with any threat from the enemies.

As it is presently under the economic sanctions of the West, Iran is conducting economic activities on the principle of self-sufficiency.

It satisfies the domestic needs for food, farm produce and fuel within the country, and now increases the production of medical equipment conducive to preventing and treating COVID-19.

Also, it regards the protection

of forests and pastures as an important undertaking for ensuring food security and directs nationwide efforts to tree planting.

Iran declared this year as the year of “production, support and removing obstacles” and is steadily pushing ahead with the drive for production growth, which began last year, as a long-term task.

The DPRK established diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on April 15 1973.

The Korean people render active support to the struggle of the Iranian people for safeguarding their sovereignty and achieving peace and stability.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Briefly

China

Satellite put into orbit

On April 9, China launched a satellite to be used for probing the space environment and conducting a relevant technical test at a satellite launch centre. Carried by Long March-4B carrier rocket, the satellite was reportedly sent up into the designated orbit.

Russia

Tit-for-tat action

NATO forces stationed in Lithuania, Estonia and Poland staged a military drill between April 5 and 9 in Latvia with the involvement of a mechanized infantry brigade of the Latvian army. Timed to coincide with this, the maritime flying corps of the Russian Baltic fleet conducted a military exercise for thwarting attempted “enemy” attacks.

Mongolia

Many trees planted

Recently, a tree-planting campaign was launched in Middle Gobi of Mongolia.

It is reportedly aimed at planting over 80 000 trees till 2022 as part of an effort to prevent desertification and the lowering of soil fertility.

Zimbabwe

To ease food shortage

On April 7, the Zimbabwean government set a goal of developing agriculture to put an end to food import by 2024. Accordingly, the value added and export of agricultural produce will be increased respectively by 40 and 60 percent, and about a million new jobs will be created in the agricultural sector.

UK

Police crackdown on demonstrators

Lots of citizens of London recently staged a demonstration against the authorities’ harsh measure.

They strongly denounced the authorities for trying to adopt a bill empowering the police to use armed forces against peaceful demonstrators.

There was a clash between policemen and demonstrators and over 100 people were taken away.

Japan

Poacher of whales

Two whaling vessels have recently set sail from Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture, Japan.

It is reported that five ships will be engaged in whaling to catch 120 minke whales on the coasts of Hokkaido and Sanriku till late October.

Since it quit the International Whaling Commission in late 2018, Japan has been conducting commercial whaling on a larger scale.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

PROFILE

Ex-paddler once renowned for unassailable defence

Among the world-famous DPRK sportspeople is Ri Kun Sang, also known as a "moving wall" in table tennis.

He won over 30 gold medals and trophies in several international tournaments including the international open table tennis championships in 1989.

He started learning table tennis at Kim Song Ju Primary School and took the first place in district- and city-level events from his primary school years, attracting the attention of experts.

Later, he was picked out by the April 25 Sports Club, where he demonstrated his ability to the full.

"Skilful and stout defence and quick and strong drive were his forte. Many opponents got embroiled in his tactic of stubborn defence and surprise attack to lose the matches with him," said An Chol Yong, table tennis coach of the April 25 Sports Club.

After winning a gold medal in the junior class of the then Mangyongdae Prize Games

in 1978, he competed in the senior level for the first time at the Fifth People's Games and bagged a gold and two silver medals, to be selected as a national team player.

He made his international debut at the 7th Asian Table-Tennis Championships, rendering great services to his team's finishing runner-up at the team event and earning a bronze in the men's singles.

In December 1989, the international open table tennis championships took place in Sweden, drawing top players from across the world. The event was equal to the world championships in terms of the composition of participating teams. Ri greatly contributed to his team's victory in the team event and beat all opponents to win the singles.

He was placed first in the first world all-star table tennis meet held in Japan and the world all-star table tennis tournament in succession and achieved good results at the 11th Asian Cup table-tennis competition and other



Ri Kun Sang's calm yet stout and tenacious style of play was enough to strike fear into many of his opponents."

An Chol Yong, table tennis coach of the April 25 Sports Club

international events.

"Ri Kun Sang's calm yet stout and tenacious style of play was enough to strike fear into many of his opponents," said An.

After retiring from his professional career, Ri worked as a table tennis coach at the April 25 Sports Club and trained many national team players.

He is still working at the club as an official in charge of the sport.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

SCENIC SPOT

Mt Jangsu nicknamed 'Kumgang in Hwanghae'

There are many scenic attractions, which are called "Kumgang" along with the superb scenic beauty of Mt Kumgang, in the DPRK. Of them, there is Mt Jangsu which earned fame as "Kumgang in Hwanghae province".

In olden times, the Korean people said that whereas Mt Kumgang is the prince of

natural beauty of mountains which dominates the eastern mountain area, Mt Jangsu is the queen of beauty of valleys which made a sudden rise from obscurity in the western flat area.

Originally, Mt Jangsu was called Mt Chiak in the meaning that it abounded in pheasants. It was called thus in a sense

that many people came there to repulse foreign enemy while breathing fresh air, drinking water and having herbs during the 1592-1598 Imjin Patriotic War and lived long.

The mountain was also called Mt Hongak in spring, Mt Chongak in summer, Mt Phungak in autumn and Mt Paegak in winter for its beautiful



A rainbow appears over the Hyon Temple on Mt Jangsu.

HISTORY

Ten warriors remembered for their extraordinary bravery

The story about the ten men of strength of Pyongyang emerged during the Imjin Patriotic War or the Japanese invasion of Korea between 1592 and 1598.

The ten men in the Pyongyang area at that time means Jon Ju Bok who broke stones with his fist, Ton Jong Sin who swiftly jumped over the roofs of houses, Popkun who was a monk and master swordsman, Jang I Dok and Ko Chung Gyong who were men of muscle, Kim Ja Thack who excelled in archery, Hyon Su Back who was a man of sense, Pak Ok who was very wise and sagacious, Rim Ki Dong who was very nimble and Kim Ung So who was a military officer.

More than 200 000 Japanese troops invaded Korea on April 13 1592 and forced their way into Pyongyang in June after occupying the capital city of Hansong by taking advantage of their temporary superiority.

The ten strong men of Pyongyang turned out in the fight against the invaders.

When the invaders were zeroing in on the Walled City of Pyongyang, Pak Ok donated his rice as military provisions and encouraged others to follow suit, saying that if the aggressors entered the walls, the rice in their storehouses would be taken away, so it should be used for defence first. As a result, over 2 812 tons of rice came from all districts of the city and went a long way towards defending the walls.

scenery in all seasons.

Since ancient times, the beauties of valley, rock and observation have been regarded as the three beauties of the mountain. Among them, the beauty of valleys in twelve bends was counted first.

High-rise cliffs, various trees and grasses growing in the gaps of precipice, crystal-clear water flowing through valleys, waterfalls, ponds and thick forests form a mysterious and enchanting spectacle to behold.

Visitors are reluctant to take their eyes off Sansam (wild insam) Rock, Surigae (eagle) Rock and other queer-looking rocks which can be seen here and there.

Moreover, it is nothing short of spectacular to mount the highest peak of Pojok and look round Mts Jwayang, Kuwol and Jongbang in the distance.

Mt Jangsu is largely divided into the twelve bends of the mountain, the Myoum Temple area and the Jangsusan Fort area. The areas are of great

The invaders swarmed to the Tongdaewon area in early June 1592 and tried to attack the city.

At that time the ten men of Pyongyang adopted a tactical feint of protecting a deep point of a river instead of Wangsongthan, a neck of the rapids in the area of Chongnyu Cliff, thereby luring the enemies into the deep water to be drowned.

When the city was under the enemy's temporary occupation, the ten Pyongyang men led the units of the volunteer army to attack enemies around the walls at night and pursue their retreating small units to annihilate them.

The ten men who had been mounting severe attacks on the enemies around the city by employing various tactics went into the decisive battle to recapture the walled city together with the citizens in January 1593.

In the battle, Kim Ung So attacked the Hamgu Gate, the southern gate of the walled city, by leading his troops and nine others leading volunteer army units fought in the van of attack on the Chilsong Gate.

Japanese invaders lost lots of troops at the two-day-long fierce battle before retreating from the city.

In the battle several of the ten men of strength fell in action.

Ju Song Chol, department chief of the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences

value as they abound in historical relics showing the Korean history and talents of ancestors, as well as beauty spots including Tolmun and Mulhaeng valleys.

The Myoum Temple area, in particular, is said to have been called a typical district of scenic beauty on the west coast of Korea, and old records say that an endless stream of tourists flow there in spring when flowers come into bloom and autumn when mountains are ablaze with the glorious tints of foliage since the scenery in all seasons differs with each other and the delight of tourists is innumerable.

Besides, Mt Jangsu not only teems with fauna and flora resources, but also has a rare fold which is hard to find in the world.

And there is a 40-kilometre-long sightseeing loop road in the Mt Jangsu beauty spot, starting from the first of the twelve bends to Lake Unpha.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

