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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visits ministry to congratulate service personnel on Army Day

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, paid a congratulatory visit to the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces on February 8 to mark the 71st KPA anniversary.

The Supreme Commander had a photo session with the KPA commanding officers in front of the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at the ministry.

At its conference hall, Kim Jong Un met with generals and other officers of the ministry and commanders of KPA large combined units and combined units and warmly congratulated them on Army Day.

He made an important speech at the meeting.

He extended warm congratulations to the officers and men of the entire army and families of service personnel, who were celebrating Army Day at a stirring time when a new epochal phase has been opened in the development of the Korean revolution and the building of a powerful socialist country has been pushed ahead at a new stage of development.

As he met the commanders of all army corps, divisions and brigades of the KPA on the significant occasion, he felt like meeting all the Korean service personnel, he said, asking them to convey to all the soldiers the feelings of the Supreme Commander who always misses them and usually has his mind on them though he is far away from them.

Stressing the need for the KPA to make a great leap forward and great innovations unprecedented in the WPK's history of revolutionary struggle and army building this year and thus fulfil the historic mission the times and revolution bestowed upon it, he set forth militant tasks facing the army.

More thorough establishment of the Party's unified command system over the entire army, he said, is the fundamental guarantee for modelling the entire army on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, the general task of army building, and an important undertaking related to the destiny of the country, revolution and people.

Party organizations and political



institutions in the KPA should bear in mind that ideological and moral advantages are the absolute ones of the revolutionary army that cannot be bartered for anything and a guarantee of its invincibility and conduct ideological work in an offensive, diversified and three-dimensional way by putting emphasis on making the entire army strong in politico-ideological awareness and moral sense with them as the twin pillar, so as to make the entire army an ideologically pure entity, a community with a shared future that has the same spirit with the Party and shares the thought, intention and destiny with it, he noted.

By further improving class education as befit the vanguard ranks of the class struggle that stand guard over the forefront of the campaign to defend socialism taking up the arms of the revolution, the KPA should mercilessly foil all moves of the hostile forces to undermine the ideology and social system of the country, he said.

Turning the KPA into an elite force is the policy the WPK constantly adheres to in building the revolutionary armed forces, he said, calling for thoroughly implementing the five-

point policy on effecting a radical turn in military training set forth by the Party Central Committee to make the army win victory in any operations and battles. He also gave instructions on further strengthening the KPA politico-ideologically and in military technique in line with the requirements of the present times.

He also emphasized the need to fire soldiers with enthusiasm for military training and competitiveness by vigorously conducting mass movements including the crack shot movement in the entire army.

Effecting of a radical turn in ideological awareness and military training, modernization of military

hardware and establishment of a strict military discipline are the fundamental keys to stepping up the drive to make the army elite revolutionary armed forces, he said.

The KPA should keep holding high the slogan "Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!" and give full play to the fighting mettle and pattern of creation peculiar to the KPA in all battle areas for building a powerful socialist country in which the Party wants it to be and thus play an important part this year, a year of crucial importance in carrying out the five-year strategy for national economic development, he noted.

He specified the ways to successfully carry out the important tasks facing the KPA this year including how to further enhance the role of Party organizations and political institutions at all levels of the KPA and build up the military capability in every way by overcoming all hardships and difficulties in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

So great is the trust of the Party in the KPA commanding officers, he said, expressing his expectation and conviction that they would take full responsibility for their work before the Party, revolution, country and people and achieve greater successes in their work.

Compiled from KCNA



Kim Jong Un enjoys performance with commanding officers



Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, saw a performance given by the State Merited Chorus to celebrate the 71st founding anniversary of the KPA on February 8 at the annex to the headquarters of the Party Central Committee together with all commanders of KPA large combined units and combined units.

Among the audience were KPA Vice Marshal Ri Myong Su, first vice-commander of the KPA Supreme Command, KPA Army General Kim Su Gil, director of the KPA General Political Bureau, KPA Army General Ri Yong Gil, chief of the KPA General Staff, and KPA Army General No Kwang Chol, minister of the People's Armed Forces of the DPRK, and

other commanding officers of the General Political Bureau and General Staff of the KPA and the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces together with the commanders of the corps, divisions and brigades of the KPA.

Choe Ryong Hae, Ri Su Yong, Kim Phyong Hae, Thae Jong Su, O Su Yong and Kim Yong Chol, vice-chairmen of the WPK Central Committee, and other leading officials of the WPK Central Committee and the State Affairs Commission also saw the performance.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju appeared in the auditorium.

He warmly congratulated all the KPA officers and men on the 71st founding anniversary of the KPA.

The performance started with orchestral music *The Glorious Country*, followed by such numbers



as male group singing and chorus *We Wish the Supreme Commander Good Health*, male solo and chorus *Cantata to Marshal Kim Il Sung* and unaccompanied chorus *The Country I Defend*.

The performers sang highly of the dignity and might of the country which is dynamically advancing along the road of victory of socialism under the wise guidance of the WPK and gave an impressive and fine artistic representation of the firm faith and will of the army and people to firmly trust and follow the Party and the leader only and safeguard them politically and ideologically and at the cost of their lives while invariably and faithfully carrying on the arms of Mt Paektu, the lifeline of the Korean revolution.

As the Supreme Leader demanded

an encore, female trio and male chorus *Our National Flag* was performed again conducted by People's Artist Jang Ryong Sik, deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, making the audience bubble with excitement and bringing the performance to a climax.

The Supreme Leader expressed great satisfaction with the wonderful performance of high ideological and artistic value.

He expressed the expectation and belief that the artistes of the State Merited Chorus would as ever conduct revolutionary artistic activities more positively and thus creditably fulfil their honourable mission and duty as point men on the front of art and literature.

Compiled from KCNA

Party hosts banquet to mark anniv of the KPA

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea arranged a banquet to mark the 71st founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the KPA, attended the banquet.

Present there were commanding officers of the KPA General Political Bureau and General Staff and the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces and all commanders of KPA large combined units and combined units.

Also seen there were leading officials of the WPK Central Committee and the State Affairs Commission.

At the banquet Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un warmly congratulated all the service personnel on Army Day once again.

Upon authorization of the Supreme Leader, Choe Ryong Hae delivered a congratulatory speech to the KPA on behalf of the Party Central Committee.



Compiled from KCNA

LEADING ARTICLE

Laying foundations for powerful nation building

"Let us live not merely for today but for tomorrow!"

This showed the view on life of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

He suggested the slogan in the latter half of the 1990s when the country faced a multitude of severe hardships and difficulties due to the collapse of socialism in East European countries and successive natural disasters, coupled with the death of President Kim Il Sung and wicked anti-DPRK pressure moves of the hostile forces.

At such a hard time when the people all over world thought it would be a miracle for Korean socialism to survive, the Chairman was confident not only about the defence of socialist Korea but also about the rosy future of a thriving country and nation, directing great energies and devotion to laying the solid foundations for it.

He, who had already realized the great power exerted by the indomitable spiritual strength of the people, paid primary attention to inspiring people, builders of a powerful socialist country, so as to give the fullest play to their inexhaustible spiritual strength.

He authored many works, in which he elucidated the ideological and spiritual features people have to possess including the high sense of national pride, the spirit of self-reliance, love for the future, spirit of devotion to it and others, and gave definite answers to all problems that arise in enlisting them properly. He also ensured that a socialist emulation drive was staged

fiercely across the country and gave pep talks to the working people who made innovative achievements so that the elated public enthusiasm continued to run high.

Field inspection played an important part in his leadership.

In the new century his field inspection numbered 100 on an annual average, sometimes nearly 160 times a year. On the on-site guidance tour, called a "mid-summer forced march" and "forced march against blizzard", he earnestly instructed his people to lead the world by relying on their own efforts, technology and resources.

He saw that more large power stations relying on the abundant hydropower resources of the country were built to increase the generation of electric power, energy that powers the economy, and visited the construction site of the Huichon Power Station several times in the face of heavy snowstorm in the northern highland. He also inspected many metal and chemical factories across the country again and again to ensure that Juche iron, fertilizer and fibre were produced in large quantities.

Viewing science and technology as an important pillar supporting a socialist power together with politics and military, he disbursed almost all the money the country had for the application of CNC system at the time when every penny was worth a thousand pieces of gold and kindled the flames of a campaign to break through the cutting edge throughout the country.

Industrial establishments across the country dynamically pushed ahead with projects to modernize their machinery and other equipment and production processes and the country's economy was boosted a level higher in scientific and technical terms.

A sea change also took place in agriculture and livestock farming.

After planning a grand project for rezoning all farmland into standardized plots for mechanized farming, he ensured that an example of land rezoning was set in Kangwon Province to be followed by the whole country. At the same time, he pushed ahead with projects to realign orchards of fruit farms across the country into large sizes and introduce dwarf apple and other varieties of fruit trees of high productivity so as to radically increase fruit harvest.

The policy on scientific livestock farming set forth by the Chairman brought about a drastic change and gave a boost to productivity in livestock farming bases.

Today the solid foundations of the independent national economy, powerful science and technology and precious fighting experience provided by the Chairman with great efforts serve as the priceless asset for the country to make rapid progress uninterruptedly even under the harsh economic blockade and sanctions imposed by outside forces.

By Pak Song Min PT

FLOWER

Kimjongilia in full bloom



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kimjongilias are in full bloom at the greenhouse of the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Exhibition House to mark the Day of the Shining Star.

Although the temperature is below zero, full-blown Kimjongilias are seen here and there.

The Korean people have brought the flowers into bloom in their workplaces and homes to mark the Day of the Shining Star, the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il, in reflection of their firm determination to hold him in high esteem as their eternal leader.

Kimjongilias are in bloom at the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia greenhouse of the Ministry of Mining Industry.

"We grow Kimjongilia every year, and we have many more flowers bloomed this year," said greenhouse keeper Kim Ok Gyong.

The similar greenhouse of the Kyonghung Guidance Bureau, which is well known for growing beautiful Kimjongilia, has successfully raised it this year, too, by introducing advanced technical data it obtained at last year's national scientific

seminar on the flower.

A sea of flowers unfolding at the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia greenhouse in Huichon, Jagang Province, which was built last year, is associated with the devotion of the citizens.

Thanks to their positive support, Kimjongilias began to bloom early in February.

Among those cultivating Kimjongilia at home, there is Hwang Jin Hyok, student of Suwon Middle School No. 1 in North Hamgyong Province.

With the pride of growing the world's best flower by himself, he worked hard to acquire relevant knowledge and produce beautiful flowers as he kept a diary on their growth.

Such flowers that burst into bloom backed up by people's sincere devotion are on display at the venues of Kimjongilia festival and exhibitions across the country, drawing the admiration of visitors.

By Pang Un Ju PT

CELEBRATION

Nation celebrates Day of Shining Star

A variety of events are being held across the DPRK in celebration of the Day of the

Shining Star, the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The national photo exhibition

in celebration of the 77th anniversary of the Chairman's birth was opened at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on February 7.

On display are photos showing the revolutionary activities of the Chairman, who took all pains to bring all blessings to his people as he built a thriving socialist country, and pictures of the Korean people who have led an independent, creative and happy life as masters of the state and society in the embrace of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The ice sculpture festival-2019 started in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province, on February 10.



The ice sculpture exhibition-2019 is held in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province.

Lots of ice sculptures on various themes were created with ardent yearning for the Chairman who was born as the son of Mt Paektu and devoted all his life to the country's prosperity and the people's wellbeing.

A week-long film show also opened at the Pyongyang International Cinema House on February 11.

The opening ceremony was followed by the screening of a documentary on the distinguished revolutionary career of the Chairman.

That day, similar shows began in the provinces.

The shows screen documentaries on the revolutionary activities of Kim Jong Il and feature films representing the people's ideological and moral qualities, noble outlooks on life and indomitable fighting spirit.

National art exhibition "Pine—national tree of the DPRK" was opened on February 13 at the art exhibition hall of the Pyongyang International

House of Culture.

The 23rd Kimjongilia Festival started on February 14 at the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Exhibition House in Pyongyang.

The exhibition house is decorated with large numbers of Kimjongilias, which were grown by ministries, national agencies, local people and overseas compatriots, and is crowded with tens of thousands of visitors every day.

Looking round the venue, they are convinced once again that the Chairman's exploits are immortal along with the eternal fragrance of the best flower of the world.

On the same day, a synchronized swimming demonstration began at the swimming pool of the Changgwang Health Complex in Pyongyang. On February 15, the 26th Paektusan Prize international figure skating festival also opened at the Ice Rink in Pyongyang.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

STEEL

Technical upgrading pushed for steel-making process

The Chollima Steel Complex presses on with new technical upgrading projects.

While technically perfecting and ensuring the normal operation of the Juche-oriented iron- and steel-making processes, it made significant successes one after another in the efforts to provide enough refractory and other materials in keeping with its increased production capacity.

The Posan Iron Works channelled big efforts into technically completing existing production processes and setting up a new process, thereby further improving the Juche iron production process and modernizing equipment at a high level.

It keeps improving the technical level of microalloying and building up the production capacity of different kinds of

ferroalloys by applying the high-temperature air combustion technology to rotary kilns and establishing the ferroboron and ferromanganese production processes based on domestic raw materials one after another.

The installation of a press for compressing scrap iron at the raw materials yard made it possible to shorten the time of furnace feeding and melting, while the introduction of a new technology into continuous ingotting and refining processes helped improve the quality of iron and steel.

The complex tapped its own technical staff and potentialities to establish a large-capacity refractory production process while taking measures in parallel for the supply of refractory in keeping with increased production.

Shortly ago, it introduced

the advanced electromagnetic induction stirring law into the steel-making process to further upgrade the four processes of melting, refining, continuous casting and rolling. Technicians of the complex said that the introduction of the effective method, which promotes steel-making, helped further complete the process structure for improving the quality of steel by rapidly removing carbon, phosphorus, sulfur and oxygen in molten iron and correctly regulating the content of alloying element.

Besides, dozens of new technical innovation plans for increasing the operational rate of electric furnaces and improving the quality of steel were introduced to prove effective in the Juche iron production.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



The rolled steel output keeps growing at the Chollima Steel Complex.

PHOTOS BY AN CHOL RYONG AND RI JIN HYOK / PICTORIAL KOREA

POULTRY

Every reserve tapped to boost output

The Hungju Chicken Farm in Kanggye, Jagang Province, has taken the lead in implementing the annual economic plan for over a decade.

Last year, in particular, the farm exceeded the peak year level in the production of chicken and eggs by positively introducing advanced poultry farming technology and establishing rational feeding, breeding and anti-epizootic systems.

"The secret of the success lies in tapping every reserve and possibility to meet our specific conditions," said chief engineer Jon Jong Rak.

Technicians lowered the grain feed consumption and remarkably increased the fattening rate of each chicken by applying various innovative methods to resolve the feed problem.

A typical example is the

technique to chemically treat byproducts from the raising process into quality organic feed.

The farm also produces the feed of animal origin with chicken waste in order to increase the proportion of non-grain feed and boost output while reducing feed cost as much as possible.

It has established an integrated production system to monitor and measure the state of all chicken blocks in real time. To this end, technicians built a database of information about the nutritional requirements, ingredients and nutritive value of feed and developed a harmful gas concentration analyser and automatic exhaust and installed them.

As the farm pays special attention to maintaining a strict anti-epizootic system, it has prevented death of fowl from

epizootic diseases for decades.

All production areas are equipped with modern disinfectors and air purifiers and suspicious chickens are identified in time to prevent death from various diseases including epizootics. Vets and keepers keep abreast of information about avian diseases that have been detected worldwide in recent years and their preventive measures through the sci-tech diffusing system, while taking preventive and curative steps by using medicinal herbs growing

at surrounding mountains. Shortly ago, the farm installed highly effective ozone sterilizers at the entrances to blocks and in dressing and resting rooms to completely prevent environmental pollution by the staff and visitors.

At present lots of poultry farms learn from the experience of the farm that makes a breakthrough for the revitalization of production by applying efficient business management.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



KIM YOUNG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
The Hungju Chicken Farm takes the lead in carrying out the annual plan among others in the country.

ROLLING STOCK

Railway sector overfulfills transport plan

According to information available, all the units under the Ministry of Railways have taken practical measures to ease the strain on transport by launching a campaign to strengthen discipline and increasing their carriage and traffic capacities.

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau transported over 20 000 tons of more freight than its plan by establishing a unified traffic control system and making the most of existing capacity and potentialities. Branch bureaus and locomotive corps under the bureau pushed the work of strengthening their material and technical foundations in a planned way as they ensured the satisfactory transport of materials by working out and directing locomotive and train timetables scrupulously, thus opening up a bright prospect for carrying more freight safely. In particular, they carried tens of

thousands of tons of more coal for thermal power stations as against the same period of last year by directing primary efforts to its transportation.

The Hamhung Railway Bureau continues to build on its successes in transport after overfulfilling the transport plan for January.

The Kowon Railway Branch Bureau exceeded the material transport plan for the February 8 Vinalon Complex, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and major construction sites, while the Wonsan Railway Branch Bureau organizes and commands transport in a mobile way by surveying the distribution and operation of trains according to stations and sections.

The Hamhung service brigade of passenger and freight trains examines and repairs trains in a scientific and technological way to cut down the round-trip time of centralized transport trains and works scrupulously to keep abreast of the demand for materials to be hauled in various railway stations and transport them in time.

The Chongjin Railway Bureau also overfulfills its freight transport plan every day.

The Kilju Railway Branch Bureau solved knotty problems in the repair and maintenance of locomotives and increased the operational rate of loading and discharging facilities to carry out its assignments of transporting coal for thermal power stations and other materials every day.

The Hyesan Railway Branch Bureau carries materials needed for major construction projects without delay, and the Hoeryong Railway Branch Bureau builds up contacts between railway stations to reduce the stoppage time of trains markedly and hits the daily target more than 1.4 times by enhancing their traffic capacities.

The Paegam Railway Branch Bureau makes innovations in the transport of freight, especially prop timbers for coal production, by often checking the volume of traffic and organizing the distribution of trains and their formation for concentrated transport in a rational way.

With competition for increased transport being staged among all engines and crew in the railway transport sector, Pulgunji 6039 locomotive of the Jongju Locomotive Corps under the Jongju Railway Branch Bureau transported hundreds of tons of more materials in January this year in the spirit of having exceeded the 30 million kilometres of non-accident run last year.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

CONSERVATION

Aquatic resources multiply under good protection

At present, global warming, abnormal weather conditions and pollution by industrial wastes severely damage the ecological environment worldwide, having adverse effects on the habitation of aquatic resources. The reduction of these resources, in turn, breaks the stability of the overall ecosystem and poses a serious menace to the existence and development of humankind.

Now many countries in the world have set it as a goal for the management of resources to prevent the drain of their aquatic resources and maintain a high level of productivity and are making every endeavour to protect and manage them effectively.

The DPRK government widely encourages resources protection-oriented fisheries and promotes fish farming in the areas on the shores of seas, rivers and lakes throughout the country.

North Hamgyong Province has established a technology for walleye Pollack farming in the sea and stocked the East Sea of Korea with millions of its fries last year. Especially, the Ryonjin Fishery Station solved the problem of initial feed for walleye Pollack fries by itself and built a large-capacity culture ground and other facilities to provide material conditions for increasing the production of fries every year. Besides, several fishery

stations and fisheries research institutes along the East Sea stocked it with millions of salmon fries and researchers in the field of fisheries in South Phyongan Province succeeded in adapting tropical goldfish to the West Sea of Korea, providing a technical guarantee for doing its farming on a large scale.

In recent years freshwater fish and shellfish such as carp, Ryongjung fish, silver carp, catfish, *Aristichthys nobilis*, grass fish and *Cristaria plicata* have widely been stocked in many areas along the rivers and lakes.

Over a dozen fish farms and breed fish farms in Pyongyang have built material and technical groundwork for doing scientific fish farming and increased the species of fish for farming while raising the production of fries for stocking ever year. Fish farms have newly been built or rebuilt in several districts along the Taedong and its tributary Pothong River including Central, Taedonggang, Taesong and Ryongsong districts and they released tens of millions of fries into them in autumn last year.

Cage-net fish farming has been activated, opening up a bright prospect for the protection of aquatic resources and development of fisheries. Last year saw a brisk cage-net fish farming in Pyongyang and the provinces. In Pyongyang

over a dozen units set up thousands of square metres of cage nets and produced dozens of tons of fishes there. Hundreds of cage nets of various sizes were also fixed in the Taedong River in South Phyongan and North Hwanghae provinces and Nampho to produce various species of fish. Cage nets were also set up in the rivers and lakes in Kangwon, South Phyongan and Jagang provinces.

The modern Yonphungho Fish Stocking Station was inaugurated last year, laying a solid material and technical foundation for increasing the resources of Lake Yonphung. In particular, an industrialized mandarin fish production system was established, making it possible to stock the lake with hundreds of thousands of fries including tens of thousands of mandarin fish fries and silver carp, grass fish, carp and other fish fries. Projects are under way to disseminate fish farming techniques and experience of the station to other units.

We will as ever stage an all-people movement to dynamically increase the country's aquatic resources so as to pass on rich and beautiful rivers, seas and lakes to the future generations.

Yun Kwon Sam, department director of the Ministry of Fisheries

brought with them.

Those from the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital and Ministry of Public Health General Dental Hospital take preventive and curative steps for workers of the Komdok Mining Complex and other units who are out in the increased production campaign to attain the goals of the five-year strategy for national economic development. They also do thorough check-ups and treatment of children at the baby home and orphanage in Pyongyang.

Gynaecologists from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital who are at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill take good care of women workers to help them bring about innovations in production in good health.

Pediatricians of the Okryu Children's Hospital also bring delight to women workers by preventing and treating diseases of their children at the nursery and kindergarten of the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

Similar activities are conducted by excellent medical workers from relevant institutions in Kangwon, North and South Phyongan and North and South Hamgyong provinces.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

HEALTHCARE

Medical workers turn out to provide on-site services

Health workers across the country positively offer on-site health services.

According to an official of the Ministry of Public Health, dozens

of central and local medical institutions set up field clinics with hundreds of health workers to provide intensive medical services at leading industrial establishments and construction sites from the beginning of the year.

Doctors and nurses from the Pyongyang Medical College Hospital of Kim Il Sung University work to promote health of electricity producers in the field clinic at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

Those workers from the Kim Man Yu Hospital, Ministry of Public Health Skin-disease Preventive Centre and Pyongyang Ophthalmic Hospital give workers medical check-ups and treatment at the Chollima Steel Complex, Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory and Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory with dozens of kinds of medical appliances and medicines they have



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Medical services are given on-site at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

REPORTER'S LOG

Farmers spend holidays in slack season



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Farmers have a good time at a holiday camp in Anak County, South Hwanghae Province.

Holiday camps for farmers across the country liven up now that it is the leisure season for farmers.

The holiday camp of the Anak County Cooperative Farm Management Committee in South Hwanghae Province which is located at the foot of Mt Kuol, one of the six celebrated mountains of the country, is now packed with holidaymakers.

Morning mountaineering

The camp nestles in an excellent location with Mt Kuol that boasts of the singular natural beauties of peaks and gorges standing imposingly behind and a mirror-like frozen lake seen in front.

The first routine of holidaymakers is the climbing of the mountain.

"It is very exciting to climb up the mountain in early morning, when fresh air from thick forests envelops the camp, while bathing in the sun," said Choe Kwang Il, a farmer from Wolji-ri.

All campers get so animated after jogging and doing other exercises in the fresh winter air that even aged persons actively join the morning mountain-climbing.

On their way up to the mountain there is an old building, which was used to hold a memorial service for Tangun, founding father of the Korean nation.

Enjoying heartily

"To sum up my camping life in a few words, I have satisfied my appetite, laughed much and danced to my heart's content," said Ri In Ae, a farmer from Oguk-ri in Anak County. "I have laughed so much that it seems another

winkle has formed on my face."

Special dishes are served to the holidaymakers at every meal.

The camp serves not only meat and fish dishes, but also rice cake, mung-bean pancake, cold noodles and other national foods and it prepares spreads for those who greet their birthdays during their camping days.

Recreation parties and sports games are the most interesting events among the camping life.

Such parties and games as volleyball and table tennis are held between rooms or between men and women, and all players show off their skills.

As they become familiar with each other in a short time, they team up with one another to compete in sports games and sing songs and hold a dancing party after winning the games.

Evening

For the campers, each passing day is unforgettable.

In the evening they gather in a spacious hall to have a "singing contest".

Some of them sing songs they used to sing during the break of farm work and others recite their own poems reflecting the camping life.

They sing most of songs in chorus.

Poem "My Motherland" recited by Kim Chol Hak, a farmer from Kuwa-ri, deeply implants in people love for their land, home villages and country where they work and live.

Campers sing songs and recite poems until late at night.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

IP

Nation endeavours to protect IP rights

The protection of intellectual property dates back hundreds of years with the institution of the British patent law in 1624.

Innumerable people have vied with one another to create valuable intellectual property in larger numbers with keen interests in the creation, dissemination and application of new knowledge, thereby contributing greatly to human progress.

Today, the IP protection regime serves as a sure guarantee of and powerful stimulus to the overall development of the knowledge economy which is based on the creation and circulation of knowledge where the resources of production and products of society are entirely consistent with knowledge, information and other intellectual property.

The DPRK has also made proactive efforts to strengthen the system.

Back in 1946, the invention committee of north Korea was established as a permanent body in charge of the registration and protection of inventions and the legal system built for IP protection.

Afterwards, relevant DPRK laws were instituted and revised, such as laws on invention, trademark, industrial design and copyright.

The national strategy for the development of IP rights

has been worked out, related undertakings carried on in organic combination with those to implement different sectoral strategies for national development and investment in the training of talents increased under a well-organized educational system.

The Invention Office, the Trademark, Industrial Design and Geographical Indication Office and other relevant special agencies of the DPRK conduct a variety of activities to promote the creation of intellectual products and the circulation and protection of valuable achievements at home and abroad. They arrange various exhibitions and expos and conduct different forms of publicity activities on different occasions including World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, in order to raise public awareness of the IP regime and arouse public interest in it.

The national inventions exhibition is also an occasion to award the WIPO medal of inventors and certificate in the country.

In the course of creating intellectual wealth, many people have achieved fame as inventors and popular writers and the number of the "family of inventors" is on the increase.

Among them are Kim Song Un and Jang Yong

Man, lecturer and researcher at Kim Il Sung University, who won WIPO awards twice for their preventive and curative medicines for calcium metabolic disorders; Yu Son Ok, department chief of the Botanical Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, who also obtained a WIPO award by developing an efficient natural biological activator that is used in the farming of cereals, vegetables and fruits and gardening as well; Rim Hyon Dan, section chief of the Korea General Red Cross Hospital, who devoted her affection and sincerity for years to a young woman worker, who had seriously burnt her face, to bring her features back; and a large number of innovators at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill who overfulfil their national economic plans every year.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which took place in April last year put forward the task of promoting scientific and technological development by taking practical measures to perfect the IP protection system and thoroughly implementing it.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

melted.

Paek, with parental affection, had paid more attention than before his joining the army to the treatment of his mother and management of their household.

Whenever she went shopping, Paek bought necessary things for them, and she secured medicines good for the recovery of Hong's eyesight. And she would visit their family with specially-prepared food on holidays. She also helped his sister choose her career as she wished after finishing her senior middle school.

Paek cares not only for his family but for all others in the neighbourhood unit.

She visits members of her neighbourhood unit when they are hospitalized, gives school things to new pupils and students and does housework for busy working families.

"A good neighbour is better than a brother far off, as the old saying goes. How nice it is to help one another forward among members of the neighbourhood unit and live free from worries," said Paek. "That's what a head of neighbourhood unit is for, so nothing makes me happier than the harmony within the neighbourhood unit brimming

VIRTUES

Teacher carries lame boy piggyback through course

"For a primary school teacher, it is more important to develop a motherly character than to possess a high instruction ability. So, you should love children as their mothers do."

This is what Pak Pok Sil's father said 10 years ago when his daughter was appointed as a primary school teacher.

Pak is a teacher of Kwangsook Primary School in Haeju, South Hwanghae Province.

As her grandfather, father and mother were all educators, she regarded it natural to be a primary school teacher after graduating from a teachers training college.

But there was an occasion which taught her what it is to perform a duty as a teacher.

In June 2016, a pupil in her charge lost a leg by an unexpected accident.

He was 10-year-old Yun Ho Bom. He was clever and used to play football in the playground after lessons with a dream to become a professional player.

At the time of the accident, Yun asked his teacher just after recovering consciousness, "Teacher, I can't come to the school from tomorrow. What shall I do if I miss lessons?"

His saying had always been stamped in her mind for nearly six months when Ho Bom was in hospital.

So, she visited the hospital every day.

She visited him with special foods or tonic with the thought that what she could do more for him if he was her son and what and how she should do in order to take good care of him with the affection of mothers who lay down their lives for their children.

After he recovered his health, she gave study assignments to him lest he feel gloomy, while bringing animations, videos, and picture and other books that were helpful to his study. She continued to visit him after he left the hospital.

When the problem of his

with affection."

Now it has been nearly 10 years since their apartment house was built and all the occupants are living like members of one family.

According to an official at the dong office, the lowest administrative unit, they joined hearts and minds to take the lead in their dong activities such as smartening



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Pak Pok Sil goes to school with her handicapped pupil on her back.

school attendance was actually brought forward, she could not make up her mind in fear of what one-legged Ho Bom would come to school and he would feel like if innocent fellows teased him.

"The benevolent affection shown by President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, who saw to it that branch schools were built for a few children on islets and in remote mountain villages and school ships and trains were sent to students and did everything for rising generations so that they could live happily, was the source of encouragement at the time. I was greatly inspired by many teachers who had been dedicating their lifetime to the platform of branch schools on islets and in frontline areas and mountain villages, even though they might not be appreciated, with the conscience of being educators," said Pak Pok Sil as she looked back upon those days.

So, she sent her two-year-old daughter to her parents' home and used to go to school with the crippled boy on her back for a little over a year until he finished the school.

Thanks to her unusual devotion, Ho Bom could move up to a junior middle school after completing the whole primary school course together with other classmates.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

up of the surroundings and doing of other good things that contribute to the country's economy.

Merry dancing parties and competitive sports games held on holidays at the recreation ground they built showcase the rapport among the neighbourhood unit members.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

COMMUNITY

Promoting harmony among neighbours

The residents at Neighbourhood Unit No. 94 of Ryukkyo-dong No. 1 in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, affectionately call Paek Pok Hui "Our neighbourhood unit head".

They freely go to see her whenever they have happy events or worries.

One day last December, Rodong Sinmun carried a letter



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Paek Pok Hui (middle) talks with her neighbourhood unit members.

CONTRIBUTION

Kim Jong Un unveils a new chapter of peace

I am not a philosopher nor a politician. But as a member of the Korean nation, I have been fascinated from the bottom of my heart by General Kim Jong Un, who has lifted the position of the DPRK to a new height to take on fresh looks with a great political programme of peace, and I am going to trace back in my own way the true meaning of the thrilling era of peace he has opened.

Peace is settling like a miracle on this land, where everyone was always anxious about the situation which would lead to the outbreak of the Third World War, or the first thermonuclear war, until quite recently.

The treasured sword for peace, which broke resolutely at a stroke the vicious circle of war and confrontation, distrust and misunderstanding that persisted as if ordained by fate while terribly pressurizing the Korean peninsula, is the DPRK's war deterrent maintaining the strong balance of power with the US.

The people of the world were unable to fully understand his great ambition at the time when the General forced his way at the forefront of the campaign to implement the line of promoting economic construction and nuclear arms buildup in parallel on the basis of the legacies bequeathed by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The roars of rockets which

flew into the air in succession were not the sounds of gunfire in a war, but echoes of victory that augured approaching peace.

The treasured sword sharpened by the General through years of intense application finally drove out the dark cloud of war that hovered heavily over the three thousand-ri land of Korea and paved the way for peace and prosperity. Furthermore, it produces great sympathetic vibrations of shaping afresh the world political landscape, abolishing the big power-led order in Northeast Asia.

The DPRK's powerful war deterrent has untied all knots connected with the Korean peninsula with one stroke and lifted the dignity of the nation that has been suffering from the division for a long time to the world's top level. This is, as expressed by the northerners, the highest form of justice and victory and the treasured sword for all blessings, I think.

The moment when the DPRK's prestige rose to the watershed in history, the General surprised the world by making an exceptional decision on the Korean peninsula denuclearization no one had ever expected.

He set forth a new strategic line at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea after declaring the great victory

of the line of promoting economic construction and nuclear arms buildup simultaneously, adopted the Panmunjom Declaration which solemnly declared to 80 million Korean compatriots and the world that there will be no more war on the Korean peninsula and signed the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration in which north and south committed themselves to turning the Korean peninsula into a lasting peace zone free from nuclear threats as well as nuclear weapons. They sparked a surge of great excitement throughout the world.

His great option has been derived from his intensive love for the Korean compatriots and nation and burning patriotism.

His New Year addresses on the mornings of New Year's Days last year and this year and exceptional and practical actions he took in an aggressive manner racing against time—all these emphasize that his steps towards peace are "winning moves" with steadfast goals and clear strategy.

General Kim Jong Un, who brought the enemies to their knees by means of a powerful peace offensive without firing a single shot, is a legendary great man and the bright sun of humankind who opens the door to peace on the strength of ardent love and writes a new history of national prosperity.

In April last year the General left his footprints in

Panmunjom, a land which bore the deep-rooted grudge against division and confrontation as hard as concrete and which was a symbol of unending war.

He chose neither Pyongyang nor Seoul, but Panmunjom as the starting line of a new history and broke down the wall of division in the hearts of 80 million compatriots at once by crossing the division line at Panmunjom with a heart burning with love.

Later, a stirring scene of the leaders of the DPRK and the United States, which had the most hostile relationship on the globe, walking towards each other was unfolded on Sentosa Island, Singapore.

Sprouts of peace and prosperity shot up once again on the Korean peninsula with the DPRK-US summit meeting and talks as a momentum, the event which was highly praised by the people all over the world as a "handshake of the century".

In succession he took big steps towards peace without hesitation by hosting an inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang and climbing up Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the nation. His footsteps were a continuation of the resolute and fresh mode of fighting to get rid of the old thinking and deep-rooted hostility complex.

According to the wisdom and scientific decision of the General to totally remove the

structure and causes of war on this land by replacing the armistice system with a peace mechanism, the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration, which can be claimed to be a detailed road map to peace on the Korean peninsula, and the inter-Korean agreement in the military field were also adopted.

Accordingly, an unprecedented campaign is now under way in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line, where the armed forces of both sides were placed in acute confrontation with each other, to remove military confrontation, re-link railways and roads and make the whole Korean peninsula a peace zone.

What is clear is the undeniable fact that a broad avenue to peace is being laid along the footsteps of General Kim Jong Un.

When his beautiful ideal to turn the Korean peninsula into the true home of the nation, which is the most peaceful and will prosper forever, is translated into reality the world will see the changed looks of Korea and write in golden letters in the history book:

"It is General Kim Jong Un that radically changed the political landscape on the Korean peninsula and opened up a new era of peace for humankind."

This is part of an article written by O Jin So, a Korean in Japan

ENVIRONMENT

Plastic waste matters

Plastic waste is regarded as one of the ten pollutants that severely damage the environment.

According to information available, 80 percent of collected rubbish is plastic and over 8 billion tons of plastic junk litters the earth. To add to the figure, 300 million tons of plastic products are produced every year and 40 percent of them are such containers as plastic bags and bottles.

Such a huge amount of waste matters have a great impact on life activities of mankind as well as the natural ecology.

Dead whales were found on Spanish and Thai coasts in February and May last year with their stomachs full of plastics. An Italian environmental inspection team examined the quality of water at over 260 places, only to discover that half of them were polluted by rubbish and sewage.

In southern Yemen,

contracted an infectious disease due to water pollution from heaps of rubbish. When fishes and birds eat minute plastic particles, under 5 mm in diameter, they are said to have a negative effect on human health through the food chain.

According to Indian newspaper *The Times of India*, one sixth of the country's plastic rubbish is coming from such large cities as New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and 29 450 tons of plastic rubbish is thrown away on a daily average across the country, with only 15 564 tons of them being disposed of.

As seen above, the disposal of plastic waste is an urgent challenge and therefore many countries are taking a variety of measures.

The United Nations reported that over 60 countries have imposed bans and taxes on disposable plastic products.

Scientific research is

also briskly conducted to solve the problem.

Scientists discovered a new fungus and hydrolase which can be a key to getting rid of plastic waste and developed a bio-plastic material from seaweeds and an edible natural plastic material.

At the same time, strenuous efforts are being made to effectively use plastic rubbish.

Switzerland has set up a strict waste sorting system to recycle 71 percent of plastic bottles. Ethiopia built a waste power plant which can dispose of 1 400 tons of rubbish a day.

Some countries developed and applied methods of converting plastic waste into fuel for vehicles and dissolving synthetic dyes by means of the waste.

The international community needs to redouble its efforts in order to protect the environment from plastic rubbish.

By Min Chol PT

COMMENT

Russia-US conflict likely to bring another cold war

Growing Russia-US military conflict is drawing the focus of international attention.

Last October the US president declared that his country would secede from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, saying Russia does not strictly observe the treaty. The Russian president told a news conference in December last year that his country would take countermeasures if the US deploys intermediate-range missiles in Europe.

A Russian deputy foreign minister told a recent press conference that it is an open secret that the US has conducted research into and made empirically based designs of various missiles that are not allowed by the treaty for a long time, saying that its munitions companies have developed the potentials for manufacturing new-type missiles on a full scale since long ago.

Russia has all grounds to believe that the US has completed the technical capacity of intermediate-and shorter-range ballistic missiles banned by the treaty on the pretext of testing interceptor missiles, he noted.

The Russia-US contradiction that is hotting up over the intermediate-and shorter-range missile issue is the continuation of political confrontation between the two countries which has surfaced in recent years.

NATO and the EU issued a statement to demand Russia allow the entry of naval vessels into the Kerch Strait after Russia captured Ukrainian navy vessels at the end of last year, and the US also joined them.

Immediately after the capture the US State Secretary said that his country is closely watching the development of the incident in the

Kerch Strait, revealing its plan to contain Russia in collaboration with European partners.

Meanwhile, the US representative told the recent plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that the US also would take countermeasures, arguing that Russia develops various kinds of latest weaponry and steps up the development of space weapons.

The US plans to found a space force as an independent service by 2020.

The Russian Foreign Ministry condemned the US, saying if weapons appear in the outer space, it would have destructive effect on strategic stability and international security.

The escalated military confrontation between the two countries indicates a new cold war in the 21st century would begin.

By Om Ryong PT

GAMES

Paektusan Prize Games at its height

The Paektusan Prize Games in Celebration of the Day of the Shining Star, which kicked off on February 1, are running on at stadiums and gyms in Pyongyang, Sariwon, and Samjiyon and Pujon counties and other parts of the country.

Players compete in football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, ice hockey, skiing and other sports, divided into dozens of categories.

According to Paek Chol Min, an official of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports, the ongoing event arouses the fervent enthusiasm of coaches and players as it is the first national competition of professionals of the year. As there was a marked improvement in the abilities of players last year, the games are expected to be fiercer, he said.

The volleyball competition is attracting a special interest as notable changes have been made in the rankings at the previous national championships.

Starting on February 9 at the Volleyball Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang, five men's and seven women's teams in the first division are competing on a round-robin basis.

Among them, Amnokgang's male team is on everyone's lips.

"Amnokgang is featured by strong physical preparedness of players and diverse tactics," said U Chung Song, a volleyball expert. "Its linkman Yun Jong Ryong is a seed of the team, who is in the limelight as the best tosser in the country. With high intelligence and good sense, he plays a leading role in realizing the team's tactical intentions."

The team had ranked second in the two rounds of league



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
A scene of the women's volleyball match between Sobaeksu and Pyongyang at the Paektusan Prize Games.

matches at the previous national championships by outcompeting the domestic powers Sobaeksu and Pyongyang.

It defeated Pyongyang 3-2 in its first match which was held on February 10 with the attention of fans being focused on it.

In the women's event, Chongchongang enjoys unexpected success.

The fifth placer in last year's event has so far made a clean sweep.

Before the match against Amnokgang on February 12, Chongchongang's head coach Han Yong Chol said that their goal is to ride on the winners' podium in the event. "We were lucky to win the earlier matches, but we cannot rest on our laurels

as we are to play against such powerful teams as Amnokgang, April 25 and Sobaeksu. We have made preparations for those matches and our players are in high spirits. We will join efforts and do our best."

In the match, Chongchongang beat Amnokgang 3-2.

With men's and women's basketball events approaching to the final stage at the Basketball Gymnasium on Chongchun Street, the table-tennis event opened on February 12 at the Table-Tennis Gymnasium nearby.

The youth-level men's ski jump event took place at the Mt Paektu area sports village on February 8-9.

By Jong Tang Song PT

SCENIC SPOT

Mt Kumgang in winter



Myriad-shaped snowy rocks on Mt Kaegol.

Although leaves were all gone off trees by snowfall and cold wind, the rocks of fantastic shape standing imposingly, covered with ice and snow, add beauty to the scenery of Mt Kumgang which is called Mt Kaegol in winter.

It is one of the six celebrated mountains, eight beauty

EVENT

April 25 to join volleyball competition in Vietnam

The April 25 women's volleyball team of the DPRK will take part in Lien Viet Post Bank Cup to be held in Vietnam between February 22 and March 1.

Sponsored by the Vietnamese volleyball association with the approval of the Asian volleyball federation, the women's volleyball competition will draw 7-8 volleyball clubs in Asian countries including Vietnam, China and Japan.

The April 25 team lifted trophies at different domestic volleyball tournaments including last year's Mangyongdae Prize

Games in Celebration of the Day of the Sun and national championships and it now tops the home rankings.

The top seed of the team is Jong Jin Sim who is the left attacker and captain.

She takes up correct positions and is quick in response and powerful in smashing.

The DPRK team came first at the VTV-Binh-Dien Cup held in Vietnam in March 2015 and third at the VTV Cup in July the same year.

By Jong Chol PT

FOLKLORE

Viewing the first full moon in lunar January

Jongwoldaeborum, the 15th day of the first lunar month, is a folk holiday the Koreans traditionally celebrate after lunar New Year's Day.

The oldest records on the celebration of the holiday in Korea are those from the period of the Three Kingdoms (3rd century BC and AD 10th century), and in the period of Koryo (918-1392) the ancestors celebrated it as one of nine biggest holidays.

The celebration usually began on the 14th which was called "small full-moon day", and the 15th was called "big full-moon day".

On the day they held a series of interesting events which reflected their wishes for good luck and harvest in the new year.

On the evening of *Jongwoldaeborum* villagers climbed mountains or hills to view the full moon. They believed that the one who was the first to see the rising moon would fulfil his or her wish. They also forecasted drought, rainy spell and crop yield of the year as they saw the shape and colour of the moon.

In the evening folks got together for singing and dancing. They staged a variety of artistic performances and played folk games peculiar to localities.

Jongwoldaeborum falls on February 19 this year.

By Kil Chung Il PT



An old painting shows the public viewing of the first full moon in lunar January.

spots and three divine mountains of Korea, and a world-famous mountain as well.

The mountain stretching to the East Sea of Korea is an aggregate of scenic attractions incorporating all beauties of mountain, valley, plateau, lake, sea and seashore.

It looks like a lovely picture as 12 000 jagged peaks blend in well with various shapes

and colours of fantastic rocks, huge cliffs, deep gorges, innumerable pools and ponds, crystal-clear streams meandering round the bottoms of cliffs and rocks, a myriad of waterfalls cascading while forming rainbows, diverse fauna and flora and thick foliage.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

