

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un receives Chinese Party and government delegation

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on April 13 received the Party and government delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Zhao Leji, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC, on an official goodwill visit to the DPRK to commemorate the Year of DPRK-China Friendship.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un warmly greeted the members of the Chinese delegation at the headquarters building of the Central Committee of the WPK, warmly welcomed their visit to the DPRK and had a photo taken with them.

He had a friendly and constructive talk with the members of the delegation.

At the meeting Zhao Leji courteously conveyed the warm greetings from Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC and president of



the PRC, to Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un expressed thanks for this and asked Zhao Leji to convey his best wishes to the respected Comrade Xi Jinping.

He said that the current visit to Pyongyang by the Chinese Party and government delegation, which followed the proclamation of this significant year marking the 75th

anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and China as a Year of DPRK-China Friendship, is of very weighty significance in demonstrating the invincibility of the DPRK-China friendship and further developing the traditional friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries as required by the

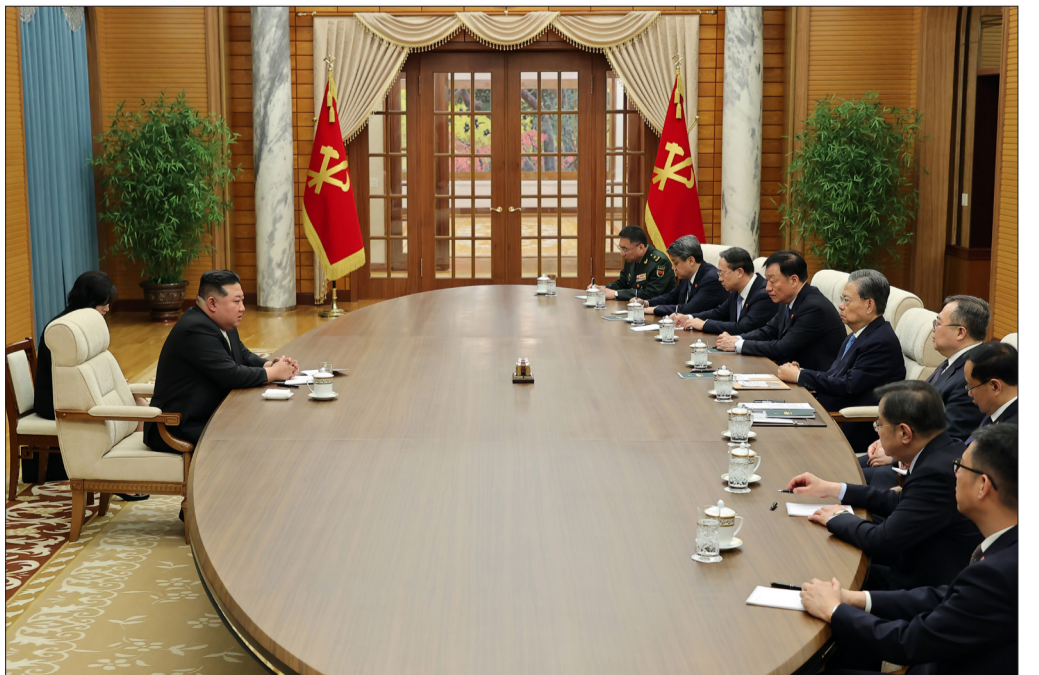
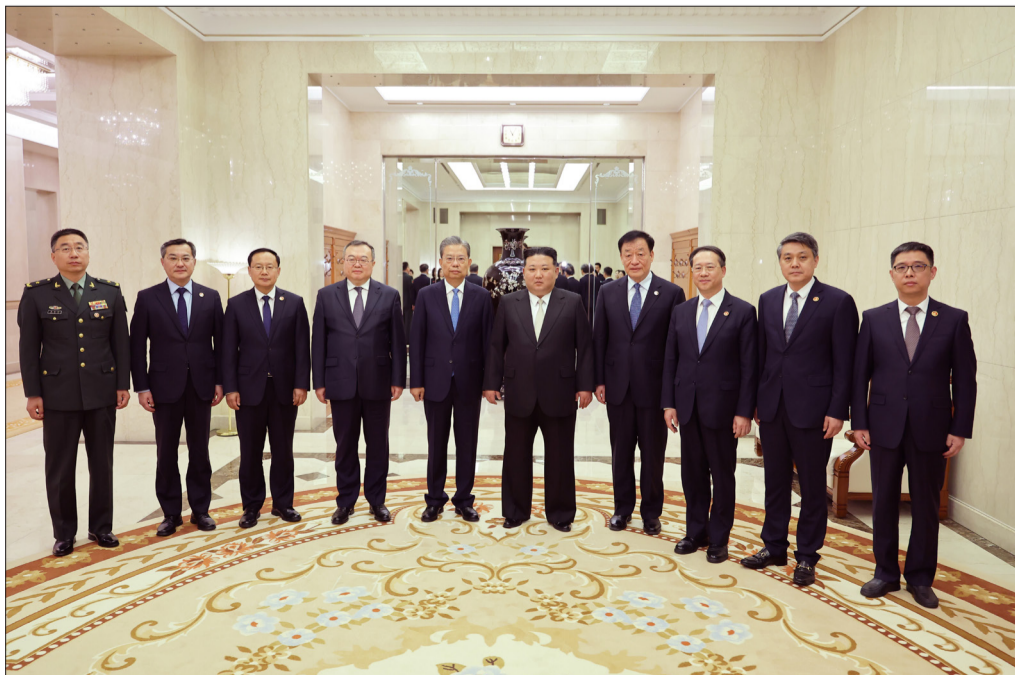
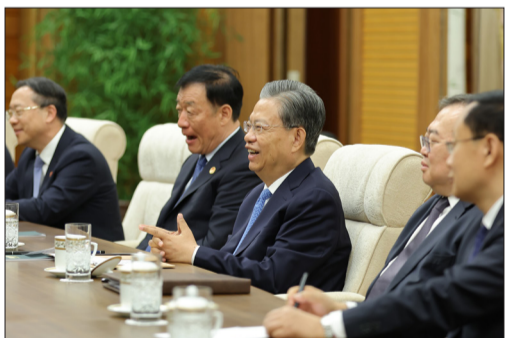
delegation so that it could achieve the greatest success during the visit.

Kim Jong Un candidly discussed with Zhao Leji the issue of boosting the multi-faceted exchanges and cooperation for developing the friendly and cooperative

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times. Highly appreciating that the event for making public the important beginning of the important year was conspicuous, successful and glorious with the participation of a high-ranking delegation and a large-scale art troupe of China, he extended sincere thanks to General Secretary Xi Jinping and the Chinese Party and government for their great sincerity to make sure that a good occasion has been marked with splendour once again.

Saying in an excited tone that he personally felt during his stay in Pyongyang the special care by Kim Jong Un, cordial hospitality by the Party and the government of the DPRK and its people's profound friendly feelings, Zhao Leji expressed his heartfelt deep thanks to Kim Jong Un for attaching utmost importance and paying deep attention to





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relations, an asset of the two parties and two countries, into more viable ties, occasioned by the Year of DPRK-China Friendship, and other important issues of mutual concern.

Kim Jong Un affirmed that it is his consistent stand and the invariable and steadfast policy of the WPK and the government of the DPRK to develop the long-standing DPRK-China friendship decade after decade and century after century, expressing his expectation that the common will of the two parties and the two countries to dynamically promote the socialist cause and provide their peoples with substantial

well-being by steadily carrying forward and developing these durable traditions of friendship would lead to responsible progress and successful fruition of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship.

Offering sincere congratulations to the Chinese Party, government and people for registering remarkable successes in the struggle for implementing the tasks set forth at the 20th Congress of the CPC, he expressed his hope that the fraternal Chinese people would make a more brilliant step forward in carrying out the historic task for building a modern and powerful socialist country in this year marking the 75th founding anniversary of the PRC under the

guidance of General Secretary Xi Jinping.

The talk proceeded in a kindly, sincere and comradely atmosphere.

On the same day Kim Jong Un hosted a luncheon for the Party and government delegation of the PRC.

Present there were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Choe Son Hui, minister of Foreign Affairs, Kim Song Nam, department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, and Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the WPK.

At the luncheon, Kim Jong Un proposed a toast to the eternal development of socialism in the two countries, longevity and good health of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the successful DPRK visit of the Party and government delegation of the PRC led by Zhao Leji.

Kim Jong Un had pleasant chats with Zhao Leji and other members of the delegation in a harmonious and friendly atmosphere, further deepening friendship. The luncheon proceeded in a harmonious and warm atmosphere.

After the luncheon was over, Kim Jong Un warmly saw off the members of the delegation.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un enjoys special concert given by Central National Band of China

KCNA

The Central National Band of China gave a special concert at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre on April 13. It took part in the opening ceremony of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship held in Pyongyang, which added another brilliant page to the history of the DPRK-China friendly relations.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, enjoyed the concert on Saturday evening.

Among the audience were secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK Jo Yong Won and Ri Il Hwan, Foreign

Minister Choe Son Hui, International Department Director of the WPK Central Committee Kim Song Nam, Deputy Department Director of the WPK Central Committee Kim Yo Jong, other officials of the WPK Central Committee and the Foreign Ministry and Pyongyang citizens.

The performance was also enjoyed by Sun Yeli, minister of Culture and Tourism of the PRC, Wang Yajun, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, Ming Wenjun, director of the Art Department of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, members of the diplomatic corps in the DPRK, including those of the Chinese embassy, and Chinese residents in the DPRK.

The band is a national-level art troupe with a long history, renowned for having a

large-scale national orchestra and China's one and only specialized national chorus.

Put on the stage were colourful numbers depicting the struggle and patriotic spirit of the Chinese people who are pushing forward with the building of a modern socialist country with Chinese characteristics and the cause of national prosperity, including national orchestral music "National Traits," vocal and instrumental music "We Will Never Lose Our Original Intention" and national orchestral music and chorus "My Motherland."

Mesmerizing the audience were original tone colours and playing skills displayed by performers in instrumental music "Butterfly Lovers" showing the traditional culture of the Chinese nation

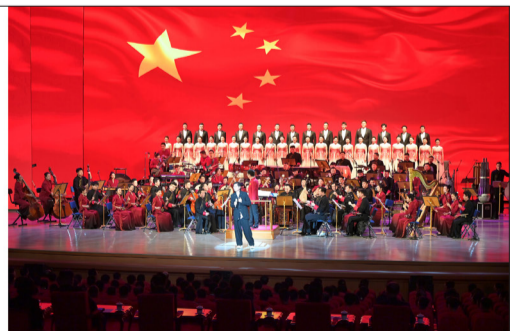
and pipa concerto "Sky-rocketing Happiness."

The audience loudly applauded the performers who impressively sang such Korean songs as "I Love Pyongyang" and "Song of Big Hauls in the Sea."

The chorus "DPRK-China Friendship Is Everlasting" beautifully decorated the end of the performance.

A flower basket in the name of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was handed over to the performers.

He mounted the stage, met leading artistes, warmly congratulated all the performers, who sang high praises of the ever-blooming DPRK-China friendship through their unique performance, and had a photo taken with them.



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visits Kim Jong Il Military and Political Academy

He provided immortal guidelines for bringing about a great turn in military education



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at Kim Jong Il Military and Political Academy, the highest institute of military education in the DPRK, on April 10.

He was accompanied by Pak Jong Chon, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, Kang Sun Nam, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, Ri Yong Gil, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, Hwang Pyong So, general adviser to the Ministry of National Defence, and other major cadres of the WPK Central Committee.

The teaching staff and cadets of the academy were full of excitement and joy

as they came to greet the moment of the greatest glory and happiness of seeing Marshal Kim Jong Un, whom they yearned for so much, with the unique pride and confidence of training the backbones of the KPA on the sacred campus shining with the august name of the great leader.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un entered the compound of the academy, all the teaching staff and cadets greeted him with stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" as a token of their deep reverence for the great teacher and tender-hearted father who developed the university into the highest institute of Juche-based military education and guides its work step by step so that it can remain faithful to its honorable mission to make tangible contributions to the WPK's cause of building a powerful army.

Upon arrival, he received a salute from the chancellor of the academy.

He gave a salute to the glorious military

colours, the militant banner of victory, and reviewed the ranks of commanding officers, Party committee executive members and major leading teachers of the academy.

A teacher and a cadet of the academy presented fragrant bouquets to the Supreme Commander.

He waved his hand in response to the enthusiastic cheers of the teaching staff, extending his militant greetings to them who are making great contributions, which no others can do, to the WPK's great cause of building a powerful army.

Looking round the academy, he recollected with deep emotion the course of its proud development that left brilliant footprints along with the victorious history of the KPA.

The academy, which started its historic mission on March 7, 1973 under the far-reaching plan of President Kim Il Sung, has trained a great number of

core commanding officers of the KPA for the past 50-odd years, true to the WPK's policy of effecting a revolution in military education, thus making distinguished contributions to the unstained succession and strenuous advance of the Juche cause. It has made remarkable progress in all aspects, including education and scientific research, dynamically steering the Juche-oriented military education and the building of a powerful army as the institute that represents the military academies of the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un said that the mightiness and invincibility of the KPA, for which the country has firmly held the position of a world-class military power, would be unthinkable apart from this academy, the elite academy reputed for training highest-ranking military and political cadres, which has adorned its 50-odd-

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year history with glory and feats. It is a source of pride of our Party and state to have such a “pedigree farm” for training military and political activists, he added.

He saw the cadets at an operation and tactical lecture at the military lecture room and made the rounds of the rooms for teaching methods study and training to learn in detail about education.

He highly appreciated the academy for having achieved great encouraging successes in making its teaching Party policy-oriented, practical and modern by improving the educational programme and contents, actively applying advantageous and fresh forms and methods to teaching in reflection of the principles of Juche-oriented military science and the ever-changing aspects of modern warfare and introducing various equipment and means while thoroughly adhering to the WPK’s overall principle of revolution in military education.

Then he went round bedroom and mess hall, taking care of the living of the cadets with paternal affection.

Learning about whether the living condition is convenient and how heating is provided at the bedroom, he said that the Party would organize the renovation and modernization work to create better educational environment and living conditions so that the cadets can devote themselves to studying without experiencing any inconvenience.

He went to the mess room to acquaint himself with the supply service for

the cadets and made sure that various dishes he personally brought were put on teachers and cadets’ dinner tables.

At the operation study room, he learned about the study of the enemy’s major operation and action plans and their forces, and about the operation plans of services and corps worked out by teachers and cadets before indicating the important principled issues to be adhered to and applied in modern operation.

The WPK, which is pushing forward with the building of a world’s strongest army as a goal, gives priority to the training of military talents in adding glory to the noble name and dignity of the KPA as an invincible heroic army and attaches special importance to the work of this academy, the parent base for training the highest-ranking military and political officers of the KPA, he said, indicating important tasks to be fulfilled by the academy.

He said that the academy is a great asset of the KPA just like Kim Il Sung Military University and an important strategic base for the successful building of a powerful army and the future of the Korean revolution.

Noting that the might of the revolutionary army depends on the commanding art of the commanding officers and their ideological traits and military qualifications are determined by the level of education at military schools, he said that the academy should arm its cadets thoroughly with the revolutionary ideas of the WPK and the Juche-oriented military strategic line in conformity with

its duty and characteristics of training high-ranking officers of the revolutionary army of the Party and train more competent military cadres possessed of high ability for organizing combined operations and commanding actual war by scientifically innovating the educational structure and contents under the goal to fully integrate all the processes and occasions of education with modern warfare.

It is an immutable law of war victory to neutralize the numerical and military and technical superiority of the enemy by means of superiority in ideology and war methods, he said, calling for making it a revolutionary spirit and the primary ethics of the academy to remain absolutely loyal and obedient to the leadership of the Party Central Committee and conducting energetic and effective organizational and political work to perfectly embody the Party’s military ideas and policy in the training of military talents, military science development and overall management of the academy.

Outlining the complicated international situation being seriously aggravated due to ever-escalating violence and armed conflicts and the insecure and unstable military and political situation around the DPRK, he said that now is the time to be more thoroughly prepared for a war than ever before and that the DPRK should be more firmly and perfectly prepared for a war, which should be won without fail, not just for a possible war.

Affirming that if the enemy opts for military confrontation with the DPRK, the DPRK will deal a deadly blow to the

enemy without hesitation by mobilizing all means in its possession, he urged the academy to make greater successes in education so as to fill the different levels of the entire army with competent and versatile commanding officers gifted with special qualities and spirit to overpower the enemy with ideological, mental, militant, moral and tactical superiority.

Expressing expectation and belief that the academy, which trains brave officers of the revolutionary army of the Party, would remain boundlessly faithful to its mission and duty as the “pedigree farm” for training the best military talents, consolidating the core position of the armed forces of the DPRK as firm as rock by creditably carrying forward its glorious traditions, he had a photo session with the teaching staff and cadets.

All the teaching staff and cadets of the academy, who were greatly honoured to enjoy the deepest trust by the great brilliant commander, made a firm pledge to remain absolutely loyal to Kim Jong Un who provided the immortal guidelines for bringing about a great turn in military education for building an elite revolutionary army with his iron faith that military strength just means the national sovereignty and the national dignity and added to their faith in sure victory and revolutionary enthusiasm. They also hardened their will to carry out his instruction unto death and live up to the expectations of the Party Central Committee with remarkable achievements in strengthening the military muscle.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends message of sympathy to Russian president

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, sent a message of sympathy to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of

the Russian Federation, on April 8.

In the message, Kim Jong Un, on behalf of the DPRK government and people and on his own behalf, extended deep consolation to the Russian president and, through him, to the Russian government,

people and victims on hearing the sad news that a lot of material losses were caused by flooding in Orenburg Province.

Sincerely hoping that the Russian government and people would remove the aftermath of the natural disaster at an

early date and that the inhabitants in the afflicted areas would regain their peace as soon as possible under the leadership of the Russian president, the message noted that the people of the DPRK would always be with the Russian people.

Nation celebrates 112th birthday of President Kim Il Sung

National photo exhibition

KCNA

A national photo exhibition, "Father of People", opened at the Okryu Exhibition House in

Pyongyang on April 8.

Present at the opening ceremony were Ju Chang Il, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of

Korea, Choe Hui Thac, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, Hong Chol Jin, secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the

WPK, officials concerned and working people in Pyongyang.

Minister of Culture Sung Jong Gyu made an opening address.

Art exhibition

KCNA

A national art exhibition opened at the Korean National Art Museum in Pyongyang on April 9 to celebrate the 112th anniversary of the birth of President

Kim Il Sung.

Present at the opening ceremony were Ju Chang Il, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Minister of Culture Sung Jong Gyu made an opening address.

Industrial design exhibition



A national industrial design exhibition opens at the Industrial Design Exhibition House of the Central Industrial Design Bureau on April 10.

KCNA

A national industrial design exhibition for celebrating the birthday of President Kim Il Sung opened at the Industrial Design Exhibition House of the Central Industrial Design Bureau on April 10.

Seen at the venue of the exhibition are photos of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un giving field guidance in various sectors of the national economy.

On display are more than

230 industrial designs guided by the General Secretary.

Also seen there are more than 670 industrial designs, models and products created by experts and fans.

Present at the ceremony were Kim Myong Hun, vice-premier of the Cabinet, Ri Chung Gil, chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, An Kyong Gun, minister of Machine-building Industry, and officials and creators in the field of industrial design.

Week-long film show

KCNA

A week-long film show opened in the DPRK to celebrate the significant April spring holiday.

Documentary films dealing with the noble revolutionary career and immortal exploits of President Kim Il Sung and feature films on various themes will be screened at cinemas and cultural houses across the country during the

show.

Jong Yong Nam, director-general of the National Administration of Motion Picture Industry, made an opening address.

At the end of the ceremony, the participants watched a documentary film "Our Leader Praised by All People".

Similar events took place in each province on the same day.

Stamp exhibition

KCNA

A stamp exhibition "Our eternal father" started at the Korean Stamp Exhibition House in Pyongyang on April 10.

Stamps carrying photos of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un are on display at the venue of the exhibition.

And there are stamps dealing with the noble revolutionary career of the President who performed immortal exploits for the country and the revolution, the times and history with his outstanding ideas and gigantic revolutionary practice.

Also on display at the exhibition are various stamps collected by philatelists in Pyongyang.



A stamp exhibition starts at the Korean Stamp Exhibition House on April 10.

Cooking festival

KCNA

The 27th National Cooking Festival took place at the Pyongyang Noodle House from April 2 to 5 on the occasion of the greatest auspicious April holiday of the Korean nation.

The participants presented distinctive dishes, various beverages and more than 140 pieces of information on scientific and technological achievements.

The national dishes

exhibited at the show of compulsory dishes drew the attention of visitors for their distinct features.

Also eye-catching were the cookery competition and demonstration by cooks and waiters and waitresses and the cooking contest of students and housewives.

The results of examination were announced and diplomas, medals and certificates were awarded to excellent units and participants on April 5.

Celebrations of working people's organizations

KCNA

The artistic information group of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea and art group members of the Pyongyang Municipal

Committee of the SWUK gave a performance at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph in Pyongyang on April 12 on the occasion of the greatest auspicious April holiday of the Korean nation.

Agricultural workers and

members of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea held a celebratory meeting on the same day.

They also held an oratorical meeting on April 12 to thoroughly implement the Regional Development

20x10 Policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

An oratorical meeting of officials and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea took place at the Central Hall of Workers in Pyongyang on April 11.

33rd April Spring Friendship Art Festival

KCNA

The 33rd April Spring Friendship Art Festival was opened in Pyongyang, backed up by the aspirations of the world people to significantly celebrate the 112th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung as an auspicious holiday common to mankind.

Present at the festival are famous art troupes, dance groups and circuses of dozens of countries, including Russia, China, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Italy and Venezuela, and overseas Korean art troupes.

The festival was opened on April 11.

The festival organizing committee reported the opening of the festival through the Korean Central TV and websites including "Korean Art".

The video reflecting the idea, tradition and vitality of the festival introduced the form, method and the scale of the festival, congratulatory speeches made by personages of governments of different countries and scenes of performances of artistes.

The minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, the minister of Culture and

Tourism of the People's Republic of China and the minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in their congratulatory speeches extended warm greetings to the DPRK people on the auspicious spring holiday, wishing the April Spring Friendship Art Festival good success.

Sung Jong Gyu, minister of Culture of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who doubles as chairman of the festival organizing committee, expressed thanks to the participants in the 33rd April Spring Friendship Art

Festival and personages of political and cultural circles and artistes of different countries for making great efforts for the successful festival and expressed belief that the festival would contribute to the development of cultural relations between nations.

Artistes and famous singers of popular vocal ensembles including Russia's Pyaturo Ensemble and "Kvatro" Ensemble and Italy's Apasionante Trio presented.

The videos of the festival will be broadcast on the Korean Central TV and put on websites including "Korean Art".

National schoolchildren's art festival

KCNA

The 59th National Schoolchildren's Art Festival opened with due ceremony at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on April 8

The festival will be held, divided into a folk song contest among art group members from

schoolchildren's palaces and halls, a schoolchildren art individual contest, and a joint art performance of schoolchildren from each province, with the attendance of more than 1 200 schoolchildren.

Present at the opening ceremony were officials in the field of extracurricular education and schoolchildren.

Juche idea study organizations arrive to attend int'l seminar

KCNA

Delegations and delegates of the Juche idea study organizations including the secretary general of the International Institute

of the Juche Idea and his party arrived in Pyongyang to attend the international seminar on the Juche idea to be held on the occasion of the 112th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

Kim Jong Un's assumption of top posts of Party and state celebrated

KCNA

The 12th anniversary of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's assumption of the top posts of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state was significantly celebrated in the DPRK.

Witnessing continued victory and glory achieved under the leadership of the great Party, the Korean people more keenly realized that

the dignity of the WPK has reached the highest level and a new era of comprehensive national rejuvenation and great changes has been ushered in on this land, thanks to the peerlessly great man possessed of extraordinary political calibre, outstanding leadership ability and noble traits.

Officials, working people, service personnel and schoolchildren visited

the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and other parts of the country to lay flower baskets, bouquets and flowers.

Ardent reverence for the peerlessly great man was expressed at the venues of photo exhibitions held in Pyongyang and provinces, cities and counties.

The national flag was

hoisted at major places of Pyongyang, provincial capitals and city and county seats and at institutions, industrial establishments and farms, and beautiful flowers in full bloom across the country added to the festive atmosphere.

Artistes of the National Acrobatic Troupe and the National Folk Art Troupe gave a joint performance at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre.

Artistic information groups of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League and the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea and the railway artistic information team gave colourful performances in different parts of the capital city.

Dance parties of youth and students and women's union members took place across the country.



An artistic performance is staged at a Pyongyang theatre.

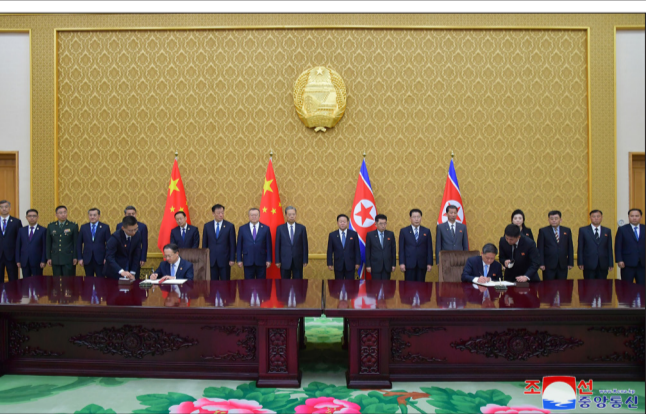
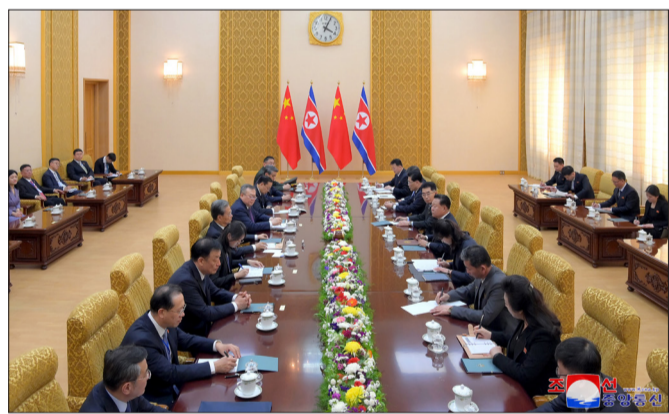


Visitors look round photos at a photo exhibition.



Youth and students have a dance in the plaza in front of Pyongyang Indoor Stadium.

Chinese party and government delegation visits Pyongyang



Talks are held in Pyongyang on April 11 between the DPRK and the PRC.

KCNA

A party and government delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Zhao Leji, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC, arrived in Pyongyang on April 11 to pay an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK.

Among the members of the delegation are Liu Jianchao, head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, Liu Qi, secretary general of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC, Sun Yeli, minister of Culture and Tourism, Ma Zhaoxu, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Li Fei, vice-

minister of Commerce, Zhang Baoqun, deputy director of the International Military Cooperation Office of the Central Military Commission, and Yang Weiqun, deputy head of the State Office for International Development and Cooperation.

Pyongyang International Airport was in a welcoming atmosphere to greet the friendly mission from China.

The guards of honour of the Korean People's Army lined up at the stopping place before the terminal of the airport where the flags of the two countries were fluttering.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, warmly greeted the party and government delegation of the PRC.

The delegation was also greeted by Ko Kil Son, secretary general of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Sung Jong Gyu, minister of Culture, Mun Song Hyok, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, Pak Myong Ho, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ryu Un Hae, vice-minister of External Economic Relations.

Wang Yajun, Chinese

ambassador to the DPRK, and his embassy staff members greeted the delegation.

A woman worker presented a bouquet to Zhao Leji.

Many citizens warmly welcomed the close Chinese friends, waving the flags of the two countries and bouquets.

At the Paekhwawon State Guest House a vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK and employees warmly greeted the delegation.

The visit to the DPRK by the party and government delegation of the PRC serves as a momentous occasion in significantly commemorating this year marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations as the year of DPRK-China friendship, true to the noble intentions of the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries, in further consolidating the friendly and cooperative relations with socialism as the core as required by the new era, and in strengthening the strategic and tactical cooperation to defend the common core interests.

Talks were held in Pyongyang on April 11 between Choe Ryong Hae and Zhao Leji.

Present there were Kim Song Nam, director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the WPK, officials concerned, Liu Jianchao, head of the International Liaison Department of the

Central Committee of the CPC, members of the party and government delegation of the PRC and Wang Yajun, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK.

The talks discussed the issues of positively promoting exchange and cooperation in all fields, true to the noble intentions of the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries who declared this significant year marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the DPRK and the PRC as the Year of DPRK-China Friendship and thus further developing the traditional DPRK-China friendly relations.

There was also an exchange of views on the regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The talks were followed by a ceremony of signing the documents of agreement between the governments and

agencies of the DPRK and the PRC.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hosted a banquet at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on the evening of April 11 to welcome the Chinese party and government delegation.

Choe Ryong Hae and Zhao Leji made speeches.

The participants in the banquet toasted the good health of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and the respected Comrade Xi Jinping and the steady development of the relations between the two countries.

The Chinese party and government delegation visited the Friendship Tower in Pyongyang on April 12.

They also visited the Kangdong Greenhouse Complex. They left Pyongyang on April 13.



A banquet is given at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on the evening of April 11.



Opening ceremony of Year of DPRK-China Friendship held

KCNA

An opening ceremony of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship took place at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre on April 12.

Present at the ceremony were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, officials of the Central Committee of the WPK, ministries and national agencies, officials concerned, working people, youth and students in Pyongyang.

Present there were members of the party and government delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Zhao Leji, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC, members of the Chinese art troupe, Wang Yajun, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, his embassy staff members and Chinese guests staying in Pyongyang.

When the opening was declared, the national anthems of the DPRK and the PRC were solemnly played.

Chairman Choe Ryong Hae made a speech.

He warmly welcomed the Chinese party and government delegation led by Zhao Leji, on an official goodwill visit to the DPRK to take part in the opening ceremony of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship in 2024 which will add another brilliant page to the history of the DPRK-China friendly relations, and the Chinese art troupe on behalf of the Central Committee of the WPK and the government



and people of the DPRK.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and the respected Comrade Xi Jinping declared this year marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations the Year of DPRK-China Friendship out of their unshakable will to further develop the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation with socialism as the core, he said, noting that the DPRK-China friendship is an invincible friendship and precious common wealth forged in blood and developed in the long journey for accomplishing the cause of anti-imperialist independence, peace and socialism.

Saying that permeated in the lands of the two countries were the blood shed by the revolutionary forerunners, sung and unsung, who unhesitatingly dedicated their youth and lives to the freedom and liberation of the fraternal peoples and territorial integrity and many

touching stories tell about their militant friendship and fraternal affection, he stated that the DPRK-China relations are, indeed, valuable and precious not only because the two countries are geographically close but also because they have been forged and consolidated in the arduous struggle for the common cause.

To significantly commemorate the Year of the DPRK-China Friendship at a time when the DPRK-China relations are being firmly carried forward and their vitality is fully demonstrated serves as a powerful motive force for promoting the rapid development of the DPRK-China friendship and further strengthening mutual support and cooperation for the socialist cause, he noted.

The greater progress the two countries make towards a new horizon of building powerful countries under the uplifted banner of socialism, the more vicious

the imperialists will be in their obstructive moves, he said, adding that this calls for the two parties and two countries to give full play to the might of militant friendship and unity which have been consolidated from one century to the next.

He expressed the steadfast stand and will of the WPK and the DPRK government to steadily and vigorously develop the bilateral bond whose true colours have survived all challenges and tempests of history.

Chairman Zhao Leji made a speech next.

Saying that he was pleased to hold an opening ceremony of the Year of China-DPRK Friendship together with the Korean comrades in the year marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the DPRK, he extended warm greetings and best wishes to the Korean Party, government and people on behalf of the Chinese Party, government

and people.

China and the DPRK are friendly neighbours of socialism linked by the same mountain and rivers, he said, noting that looking back upon the past, both sides had their great militant friendship sealed in blood while sharing destiny and have defended the common interests and justice of the international community by getting firmly united with all sincerity.

He said that the traditional China-DPRK friendship, personally provided and strengthened by the leaders of the elder generation of the two parties and two countries, has taken deeper root and become more durable and precious no matter how the international situation changed.

General Secretary Xi Jinping and General Secretary Kim Jong Un have indicated the orientation, paved the path and unfolded a blueprint for the China-DPRK relations, while carrying forward the past and foreseeing the

future, in order to provide the fundamental guidelines and inexhaustible driving force for the development of the relations, he noted.

Saying that the Chinese side is sincerely pleased with the rich successes made in the development of the China-DPRK relations in the new period and under the new situation, he stressed that it is the consistent strategic policy of the Chinese Party and government to successfully defend, consolidate and develop the traditional China-DPRK friendly relations.

Zhao Leji expressed the steadfast will of the Chinese Party and government to thoroughly implement the important common understanding shared by the top leaders of the two parties and two countries, deepen the strategic mutual trust and promote exchange and cooperation on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the Year of China-DPRK Friendship and thus open up a new chapter of China-DPRK friendship along with the times.

Then an opening-ceremony joint performance was given by prestigious art troupes of the two countries.

A Chinese art troupe led by Director of the Art Department Ming Wenjun and Vice-Director of the Department of the International Cooperation for Exchange Shi Zeyi of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China is now visiting Pyongyang after taking part in a joint performance for the opening ceremony of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship.

It is made up of more than 300 persons and comprises prestigious art organizations and famous actors and actresses of China.

They visited the Juche-oriented Musical Art Museum, the Tower of the Juche Idea, the Arch of Triumph and other places and toured Kim Il Sung Square.



An opening ceremony of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship takes place at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre on April 12.

National economic plan for Q1 fulfilled

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The first quarterly national economic plan for attaining 12 major goals in the new year has successfully been fulfilled.

Officials of the Cabinet and economic guidance organs worked out long-term plans and meticulously pushed ahead with the work to build new industrial bases, secure raw and other materials and carry out the readjustment and reinforcement projects, and intensified the planning and guidance for all sectors and units to carry out the national economic plans for every day, every ten days and every month.

Workers in the metal industry carried out their production plans for pig iron, rolled steel, ferrosilicon, iron ore, fireproof materials and other major indices in the first quarter of the year.

The nitrogenous fertilizer production plan was executed at 105 percent throughout the country, and the production plans for various kinds of chemical goods necessary for economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards were implemented.

The electricity production plan was fulfilled through a drive for increased production.

The coal industry

sector carried out its coal production plan at 109 percent through an increased production and creation drive and the machine-building and mining industry sectors implemented their plans on all indices.

The freight transport target was exceeded by 4 percent in the rail transport sector, the timber production plan by 5 percent in the forestry sector and the cement production plan by 4 percent in the building-materials industry. And the Tacan Friendship Glass Factory, the Ryonggang Building Stone Processing Factory and various other units overfulfilled their production plans.

In the construction field, the Kangdong Greenhouse Complex was successfully completed, the construction projects of 10 000 flats at the second stage in the Hwasong area and Jonwi Street are nearing completion, and the project for building 10 000 flats at the third stage in the Hwasong area and the rural housing construction are being pushed ahead.

The 124th regiments of the Korean People's Army finished the huge foundation excavation projects for building regional-industry factories in 20 cities and counties and launched the next-stage projects in real earnest.

Progress has been made in the project for the irrigation of agriculture.

The tasks for digging waterways and building or repairing underground water facilities planned for this year were carried out in the main and major building projects have been completed one after another.

A drive for ensuring high and stable yields has been dynamically conducted according to different farming processes including preparations for this year's farming and sowing rice seeds in seedbeds despite the impacts of disastrous abnormal weather by applying scientific farming methods in rural areas across

the country.

Workers in light industry fulfilled the cloth production plan.

The production of school uniforms, shoes and bags for new pupils and students at primary schools and universities across the country was finished.

The production and supply of textbooks for pupils and students across the country were completed ahead of the new school year at educational books printing plants and the Central Educational Publications Supply Agency.

The marine products and salt production plans were finished at 103 percent and 154 percent respectively.

Might of Juche-oriented new oxygen blast furnace demonstrated

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Since it installed an energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and 15 000 cubic metres per hour oxygen plants of great significance in making the metallurgical industry Juche-oriented in December last year, the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex has steadily improved the technology of furnace operation while consolidating the successes and experience it attained.

"Since we successfully ensured the first tapping at the oxygen blast furnace on January 1, we are expanding the success day by day while producing a larger amount of Juche iron than planned," said Pak Myong Chol, deputy manager of the complex.

According to him, the complex is directing primary efforts to the supply of raw materials and fuel in close contact with relevant units as the Juche iron production capacity has increased over twice as much as the past and at the same time paying due attention to inspiring the engineering and repair and pipe-making workshops to secure various kinds of replacement

accessories and parts in advance.

In particular, it properly organizes technical study and presentation of new technologies for smelters in conformity with the actual conditions so that they are well versed in the technical characteristics of the energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and, on the basis of the experience and lessons gained in the previous process of the Juche iron production, it is pushing ahead with the continuous improvement of the furnace operation technology as one of its major tasks.

After pledging to create new standards and records, the smelters of blast furnace workshop No. 1 fixed a rational mixing ratio of raw materials and fuel to shorten the melting time at the oxygen blast furnace and have searched and introduced technological innovation and rationalization plans for increasing molten iron output per charge, thus raising the output of molten iron to a higher level.

They have provided another sure guarantee for increasing the Juche iron production by refashioning the previous oxygen

injection nozzle, which cost much and whose repair took much time and labour during the overhaul of the furnace, to suit their actual conditions. They are now working hard to produce even one more ton of molten iron while sharing and transferring good techniques and experience gained in the production process.

Workers and technicians of the oxygen plant branch factory are managing and operating the large-size oxygen plant as required by technical and other standard regulations while doing quickly the maintenance of equipment in operation and workers and technicians of pipe-making and engineering and repair workshops are displaying a high sense of responsibility in making parts and accessories necessary for the technical upgrading and maintenance of equipment.

The raw material supply sector has also made a positive contribution to the Juche iron production by properly managing equipment and machines, shortening the time of equipment repair and bringing about innovations in the supply of raw materials.

Jonwi Street construction site offers a living theatre for youth

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The construction site of Jonwi Street in the Sopho area on the northern gateway to Pyongyang is a worksite for great upsurge brimming with high spirits of young people.

The site of the grand construction project which is nearing completion while creating new records and new speeds day by day is seething with the young people's enthusiasm for collective innovation.

Innovations are being made in every part of the construction site where the builders are engaged in the finishing work of the interior and exterior of main buildings, the construction of public welfare facilities, roads and traffic networks and the planting of trees of good species and laying of turf.

Since the start of the construction in February last year, the construction site of the new street in the Sopho area has been the theatre of heroic struggle, courage and feats of the Korean youth.

The members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade who built a power station in a craggy mountain and the members of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade who performed great feats in its decades-long history of development and other young people from Pyongyang and other parts of the country are waging a heroic struggle there.

Hundreds of thousands of young men and women have taken part in the night support youth shock brigade activities with a patriotic desire to turn Pyongyang into a splendid city.

The flags of the youth shock brigades fluttered at the

construction site along with red flags despite last year's fierce heat and heavy rains and the freezing cold of the winter.

The dynamic progress being made in the construction site of the new street in the Sopho area is not just a product of the strength and enthusiasm of the young people.

The great trust and boundless love of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un have become the source of all miracles and feats.

In February last year, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the new street in the Sopho area and made a stirring speech reflecting his great trust in and expectation for the young people and entrusted the new street construction project entirely to them. He always cares for the young people more than any others and pays close attention to their efforts, giving them unlimited strength and boundless love.

With warm paternal affections, he sent various kinds of foodstuffs to them on holidays and according to seasons and even diary books so that they could record the stories of their youth.

"It is not simply a diary but it is a mirror that helps us, young people, realize once again how we should live our young days for the country," said Kil Myong Chol, a member of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, adding that all the young builders are writing their autobiographies of their precious youth with sweat and enthusiasm, rather than pens.

Jonwi Street, a living stage of the youth, is nearing completion thanks to the indomitable spirit and heroic feats of the Korean youth.



Production of iron under the Juche-based system is on the increase at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

RODONG SINMUN

'We will produce unique and diverse types of clothes'



With the beginning of balmy spring season when all things come to life, people change their dressings.

Fine feathers make fine birds. When people choose proper colours of clothes to meet seasonal features

and put them on neatly, they look better and it will brighten streets.

Even good quality cloth cannot give people good impression if its colour fails to suit the season.

As clothes colour represents the personality of the wearer and makes up for the shortcomings in figures, our tailor shop pays particular attention to choosing the clothes colours suitable for the clients' ages, figures and complexion according to their liking.

They look young and refined when women wear clothes achieving the harmony of different colours

like cream, light blue, light green and light pink and when men choose clothes in such bright colours as light grey, light blue and grey.

People do not like the clothes many others wear. Therefore, we have to constantly innovate the design and processing methods and increase the number of kinds.

It is very effective to pool collective intelligence by encouraging all cutters and needle workers to come up with original ideas and designs.

Kim Un Sil, manageress of the Mirae Tailor Shop

Tailor shop lures many customers

By Pang Un Ju PT

The employees of the Mirae Tailor Shop on Mirae Scientists Street are very busy now.

Because with the change of season many customers visit the shop to buy new clothes for spring.

"Many people like to visit our shop and order new suits of clothes. It is unthinkable apart from the efforts of Manageress Kim Un Sil. She is very sensitive to the latest fashions for clothes and usually likes to invent new things. She also demands her employees become dress designers and acquire high clothes processing technique," said tailor Jang Myong Hui.

So, every employee intently studies the shapes and processing techniques of ready-made clothes of world-famous brands and try to introduce them to meet the aesthetic tastes of the local people.

The shop often organizes competitions to create new forms of dress designs.

Through the presentation of opinions many designs are refined by adding new and unique elements in form, colour and decoration to be completed as excellent products.

The shop has recently produced over a dozen kinds of men's and women's coats, suits and two-pieces for spring and put them on show.

They include a men's suit made of delicately-patterned and blue materials with lapels designed narrower and longer than the previous ones to make it look light, women's suits and coats made in various shapes and colours and women's trousers made of lightly-striped fabrics and designed to narrow their width a little to make them look active. They are said to be particularly popular with the customers.

They select forms of clothes to suit their aesthetic tastes and likings from among exhibits and are provided with satisfactory service.

Kim Un Sil said that

middle-age customers as well as young ones look younger if they wear clothes in bright colours, adding many of the exhibits were recently made of materials of light and soft colours.

"I often come to this shop to buy clothes and they are always unique in shape and colour. And clothes processing techniques of its employees are so high that many seasonal clothes they made have been admired by my fellow workers," said Kim Un Jong, a regular customer.

The tailor shop also pays special attention to securing various kinds of quality cloths to offer convenience to the customers and provides regular customers with a variety of preferential treatments.

Kim Un Sil said her shop does not make more than two suits of clothes of the same form.

The number of regular customers is increasing as they widely introduce the excellent customer service of the shop.



Employees of the Mirae Tailor Shop have a discussion to present fresh types of clothes. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Folk customs of Koreans in spring

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

March 20 marked *Chunbun* (vernal equinox).

Chunbun is the fourth of 24 seasonal divisions, the one when spring has fairly set in with the wintry cold having faded away.

The customs of the Koreans in the period are as follows:

Rural landscape in spring

What is impressive in warm spring is the landscape of rural areas.

Plants bud and light pink azalea and yellow golden-bell blossoms are in full bloom at the foot of mountains and on fields, delighting people.

In the period Korean ancestors ploughed fields and sowed them with seeds wishing for a rich harvest. A painting of a rural scene drawn in the 18th century vividly shows a scene of a rural village full of a new hope by depicting well peasants going to fields with farming tools over their shoulders and driving oxen, women sowing seeds and girls and children going out with baskets to gather wild vegetables in

mountains and fields.

Maintaining the custom, agricultural workers today cultivate dry and paddy fields, ploughing them and sowing them with seeds as they sing merrily.

Folk games, national dishes

According to old historical records, ancestors planted and grew beautiful flowers and trees on gardens and edges of fields in spring. Children frolicked wearing crowns made with field flowers and young women painted their fingernails with red garden balsam petals in villages where white apple and light pink peach blossoms grew in harmony.

Folk games including hunting game and archery added to jubilee of new spring.

Distinctive were the customs of eating glutinous rice cake fried with petals of azalea picked from fields and mountains where spring floral scent wafted and noodles with petals floating in the soup and drinking azalea liquor.

Chonggak *kimchi* (a kind of radish *kimchi*) and giant garlic *kimchi* feature national dishes of March filled with spring fragrance.

Chonggak *kimchi* is made by pickling radish, which has not fully grown after the first frost of the previous year, along with its root and stem, seasoning them with garlic juice and fermenting them.

Originally, inhabitants of cold northern areas made and ate the dish before it spread widely to flat areas for its savoury and sharp tastes. It is counted as one of appetitive foods in spring.

The aroma of giant garlic *kimchi* is really unique.

The perennial herb belonging to the allium family grows in hills and fields across the DPRK. It contains protein, fat, sugar, minerals and vitamins and is gathered in spring and autumn. It tastes sweet and hot and emits unique smell to stimulate appetite. It is seasoned with peppered bean paste or soy sauce mixed with vinegar, preserved in bean paste or soy sauce to eat or used as seasonings for its fragrant and fresh taste and aroma.

Distinctive is also insam tea invigorating you in spring whose main material is Kacsong Koryo insam known worldwide as a tonic for longevity.

House full of beautiful flowers



Kang Su Gi and his family have a strong attachment to flower growing. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Ri Sung Ik PT

As spring comes, many families in Pyongyang are eager to grow flowering plants in their houses. Among them is the family of Kang Su Gi, an old man living in neighbourhood unit No. 4 of Tongan-dong No. 2, Central District.

His family cultivates over a dozen species of ornamental flowers in flowerpots, and the number has increased to nearly 70.

According to Yun Mi Suk, head of the neighbourhood unit, his house is filled with various kinds of flowers not only in the rooms but also in the balconies early in May, and they are in full bloom especially in summer, unfolding a spectacular and enchanting sight.

They have been cultivated

by Yon Kyong Suk, the wife of this old man, for more than 10 years.

According to Yon, she was greatly influenced by her father, who had been devoted to the cultivation of flowers, from her childhood.

Seeing the flowers beautifully cultivated by his father who loved his family very much and was so passionate, she began to cultivate a love of her family, society and nature.

Later, she had worked for years as a teacher for the education of younger generations, but suddenly fell ill in the middle years of her life and had to give up teaching.

As she grew older, her eyesight failed and she got into increasing difficulties.

But these symptoms gradually disappeared after she began to grow flowers, she said.

Flower cultivation is very effective in stabilizing mental state, developing the whole body and leading an emotional life, Yon Kyong Suk said.

Shortly ago, dozens of potted flowers from her friends and enthusiasts of flower cultivation were added to her property.

After thinking where to put them all for several days, she made up her mind to distribute potted flowers with high ornamental value that she had cultivated with great care to her neighbours to give pleasure to them and contribute to beautifully decorating the street and village.

"Joy gets greater when it is shared by many. I wanted to share the joy of enjoying beautiful flowers with the villagers who have long been worried about my poor health and taken warm care of me," Yon said.

Prominent leader contributes to accomplishing cause of independence for mankind

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Many statesmen and personages, who rendered distinguished services, have been recorded in the world political history, but none of them performed undying exploits for the times and history as much as President Kim Il Sung who devoted his all to the cause of independence for mankind.

Miracle of modern political history

Kim Il Sung was an outstanding leader who made a great contribution to the accomplishment of the cause of global independence under the banner of independence, the banner of international justice.

In the initial days of his revolutionary activities he established the truth that independence is the lifeblood of the masses of the people and each nation with extraordinary wisdom and insight and consistently held high the banner of independence in the whole course of leading the Korean and world revolutions.

He strictly adhered to the principle

of independence and steadily implemented the independent external policy even under the rapidly changing international situations.

He always believed in the strength of his people and country and relied on it to lead to victory two revolutionary wars, two rounds of reconstruction, two stages of social revolution and socialist construction.

The revolutionary practice of the President served as a shining example to be followed in socialist construction as he constantly upheld the independent principle and developed the Korean revolution and external relations in the previous century when the dominationists were stalking in the world with high-handedness.

It was corroborated that independence represents the justice of history, the victory of the revolution and the basis of the development of fair international relations and a new historical chapter of independence was opened, in which the masses of the people, freed from domination and subjugation, wage the revolution

of their countries in an independent way.

This was a miracle worked by the President and an event worthy of note in modern political history.

Under the uplifted banner of anti-imperialist independence

Kim Il Sung was an unparalleled brilliant commander and peerlessly great man who frustrated the moves of the imperialists for aggression and firmly defended global peace and security with his matchless courage, grit, extraordinary wisdom and outstanding leadership.

Having clarified in the early period of his revolutionary activities the truth that one can emerge victorious against an armed enemy only by dint of arms, he put forward Juche-oriented military ideas and theories. He put in big efforts to strengthen the Korean revolutionary armed forces throughout his revolutionary career and won victories in the showdowns with the imperialists at all times.

In the anti-Japanese revolutionary war and the Fatherland Liberation War he defeated formidable imperialist powers who were

superior in numerical strength and technology to build a new Korea and defend national sovereignty and global peace.

That's why the world people immensely admired and trusted him as an iron-willed brilliant commander, outstanding military strategist, champion of peace and symbol of victory in the anti-imperialist struggle.

He wisely led the efforts to bring about a turn in the struggle of progressive mankind for building an independent and peaceful new world.

All the fighting plans devised by the President, including the one for uniting all the peoples on the earth aspiring after peace and progress into a united front against the US imperialists and the one for securing peace through the struggle, not by begging, and fighting it out against the imperialists without the slightest concession, still serve as important guidelines in vigorously waging the anti-imperialist and anti-US struggle and maintaining global peace.

The world progressives still remember the immortal exploits of the President who safeguarded the sovereignty of the DPRK and peace

of the world by dint of arms and illuminated the road for ensuring global peace and security.

With a strong sense of mission toward and deep devotion to the cause of independence for mankind, he gave positive support and assistance to the countries and peoples fighting for the common cause, thus setting an inspiring example of noble internationalist obligation.

Thanks to Kim Il Sung, the 20th century could shine as an era of independence and the cause of independence for humankind could be advanced along the road of victory in the face of all manner of challenges of history.

His undying exploits performed for the cause of independence for mankind, the socialist cause, are now being carried on by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

With a firm will to lead the cause to victory without fail, Kim Jong Un conducts energetic revolutionary activities.

Through his activities, the Korean people and the world progressives look forward to an independent new world.

Developing WPK into people's party, motherly party

By Han Jong Ho PT

President Kim Il Sung, founding father of socialist Korea, was born in April 1912 and the Korean people's first genuine armed group was also founded in April 1932.

And the President was awarded the title of DPRK Generalissimo for his exploits for the country and people in April 1992.

In April 1993, the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il was elected chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission in accordance with the unanimous will of all the Korean people and in April 2012, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was elected first chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission.

As seen above, April is a special month of many significant days for the Korean people.

Among the days is the historic one when Kim Jong Un was elected first secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

He was elected first secretary of the WPK at its Fourth Conference on April 11 2012.

From the day the Party could develop into the one firmly carrying forward its character and nature and successfully fulfil the key tasks for strengthening itself

as a whole in the new era.

At the beginning of the new century of the Juche era, Kim Jong Un set forth the programme of modelling the whole Party on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, thus firmly establishing the political and ideological backbone for preserving its revolutionary character forever. He then said it is the only justification for its existence and its best index and eternal nature that it is a party of the people.

He further developed the WPK into a powerful political General Staff by improving all aspects of its work in a fresh way as required by the new era.

The five-point Party-building line in the new era constitutes an eternal Party-building programme which indicates the path for developing the WPK into a promising party and a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon which provided a sure guarantee for victoriously accelerating the building of socialism and communism by remarkably enhancing its leadership role.

Kim Jong Un turned the WPK into a people's party with its root taken deep among the masses of the people, a genuine motherly party, by dint of the people-first politics.

All his thoughts and activities begin with the word people.

Therefore, the WPK and the DPRK government initiate in succession and unconditionally carry out the projects to fulfil the cherished desire for the people in spite of extreme difficulties.

Under the wise leadership of the WPK, magnificent streets, socialist ideal villages, many factories conducive to improving the people's living standards and cultural and leisure activity centres have sprung up in the DPRK.

The Kangdong Greenhouse Complex, which was recently completed and inaugurated, is the epitome of Kim Jong Un's love for the people and devoted service for them.

By becoming the initiator, operator and owner of the construction of the complex, he clearly indicated the scheme and ways to complete the project in the shortest possible period, ranging from the selection of the site to the formation of construction force and the supply of materials, and led the construction step by step.

The Korean people celebrate every year the historic day when he was elected first secretary of the WPK as they know that the Korean revolution for realizing the independence of the masses of the people has always advanced successfully since the day.

Strong country, great leader

By Ri Sung Ik PT

What determines whether a country or nation is strong or weak?

The DPRK is small in terms of territory and population, but it does neither study others' faces in the world political arena nor blindly follow their will.

Therefore, it is recognized as a strong country of political principle.

Its firm political view is fully illustrated by the fact that the DPRK has steadfastly defended socialism of its own style, not any others', for over 70 years despite so many political upheavals that happened from the past century to the present.

Since its foundation, it has been subjected to constant economic sanctions and military threats.

Many policymakers of hostile countries racked their brains in a bid to bring it into submission and approached it with an olive branch in one hand and a whip in the other, but neither of them worked on Korea.

Despite over seven decades of economic sanctions and difficulties and trials, which might have brought others to their knees one hundred times, the DPRK has not lost balance, but rather advanced straight along the road of development, and has now reached a

period of comprehensive development of socialism.

The DPRK has also become one of the military giants of the world.

The Korean People's Army has grown into an army with everything it needs and an elite rank perfect politically and ideologically and in military technique and morality, and the Korean defence industry has developed into a development- and creation-oriented industry making everything it wants, not a copy-based one, and into an independent industry producing and supplying powerful military equipment capable of destroying any modern military hardware of the enemy at a single stroke.

The cause of building a powerful country is accomplished by a great leader.

That is why the Korean people elected the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un as first chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK at the Fifth Session of the 12th Supreme People's

Assembly of the DPRK in April 2012 in accordance with their unanimous will.

President Kim Il Sung, founder of socialist Korea, built Korea into a rich and powerful independent sovereign state and Chairman Kim Jong Il laid an eternal foundation for building a powerful country by dint of Songun.

Today, General Secretary Kim Jong Un is confidently pushing ahead with the overall development of socialism on the basis of the great military capability.

Great changes are being brought about in the building of a thriving country under the leadership of the General Secretary who is developing in an innovative and resilient way the work of all sectors including education, public health, art and literature, and sports.

The Korean people will always remember April 13 when they held him in high esteem at the top post of the state and commemorate the anniversary year after year.

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International Day of Human Space Flight and space exploration in DPRK

By Choe Yong Nam PT

April 12 is International Day of Human Space Flight.

On April 12 1961, Yuri Gagarin, an astronaut of the Soviet Union, succeeded in a manned space flight for the first time in the world by safely returning to the earth after travelling round it for an hour and 48 minutes aboard spacecraft "Vostok".

The successful flight was a historic event which ushered in a new era of conquering space humans have dreamed of for so long.

The 65th Session of the UN General Assembly held on April 7 2011 adopted a resolution on commemorating April 12 as International Day of Human Space Flight every year to mark the 50th anniversary of the manned space flight.

It reflects the unanimous wish of the international community that space science and technology would make a tangible contribution to the stable development and promotion of wellbeing of all countries and peoples.

Over the past 60-odd years since humans advanced for the first time into the vast outer space, space science and technology have undergone rapid development.

Outer space is rich in resources including orbits, high vacuum, highly clean environment, nongravity environment, space solar energy and the moon which are of great value in development

and use.

By making use of these space resources humans can conduct physical, engineering or breeding experiments which are hard or impossible to do in the earth, and through them obtain new materials like high-purity alloy or metal composite materials and new varieties of crops that are short in growing term and high in productivity.

As space, which brings enormous benefits to humankind, can be developed and used through artificial earth satellite and other space instruments, many countries launch satellites of various uses.

In the course of it marked achievements have been made in several fields including satellite carrying technology, development of new-type satellite, manned space flight and sounding in outer space.

The fact that developing countries take an active part in activities to conquer outer space shows that gone are the days when a few developed countries advanced into space in the past and a new era of space development, the era of multipolarization, has begun.

Space is not an exclusive property of a specific country, but the property of all humanity.

The fundamental principles of international space laws, including the Outer Space Treaty, specify that space is an asset common to humankind and that all sovereign states have the legitimate right to develop and use it.

Space development programmes also go full steam ahead in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in keeping with the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty which stipulates the worldwide development and use of space as the legitimate right of a sovereign state.

The National Aerospace Technology Administration (NATA), founded on April 1 2013, has steadily spearheaded the country's space conquering activities over the past 10-odd years.

In the period, it stepped up the introduction of the application technology into the buildup of national defence, economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards, as it made satellites multi-functional and high-performance and solved many technological problems related to satellite control and operation in a Korean way.

Last year, the reconnaissance satellite Malligyong-1 was successfully launched as part of the efforts for attaining the immediate and long-term goals of the policy on conquering space. As a result, marked progress has been made in bolstering up the national defence capability and several reconnaissance satellites are expected to be launched this year.

Scientists and technicians have achieved a series of successes in research into core space science and technology with their extraordinary creative spirit and practical ability.

The development of space

industry is of great significance in building a powerful socialist country today when its rapid development is firmly guaranteed by advanced science and technology and, accordingly, the need for space exploration and use is increasingly highlighted as the days go by.

For the accelerated development in the field of space, the DPRK government aims to carry out advanced and valuable space development projects on a priority basis from the viewpoint of the strategic interests of the state at the present stage and to build a space power by steadily expanding the successes.

As it has set it as a priority goal to possess meteorological, earth observation and communications satellites, it is now pushing ahead with the work to introduce space sci-tech achievements into various sectors including agriculture, fisheries, meteorological observation, communications, resources prospecting, land management and disaster prevention.

It is a clear fact that the growth of the space industry is a key element in providing a short-cut to securing the position of a world-class economic and sci-tech power and a demonstration of comprehensive national strength.

The DPRK will surely build a space power by putting sustained spurs to the independent space development.

Briefly

China

Permanent representative demands Israel stop military attack on Gaza Strip

The Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations demanded Israel stop military attack on the Gaza Strip in a speech at an open session of the UNSC on the Palestine-Israel issue on April 5.

Criticizing Israeli Zionists for recently attacking a humanitarian relief convoy for Palestinian refugees, he stressed that Israel should observe international law and stop malicious attack against the relief of refugees.

Russia

Strategic Rocket Forces stage exercise

A command post exercise was recently conducted by Irkutsk missile combined unit of the Strategic Rocket Forces of Russia equipped with a mobile missile system.

The drill involved more than 3 000 troops and about 300 pieces of technical equipment.

The service personnel of the mobile missile system moved for 100 kilometres to deploy technical equipment and practised the methods of camouflaging and organizing guard duties.

They also conducted a drill to cope with subversive and sabotage scouts.

The Russian Ministry of Defence said that the exercise demonstrated the great combat readiness of the combined unit and the professional qualifications of the service personnel.

Iran

Chief of IIRGC declares will to punish Israel

The commander-in-chief of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced on April 5 the stand to punish Israel at the funeral of the military officials who were killed in an Israeli air raid on the Iranian embassy in Syria.

Addressing the citizens gathering in Tehran, he said that Iran would not allow the enemy to get off scot-free after taking any action against the Islamic Republic, but punish the Zionist regime.

That day, a large number of people staged an anti-Israeli demonstration, holding the photos of the dead and such slogans as "Death to Israel!" and "Death to America!"

Türkiye

Israeli spies arrested

The Turkish police announced on April 5 that it arrested eight criminals who were engaged in espionage acts for Israel.

They collected information about individuals and companies of Türkiye targeted by Israel's intelligence agency Mossad and handed it over to the agency.

The Turkish minister of Interior announced that his country would never tolerate espionage activities which were committed in a bid to disrupt the unity of the state.

Who is real culprit behind massacre?

During six months, more than 33 000 Palestinians were mercilessly killed and some 75 890 were wounded by the Israeli army

KCNA

Six months have passed since the Israeli forces began its military operation in the Gaza Strip of Palestine.

During that period, more than 33 000 Palestinians were mercilessly killed and some 75 890 were wounded by the Israeli army.

According to information available, the amount of damage inflicted on major infrastructures in Gaza exceeded US\$18.5 billion and the whole population are suffering from serious food instability and malnutrition.

In view of the gravity of the situation, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution in March calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Nevertheless, the Israeli Zionists have become even more frantic in their barbarous massacre of Palestinians, going against the unanimous demand of the international community.

In a recent military operation at Al-Shifa Hospital, Israeli troops committed an unethical crime of killing at least 400 innocent Palestinians and reducing the

hospital to complete ruins.

Even worse, members of international humanitarian organizations who were providing food aids in Gaza lost their lives in an Israeli air raid.

At present, Israel's military imprudence is extending beyond the strip to neighbouring countries.

On April 1, an Israeli fighter jet fired six missiles at the building of the consular department of the Iranian embassy in Syria to kill several people, including an officer of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. On April 5, an indiscriminate air raid on villages and towns in the southern part of Lebanon killed six and wounded 11.

The international community is strongly criticizing the war mania of the Israeli warmongers going to extremes.

Branding the air raid on the consular department building of its embassy in Syria as an act of terrorism, the Iranian government announced that it would never tolerate the crime but take countermeasures.

China, Egypt, Cyprus and many other countries asserted that Israel's cruel murder of members

of humanitarian organizations in Gaza was absolutely intolerable and called for an immediate and thorough investigation to bring those responsible for it to account.

The League of Arab States released a statement to disclose that the Israeli air raids were aimed at expanding the war and plunging the region into chaos, warning about the danger of such attempt.

If so, who is the real culprit of the massacre committed ruthlessly in the face of humankind?

It is the unanimous opinion of the world public that Israeli warmongers could carry out the indiscriminate military operations despite the protests and denunciations from the international community as they have received full support and aid of the US.

As soon as the resolution on immediate ceasefire was adopted at the UNSC, the US trumpeted that the decision had no binding power and there would be no policy switch affected by the resolution. A few days later, it decided to deliver bombs and fighters worth billions of US dollars to Israel, fully exposing its criminal identity of pushing the Zionists toward the massacre.



Spring has come in Pyongyang. RYU KWANG HYOK AND WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

KOREAN WEIGHTLIFTERS WIN GOLD MEDALS AT 2024 IWF WORLD CUP

They bagged 38 medals including 21 golds

By Choe Yong Nam PT

DPRK player Rim Un Sim took the first place in the 2024 International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup.

On April 5, she won three gold medals by lifting 114kg in snatch, 144kg in jerk and 258kg in total in the women's 64kg category.

Meanwhile, another DPRK player Ri Suk took

the second places in the snatch, jerk and total of the same event.

Ri Chong Song, a player of the DPRK, wins the men's 81kg category of the 2024 International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup.

He bagged three gold medals on April 6 by lifting 166kg in snatch, 200kg in jerk and 366kg in total.

DPRK player Jong Chun Hui was successful

at the 2024 International Weightlifting Federation World Cup.

On April 8, Jong lifted 114kg in snatch, 145kg in jerk and 259kg in total in the women's 76kg category, taking first place in jerk and total and coming second in snatch.

On April 7, Song Kuk Hyang finished runner-up in snatch and was placed third in jerk and total in the women's 71kg category.

DPRK proves successful at IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship

By Song Jong Ho PT

The DPRK team came first in the 2024 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II,

Group 2.

In the championship that took place in Türkiye from April 1 to 7, the Korean women beat the New Zealanders 5-1, the South Africans 14-0, the

Turks 7-1, the Chinese Hong Kong women 2-1 and the Australians 2-1, thus winning the division group of the championship. And Kim Un Hyang received the best player award.

Spring national sports festival continues

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The 2024 spring national sports festival, which opened on March 14 amid the interest of experts and amateurs, is running on briskly.

Potential team

The Amnokgang team won the (youth men's and women's) volleyball tournament which was wound up on March 28.

In the men's event, its players snatched the highest scores in eight matches and won the first place by dint of physical and technical abilities they had practised in ordinary times and well-knit tactics.

In the women's event, the Amnokgang team ranked first in the league matches on the strength of definite superiority in ability.

There were matches between men's and women's first and second placers after the end of round robin, and male and female players of the Amnokgang made another sweeping victory by overpowering opponent teams.

Through the matches, experts and amateurs had a definite recognition of the victory of the Amnokgang team.

Ippon success rate goes up

The judo contest (youth

level) of the 2024 spring national sports festival took place at the Suyangsan Sports Club.

Over 270 excellent male and female players selected from 20-odd organizations including the April 25 Combat Sports Team and Rimyongsu and Pyongyang sports clubs took part in the event.

They competed, divided into eight categories respectively and mixed team event.

The ippon success rate saw an increase as compared with the past.

In particular, Ri Chol of the Rimyongsu Sports Club who competed in the men's 73kg category snatched a gold medal by overpowering all the rivals with ippon.

Jon Hyon Ae from the Moranbong Sports Club who took part in the women's 52kg category came first by beating all opponents with ippon.

Unexpected reversal

The badminton competition (first division) of the 2024 spring national sports festival, which started on March 18, ended on March 24.

Men and women players from the Defence Sports Club of the Ministry of National Defence won team and individual matches.

Their play showed the crucial importance of mind

control.

Though there were wide margins in important rounds in their opponents' favour, all of its players reversed the very unfavourable situations by playing the games to the last while boldly employing diverse tactics, thus winning the event.

Pattern matches portend fierceness of Taekwon-Do event

The Taekwon-Do matches of the national martial arts championships, which started on April 7 in the wake of paduk and Korean chess games, are assuming a fierce mood.

The event which has brought together players and coaches of more than ten teams including the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do team and provincial Taekwon-Do teams is being held, divided into pattern, sparring, self-defence routine, special techniques and power breaking.

In the pattern matches on the first day, almost all the players demonstrated their improved strength and speed and accurate movements.

In the games, unexpected teams also entered the rankings.

After seeing the pattern matches, experts commented that the forthcoming other Taekwon-Do matches would be fierce and intense.

