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Kim Il Sung was the most outstanding leader and an extraordinary veteran statesman who bequeathed imperishable exploits to his country and people and to the times and revolution by means of profound ideas and theories, uncommon leadership ability and gigantic revolutionary practice.

Kim Jong Un

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FRONT COVER: People visit President Kim Il Sung's birthplace at Mangyongdae.
Photo: Kim Kum Jin

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Kim Il Sung, great leader of the Korean people.

Father of the Nation, Sun of Mankind

The Korean army and people are celebrating grandly the 105th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung in the stirring period when they are victoriously advancing socialism with the great spirit of self-reliance and self-development as the dynamic force.

President Kim Il Sung was a heaven-sent legendary leader, the father of the Korean nation and the eternal Sun of mankind, who pioneered the modern history of Korea and performed immortal exploits in carrying out the Korean revolution and the cause of global independence by dint of his outstanding ideology and leadership and noble virtue.

Korea, which had been reduced to the theatre of competition by the world powers for gaining their interests and thus subjected to ruin between the late 19th century and early 20th century, attained the present status of a socialist power that is independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence, as it greeted the great national event, the birth of the President.

Marking the Day of the Sun, the President's birthday, all the service personnel and people of the country are looking back upon the President's great revolutionary career and immortal achievements, with boundless yearning and reverence for him.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho

Kim Il Sung in the days of founding the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (AJPGA).

Saviour of the Nation

On April 15, Juche 1 (1912), the great leader President Kim Il Sung, a peerless patriot and the most outstanding man in the 20th century whom the people of the whole world respect, was born at Mangyongdae in Pyongyang, DPRK.

The birth of the President was the sunrise of history that instilled hope for national revival in the mind of the Korean people suffering under the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists that gained notoriety as the most outrageous and cruellest in the world.

Born into a family, which made it the family tradition to love the country, the nation and the people, he was endowed with unexcelled wisdom and warm personality. And under the revolutionary influence of the parents, and in the course of seeking for truth, of witnessing social phenomena full of injustice and conflict, and of struggling against them, the President came to fully acquire the thoroughgoing spirit of anti-imperialist independence, steadfast class stand, scientific insight, outstanding leadership and noble virtues. He thus assumed the personality as a revolutionary leader already in his teens.

Embarking on the road of revolution with the formation of the Down-with-Imperialism Union in October Juche 15 (1926), the President authored the Juche idea, the guiding ideology of the era of independence, and advanced the Songun-based revolutionary line. With an iron determination to achieve the country's liberation by force of arms he organized the first revolutionary armed force of Korea and declared a decisive battle against the Japanese imperialists.

Based on the immortal Juche idea, he indicated the correct paths at every stage and period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and solved all problems independently and creatively in whatever complicated and acute situation.

He put forward an original military idea of overwhelming the numerical and technical superiority of the enemy that was armed to teeth, with the political and ideological, strategic and tactical superiority of the revolutionary army. He consistently held fast to it in the whole course of the armed struggle, created and developed new strategic and tactical principles and combat methods as appropriate to guerrilla warfare, and

Kim Il Sung among the soldiers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (standing in the middle of the back row).

The flag of the AJPGA when it was founded on April 25, Juche 21 (1932).

The anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and waged under the leadership of Kim Il Sung won great victory, defeating the Japanese militarism, and the Korean people achieved the national liberation.

Rejoicing over the national liberation.

Kim Il Sung delivers a speech at the Pyongyang mass rally held to welcome his triumphal return home [October Juche 34 (1945)].

always emerged victorious in fierce battles.

Cherishing the most ennobling comradeship and trust in the revolutionary soldiers, he achieved the unity of the revolutionary ranks in ideology, purpose and moral obligation. His broad magnanimity firmly rallied the entire Korean nation under the banner of anti-Japanese struggle and aroused them to the anti-Japanese war.

As they held in high esteem the great President Kim Il Sung as the saviour of the nation and the lodestar of the national liberation, the Korean revolutionaries and people were firmly convinced of the bright future even in those grim days and fought out to accomplish the historic cause of the country's liberation on August 15, Juche 34 (1945).

The immortal achievements of President Kim Il Sung who delivered the Korean nation from the life-and-death crisis and opened up a broad avenue for the prosperity of the country will go down for ever in history.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho

Democratic reforms, including the proclamation of the laws on agrarian reform and labour, were enforced, making the working people masters of the land and factories.

A regular revolutionary armed force was built and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, genuine people's government, established.

Kim Il Sung, brilliant commander who led the Fatherland Liberation War to victory [July Juche 42 (1953)].

Ever-victorious, Iron-willed Commander

The great leader President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was the ever-victorious, iron-willed commander who led the Korean people to emerge victorious in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953).

The Fatherland Liberation War was the war the Korean people fought against the armed invasion by US imperialism, the chieftain of the world imperialism, and its lackeys and defended their national sovereignty and independence.

The Korean People's Army repulsed the enemy's sudden attack and launched immediate counteroffensives, thus liberating the wide areas of south Korea.

Kim Il Sung meets model combatants [June Juche 40 (1951)].

Kim Il Sung inspects the tunnelling site [October Juche 40 (1951)].

The United States, having boasted of being always victorious in its war history of over a hundred years, provoked a war against the DPRK that was less than two years old. On the US side were the troops of 15 vassal states, south Korean army and even the Japanese militarists.

Korea, which had been liberated from the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists only five years ago, was weak in military and economic potentialities beyond compare.

However, the victor in the fierce, three-year war was none other than the Korean people.

During the war President Kim Il Sung, shouldering the responsibility for the destiny of the country and people, powerfully roused all the service personnel and people of the country to the unprecedented heroic resistance and put forward the Juche-oriented military ideas, adroit strategy and tactics, and original combat methods. He thus led the whole course of the war along the road resplendent with victory.

At the beginning of the war he set up a unique, well-organized wartime system to cope with the sudden invasion, made sure that the army and people displayed their spiritual strength to the maximum and built the powerful motive force, thus providing a sure guarantee for the victory in the war.

In the whole course of the war he gained a detailed insight into the military and political situations and their developing trends, the balance of forces, the characters of enemy's operations and the situations of war. On this basis, he fixed the strategic stages of the war in a scientific way, clarified the correct strategic and tactical policies at each stage and detailed tasks for their implementation, created the Juche-oriented strategies and tactics, original combat methods, and employed an outstanding and seasoned art of command. Under his leadership the aggressors that were far superior numerically and technically were destined to fall like a setting sun and the US imperialists were put on a downhill passage towards ruin, their myth of the "mightiness" being shattered to smithereens.

The President always took the initiative in the war through brisk activities of the Juche-oriented military diplomacy, frustrated the enemy's attempts for an "honourable ceasefire" and the use of atomic bombs, thereby saving mankind from the nuclear holocaust and the peoples in Asia and the rest of the world from the danger of a possible third world war.

The immortal exploits President Kim Il Sung performed for the times and history by leading the Fatherland Liberation War to victory will go down in the history of Korea and the history of liberation struggle of mankind.

Article: Kim Phil

The Korean people defeated US imperialism which had boasted of being the "strongest" in the world, and won victory in the war on July 27, Juche 42 (1953).

Kim Il Sung gives on-site guidance at the Komdok Mine [April Juche 50 (1961)].

Always Among the People

Though more than 20 years have passed after the demise of President Kim Il Sung, the Korean people call him "our fatherly leader" affectionately and invariably. This is an outburst of their boundless reverence and admiration for the President, the peerlessly great man who devoted his all to the people.

Regarding "The people are my God" as his lifelong motto, he dedicated his whole life to turning it into reality. Always giving prominence to the people's interests, he built the Party, the government and the army and developed the economy and culture entirely to serve the people.

During the long period of leading victoriously two revolutionary wars, two stages of social revolution, two rounds of reconstruction, and several stages of socialist construction, the President put forth lines and policies and proclaimed laws and regulations, all filled with absolute love for his people.

As the Korean people held in high esteem the great leader who valued them most, a startling reality was unfolded in the country: the pencil production was proposed as one of the items on the agenda at the first session of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea after liberation of Korea from the Japanese military occupation on August 15, 1945, and a decision of the Cabinet on enforcing the universal free medical care system at state expense was adopted amid the flames of the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953).

The President's ardent love for the people is fully reflected in the people-oriented policies of the state, like complete abolishment of taxation, enforcement of universal free medical care and education systems, nursing and upbringing of children at state and public expense, social insurance and security systems, recuperation and relaxation systems, the building of schools, hospitals and dwelling houses at state expense and so on.

Many anecdotes tell about his devoted service to the people and his modest personality. He refused an umbrella saying that when people were exposed to snow he should do the same, and had the house that was built by the people wishing him to have a rest even for a while, pulled down.

He grew flowers and trees in his garden, did farming and raised chickens at home. In the course of this, the Juche farming method was created and the grand plans were made to turn the country into a fairyland with all sorts

Kim Il Sung looks after the dietary life of the workers at the Taean Electrical Machinery Plant [December Juche 50 (1961)].

Kim Il Sung acquaints himself with the lives of a family at Hyangha-ri in Janggang County [July Juche 58 (1969)].

of flowers in bloom. The Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Grand People's Study House, the People's Palace of Culture, the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, the Okryu Restaurant and other monumental edifices erected in the best places of the country are witnesses of history to the life of the President devoted to the people.

Since he began his revolutionary career by going among the people, the

Kim Il Sung meets the teaching staff and students of Kim Il Sung University who are seconded to the city construction [June Juche 46 (1957)].

Kim Il Sung sees a diesel locomotive Kumsong newly manufactured at the Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Factory [May Juche 64 (1975)].

President continued to visit his people until the last days of his life. From the period of building a new country after the national liberation to the last time of his great life, he visited over 20 600 units for more than 8 650 days, the distance of his field guidance trip topping over 578 000 km.

He continued his field guidance journey to every corner of the country, regardless of rain or snow, sultry weather or bitter cold, national holidays and Sundays, and even his birthday. When he visited a factory he held the oil-stained hands of the workers, and in a rural farm talked friendly with farmers

Kim Il Sung gives on-site guidance at the February 8 Vinalon Factory [October Juche 50 (1961)].

Kim Il Sung gives on-site guidance at the Chongsan Cooperative Farm [September Juche 76 (1987)].

Kim Il Sung unfolds a far-reaching plan of the city construction [November Juche 71 (1982)].

at the edge of a field. When talking to children, he became a child and to the elderly, their intimate friends. He always cared for their innermost thoughts as a meticulous mother would do.

President Kim Il Sung was, indeed, the people's benevolent father who, endowed with ardent love for the people, devoted his whole life to them.

Article: Jong Ki Sang

Kim Il Sung looks round the Kim Man Yu Hospital [June Juche 75 (1986)].

Kim Il Sung tours Pyongyang on a newly manufactured trolley-bus [April Juche 61 (1972)].

Kim Il Sung meets Rev. Mun Ik Hwan, advisor to the Coalition for the National Democratic Movement in south Korea [March Juche 78 (1989)].

With Great Generosity

The great leader President Kim Il Sung was the lodestar of reunification, who provided the Korean people with a noble programme of the great national unity. Cherishing deep the centuries-old desire of the people to live harmoniously in a reunified country, he led all the Korean compatriots along the patriotic road of reunification with great generosity.

Korea was divided into the north and the south in the 40s of last century, owing to the US imperialists that militarily occupied the southern part of the country, and since then the Korean people have been subjected to the misery of national division.

President Kim Il Sung waged the bloody struggle against the Japanese imperialists to win back the country and, after national liberation, energetically led the building of a new country in the northern part of Korea. Busy as he was, he put forward at every period and stage of the developing revolution lines and policies aimed at achieving the country's reunification independently and peacefully by the united efforts of the nation, including the proposal of holding the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea in April Juche 37 (1948).

The President called upon the Korean compatriots, who were apprehensive of the destiny of the nation, to unite as one, whether they be in the north, in the south or abroad, communists or nationalists, poor or rich, atheists or believers, transcending all the differences. His ennobling patriotic appeal inspired all the Korean compatriots with the great enthusiasm for reunification.

With broad magnanimity and generosity, he made no issue of the past of the people, if they cherished a national conscience and turned out in the struggle for national reunification, irrespective of the differences in ideology and ideals, religious and political views, and classes and strata. He wiped the slate clean of the guilt-ridden people who felt sorry for the crimes they committed in the past and came over to the side of the nation, and led them along the path of reunification and patriotism.

When Rev. Mun Ik Hwan, a prominent public figure of south Korea, and his party visited Pyongyang in the spring of Juche 78 (1989), the President warmly welcomed them as an envoy of reunification and said in the following vein: The reunification issue should be solved through dialogues of the north and the south; All the matters can be solved only through openhearted discussion

Kim Il Sung presides over the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea [April Juche 37 (1948)].

Kim Il Sung meets Yun I Sang, an overseas Korean composer [October Juche 76 (1987)].

between the north and the south; Just as you and I have already become intimate through two times of meeting and so have no problem unsolved, it is important for the north and the south to sit together and discuss matters on national reunification; I subordinate without any reservation to anything intended for the country's reunification.

His words that day manifested his ennobling intention of love for the country and the people.

Greatly touched by the President's boundless generosity with which he united the entire nation for one purpose of reunification and patriotism, Kim Ku, known as the mastermind of anti-communism, and many other political and public figures from south Korea came to the north to attend the north-south joint conference held after the liberation. And when the high-level political talks between the north and south of Korea was held in Pyongyang in May Juche 61 (1972), the south Korean delegate said that he agreed with the President's instructions in all respects and expressed his determination to adopt the three principles for national reunification put forward by the President as the guideline of all his activities.

Not only them but such anti-communist politicians as Choe Tok Sin and Choi Hong Hui, who had held important posts in the military and the government in south Korea but later sought refugees in foreign countries, Rev. Kim Song Rak in his advanced age, composer Yun I Sang and many other envoys of reunification visited Pyongyang to hold contacts and dialogues. And all the Korean compatriots in the north, the south and overseas turned out in the nationwide grand march towards reunification under the banner of the great national unity.

The undying exploits President Kim Il Sung performed in arousing the entire nation to achieve the cause of national reunification, saying that the country's reunification would be the greatest present for his people, will go down for ever in the history of the Korean people's reunification movement.

Article: Choe Yong Ho

The whole country brims with enthusiasm for reunification.

Kim Il Sung meets the participants in the extraordinary ministerial conference of non-aligned countries on south-south cooperation [June Juche 76 (1987)].

For Global Independence

Though the 20th century has elapsed, indelible are the tracks of devotion President Kim Il Sung left in accomplishing the cause of independence of mankind by creating the immortal Juche idea and illuminating the path ahead of the era of independence.

Busy as he was leading the Korean revolution along an untrodden path, the President conducted energetic external activities for the unity of socialist countries, strengthening and development of the non-aligned movement, consolidation of national independence of the developing countries, and the building of an independent world. His traces are marked in vast expanses of China and Siberia in Russia, East Europe and Africa.

Between Juche 34 (1945) and July in Juche 83 (1994) he travelled the long distance of 522 000 km, visiting 16 countries on 106 occasions. He met foreigners, 70 000 in total, including 400 heads of state, government and political party from 136 countries.

In the late 1940s he went to Dandong in China at the risk of his life to help the Chinese people's struggle for the liberation of Northeast China, indicating the way to turn the tide of the war.

He also visited the former Soviet Union and East European countries, thereby powerfully stimulating the unity of socialist countries and the revolutionary movement of international working class.

He put forward the basic strategy of directing the main spearhead against US imperialism in developing the world revolution and shed light on the path ahead of the developing countries as well as for the development of the non-aligned movement.

When socialism collapsed in the former Soviet Union and other East European countries in the early 90s of the previous century and the imperialists and reactionaries, taking advantage of this, made a big fuss about the "end" of socialism, the President solemnly declared: The crumbling of socialism in several countries does not mean the failure of socialism as science but the bankruptcy of opportunism which has corrupted socialism. Although socialism is temporarily experiencing a heartrending setback because of opportunism, it will without fail be revived and win ultimate victory for its

Kim Il Sung talks with Chairman Mao Zedong of the People's Republic of China [April Juche 64 (1975)].

Kim Il Sung poses for a photograph with L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union [May Juche 69 (1980)].

Kim Il Sung talks with Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba [March Juche 75 (1986)].

scientific accuracy and truth.

Thanks to the President's energetic external activities covering the whole world, the anti-revolutionary ideological trends which had tarnished the socialist ideal were rejected, the socialist movement was revived and the socialist cause advanced to victory. The non-aligned movement was strengthened into a powerful anti-imperialist independent force and the global independence made fresh progress.

Along with the immortal exploits he had performed for the realization of the cause of independence of mankind, President Kim Il Sung will be remembered for ever as the sun in the era of independence and the lodestar of human emancipation.

Article: Kim Thae Hyon

Kim Il Sung poses for a photograph with the members of the World Peace Council [April Juche 81 (1992)].

Kim Il Sung poses for a photograph with Josip Broz Tito, President of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, who visited the DPRK [August Juche 66 (1977)].

Kim Il Sung poses for a photograph with Shin Kanemaru and Makodo Tanabe from Japan [September Juche 79 (1990)].

Kim Il Sung meets former US President Jimmy Carter [June Juche 83 (1994)].

Kim Il Sung receives enthusiastic welcome on his visits to foreign countries.

Kim Il Sung sees Kimilsungia presented by President Sukarno of Indonesian Republic [April Juche 54 (1965)].

Boundless Reverence of Mankind

Having embarked on the road of revolution in his early days, the great leader President Kim Il Sung adorned his 70-odd-year career of leading the unprecedentedly arduous and complicated Korean revolution to victory, and performed immortal achievements for the cause of global independence, thus enjoying boundless reverence and admiration of the world progressive peoples.

In April Juche 54 (1965) when President Kim Il Sung paid a visit to the Republic of Indonesia, President Sukarno guided him to a famous botanical garden in his country, and showed the former a beautiful flower, saying that he wanted to name the flower after him.

Modestly declining his proposal, the Korean President said that he had done nothing special and there was no need to have a flower named after him. However, the Indonesian President insisted that His Excellency Kim Il Sung had already rendered enormous services to mankind, so he deserved a high honour.

The immortal flower Kimilsungia came to be born to praise the great man and are in full bloom around the world.

In October Juche 39 (1950), Iosif Stalin of the former Soviet Union specially prepared a bulletproof car of a new model for the safety of Kim Il Sung who was leading the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) to victory.

In October Juche 45 (1956) President Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam presented a portrait of the Korean President in military uniform.

A goldwork embossed with the portrait of President Kim Il Sung, an artefact "Korean Map" depicting 99 butterflies flying to Pyongyang and other gifts were presented to the President reflecting boundless reverence of the world peoples.

Over 70 countries and international organizations, more than 30 cities and 20 odd universities awarded many orders, medals and honorary titles to Kim Il Sung who opened up the Juche era, a new era of the historical development of mankind, by creating the immortal Juche idea and thus made an extraordinary contribution to the accomplishment of the cause of global independence.

Order of Red Flag and Medal of Victory in the War against Japan from the former Soviet Union, Order of Jose Marti and Order of Playa Giron from Cuba, Order of Gold Star from Vietnam and other orders and medals awarded to the President show fully the world peoples' admiration for Kim Il Sung who defeated the US and Japanese imperialists in one generation and devoted his all to the victory of the socialist cause and global independence.

President Kim Il Sung was awarded the Diploma of Doctor of International Relations Honoris Causa of Kensington University of the United States, and the honorary titles of professor, doctor, citizen, leader and chairman by the world famous universities and cities.

Many countries and progressive figures, even after his demise, presented such gifts as glasswork "Sun" and "Red Sun" and awarded a number of orders, medals and honorary titles, including El Mehdi Ben Barka Order of Solidarity

Kimilsungia festival is a grand event held every year to celebrate the Day of the Sun, President Kim Il Sung's birthday.

of Asian, African and Latin-American Peoples' Solidarity Organization and the Chieftaincy Title of Sun.

Foreign friends said, "There should be built in the highest peak of the world a monument to the feats of President Kim Il Sung and in the centre of the earth his statue and a grand revolutionary museum to hand down his achievements for ever."

Boundless admiration and reverence of mankind for President Kim Il Sung who rendered great services to the accomplishment of the cause of global independence will continue generation after generation, singing of his immortal exploits.

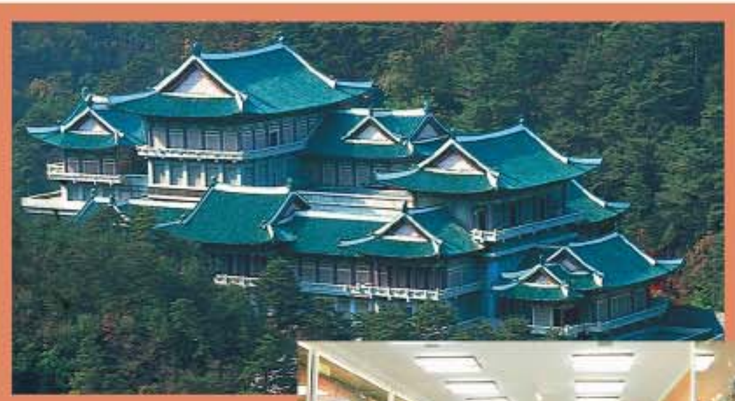
Article: Kim Son Gyong

Bogor Botanical Garden in Indonesia is the birthplace of Kimilsungia, immortal flower.

Foreigners visit the venue of the Kimilsungia festival.

Kim Il Sung sees the gift presented by King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia [April Juche 83 (1994)].

Kim Il Sung is awarded a medal by Todor Zhivkov, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria [June Juche 64 (1975)].



The International Friendship Exhibition House keeps the gifts presented to President Kim Il Sung from the peoples of the world.

Kim Il Sung is awarded orders, medals and honorary titles by over 70 countries and international organizations, more than 30 cities and 20 odd universities in the world.

Partial view of the room in the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun that exhibits orders, medals and honorary title certificates.

Kim Il Sung among the service personnel of the Korean People's Army [February Juche 55 (1966)].

Under the Leadership of Brilliant Commanders

The glorious 85-year history of the heroic Korean People's Army bears witness to the parental affection the great Songun commanders bestowed on the service personnel.

On April 25, Juche 21 (1932) President Kim Il Sung founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, the first Juche-type revolutionary armed force, with the fine sons and daughters of the Korean people. During the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle for 15 years he always took good care of his soldiers like their dear father and trusted them, bringing them up into dignified revolutionaries and indomitable fighters.

In the difficult days of ceaseless battles and marches, he personally taught illiterate soldiers how to write their names and portioned out even a cup of parched rice flour to them.

His ardent love for human and ennobling revolutionary comradeship were cherished deep in the minds of the KPRA soldiers as the unshakable revolutionary faith to be kept to their dying breath, and encouraged them to emerge victorious in the anti-Japanese war and achieve the historic cause of the national liberation.

In the grim days of the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950 - July 1953) fought against the armed invasion of the US imperialists, he said that every combatant was the irreplaceable treasure and his revolutionary comrade-in-arms, and gave an order to take good care of them before issuing a battle order to the KPA units.

Greatly encouraged by his trust and affection, the KPA soldiers laid down their young lives without any hesitation to achieve victory in the war, shouting "For the Party and the leader!", "For the motherland and the people!" and "Don't yield even an inch of land to the enemy!"

Inheriting the warm affection for and trust in the service personnel cherished by the President, General Kim Jong Il ceaselessly inspected the army units on his journey of Songun-based revolutionary leadership. He regarded his soldiers as revolutionary comrades-in-arms linked with the ideology and purpose and kinship, far transcending the subordinate relationship between the Supreme Commander and the soldiers.

The General never hesitated to cross the rugged Chol Pass and Mt Osong and brave stormy sea to inspect the army units on the frontline posts and islands, wherever his soldiers were.

He even felt the thickness of the padded uniform of the soldier on combat duty in a forward observation post and took affectionate measures to supply the soldiers with unstitched padded clothes so as to prevent a cold draught from coming in through stitches.

In the embrace of the General to turn the whole army into a unit of comrades with affection and trust, the service personnel have grown up to be brave warriors with unyielding spirit and staunch defenders of the socialist country.

Affection for and trust in the service personnel are continuously shown by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, another brilliant Songun commander.

Saying that what he believes in is not the modern military hardware, like guns or rockets, but the dear rank-and-file soldiers and that the Supreme

Kim Jong Il enjoys an artistic performance given by the service personnel of a KPA unit [August Juche 95 (2006)].

Kim Jong Un looks round the barracks of a KPA company [February Juche 101 (2012)].

Kim Jong Un congratulates women pilots of supersonic fighters on their successful flight drills [June Juche 104 (2015)].

Commander, as well as the officers, exists for them, the Supreme Leader regards the service personnel as his revolutionary comrades-in-arms and comrades.

When inspecting the army units and posts, he sees first the rank-and-file soldiers, acquaints himself with their living conditions and takes necessary measures. Caring for their innermost thought to be reluctant to part with him, he has photos taken with them for a long time, standing every one of them next to him.

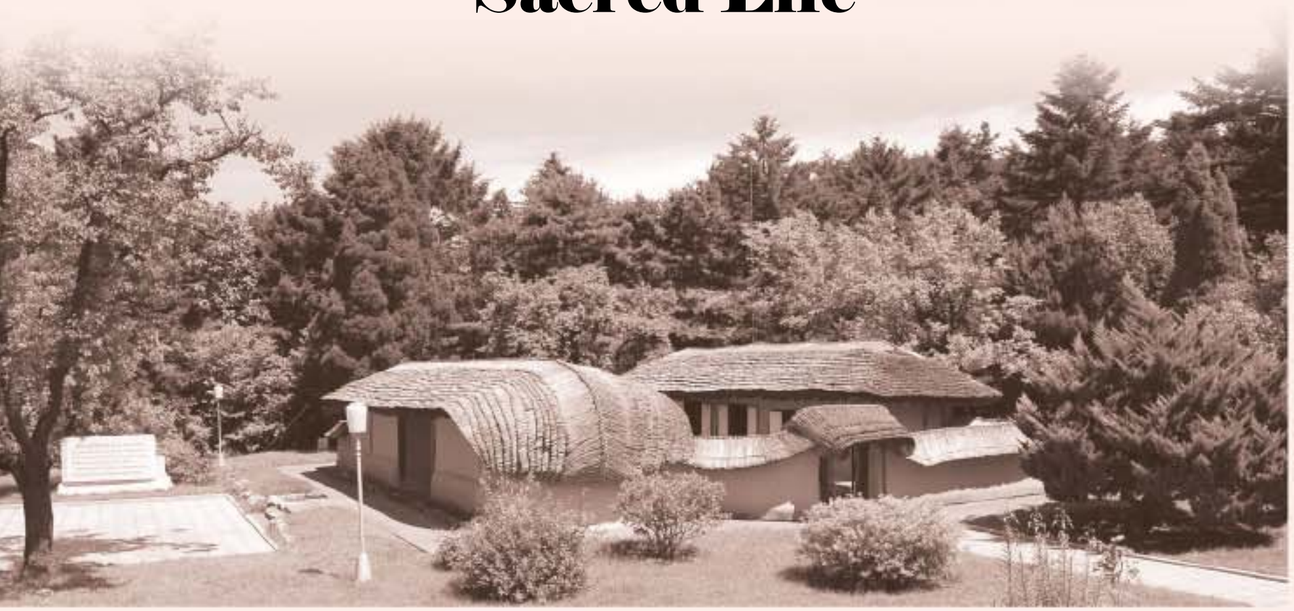
Under such meticulous care of the great leaders for the service personnel that continues from one century to the next and generation after generation, the heroic Korean People's Army is displaying its might as an invincible army.

Article: Kim Jong

The KPA service personnel have prepared themselves as a-match-for-a-hundred combatants in the embrace of brilliant Songun commanders.

Kang Pan Sok, outstanding leader of the women's movement in Korea.

Sacred Life



Kang Pan Sok's birthplace at Chilgol.

My mother's whole life served as a textbook for me in implanting in me a true view on life and on the revolution.

Kim Il Sung

April 21 this year marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of Kang Pan Sok, mother of President Kim Il Sung and outstanding leader of the women's movement in Korea.

Kang Pan Sok was born into a patriotic and revolutionary family. Cherishing the patriotic spirit against the Japanese imperialists that militarily occupied Korea, she dedicated her life to the revolutionary struggle of achieving the country's independence and people's freedom and emancipation.

After having been married to Kim Hyong Jik, an indomitable revolutionary fighter, she rendered active help to him in his revolutionary work, and in the course of this she acquired the lofty idea of revolution and embarked on the road of revolution.

She looked after the independence fighters who frequently called on his husband, with all sincerity lest they felt any inconvenience, and volunteered to carry out risky missions of delivering messages and weapons.

As a mother, she devoted her efforts to bringing up her children into ardent patriots and great revolutionaries, and actively supported the revolutionary activities of her son Kim Il Sung who set out on the road of revolution by carrying forward his father's will.

Under his guidance and assistance she organized the Anti-Japanese Women's Association, the first revolutionary women's mass organization of the Juche type in Korea, in December Juche 15 (1926) and enlisted the broad sections of women in anti-Japanese struggle by awakening them.

While giving active assistance to the revolutionary organizations formed by her son, she distributed the copies of the newspaper Saenal launched under his guidance. She even risked her life to deliver weapons and secret messages of the organizations, breaking through the tight enemy cordon.

She handed over to her son two pistols her husband left as an inheritance so that he carried forward his father's intention of achieving the country's liberation by force of arms.

As the President advanced the line of Songun-based revolution and founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, the first armed force of the Korean revolution, she, although she was suffering from her illness, made the uniforms of the guerrillas with the members of the Women's Association and prepared military provisions, even though she had to eat thin gruel mixed with vegetables.

On April 25, Juche 21 (1932), Kim Il Sung proclaimed the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, and on May Day, the militant holiday of the working class of the whole world, the AJPGA marched in parade in the county town of Antu and returned to Tuqidian in Xiaoshahe. Then Kang Pan Sok came to the tableland at Tuqidian to see the guerrilla fighters and said: "I am proud of you. Now we have our own army! You must destroy the Japanese and win back the country without fail."

Her words meant that the revolutionaries must take guns in order to carry out revolution, and once they held guns, they must fight out to achieve the goal without fail, true to the oath sworn for the revolution.

Keenly feeling the ennobling spiritual world of his mother who put the country and revolution before her own family and household affairs, President Kim Il Sung followed the arduous road of Songun-based revolution invariably to achieve the historic cause of national liberation and establish a people's paradise in the country.

A prosperous country Kang Pan Sok had so earnestly desired has been built under the wise guidance of the great leaders, and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is energetically leading our people to glorify it.

Article: Kim Hyon Hui

The house where Kang Pan Sok guided the work of the Anti-Japanese Women's Association.

Complete Success in the Test-fire of Pukkuksong 2

Supreme Leader **Kim Jong Un** guides on the spot the test-fire of a new strategic weapon [February Juche 106 (2017)].

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea successfully test-fired the ground-to-ground intermediate-range strategic ballistic missile Pukkuksong 2 on February 12, when the Day of the Shining Star, birthday of General Kim Jong Il and the most significant holiday of the Korean nation, was approaching.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the test-fire of the new-type strategic weapon.

The Supreme Leader kept up-to-date with the work of developing new-type weapon, fixed the date of the test-fire and guided the preparations on the spot. At the observation post he checked the test plan in detail and gave an order to fire.

With a thunderous explosion, Pukkuksong 2 soared into the sky letting out blinding flames. The missile was fired at a high angle in consideration of security of neighbouring countries.

Seeing for a long while the trails of the powerful nuclear-capable strategic weapon climbing up into the air, a demonstration of the independent might and unyielding mettle of the intrepid Korean nation, the Supreme Leader was greatly satisfied.

He said that the successful test-fire was the most sincere gift of patriotism and loyalty the defence scientists and technicians presented to General Kim Jong Il on the occasion of his 75th birthday, and had photographs taken with the scientists, technicians and servicepersons involved in the test.

The remarkable success in the launch test of the new-type strategic weapon instilled great national pride and dignity in having an invincible military strength in the entire service personnel and people who have turned out to build a thriving socialist country.

Article: Kim Thae Hyon

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un gives on-site guidance at the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory [December Juche 105 (2016)].

With the Great Spirit of Self-reliance and Self-development as the Dynamic Force

To Produce High-quality Shoes with Competitive Edge

The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, is boosting its production in the spirit of Mallima, a spirit of Korea in the new era.

It had been an ordinary light industry factory and became known among the people since the great leader Kim Jong Il, who was always anxious to provide his people with fine shoes, visited it in February Juche 98 (2009), and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited it several times and took measures of renovating it as a large-scale footwear producer.

Being proud of their workplace, the officials and workers of the factory are overfulfilling their production plans. To this end, they are operating their machines, including injectors, upper-attaching and sewing machines, at full capacity and conducting a dynamic drive of mass technical innovations for improving the quality of the products.

They are also intensifying creative efforts to make their Maebongsan-brand leather shoes high in quality and much favoured among the people.

Based on the success in reducing the weight of the shoes, the officials are making scrupulous arrangements to make their products varied in kind, pattern and colour.

The technicians are pooling their wisdom and efforts to perfect the integrated manufacturing system within a possible short period, produce the adhesives with locally available materials and make the production processes fully automated and flow-lined.

Designers are introducing cutting-edge science and technology into their work so that their designs are produced in larger amounts and reflect the likings and aesthetic sensibilities of the people, their physical constitutions and ages, and seasonal features.

Nearly half of the factory employees are engaged in the cyber education system, thus raising their level of scientific and technological knowledge. The leather shoes show held every month encourages the creative enthusiasm of the working people.

Thanks to their efforts the factory's Maebongsan-brand leather shoes, stylish, light and durable, are winning favour of the people.

Article: Kim Phil
Photo: An Chol Ryong

The factory's Maebongsan-brand leather shoes are produced in large amounts.

Highly efficient machines and equipment are manufactured by the factory's own efforts to put the production on a normal footing.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un gives on-site guidance at the quilt production process newly established at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill [January Juche 106 (2017)].

With the Great Spirit of Self-reliance and Self-development as the Dynamic Force

Favourite Quilt Products

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill that is known as a leading silk yarn producer in the DPRK, has established a modern quilt production process with a huge capacity in December last year and is turning out soft and light silk quilts and various other kinds of quilts.

It is furnished with state-of-the-art machines, such as computer-programmed embroidery machines, multiple-needle quilting machines which can finish stitching thick fabrics within a few seconds, and cloth spreading machines.

All the raw materials including silk cloth and cotton are produced at the Pakchon Silk Mill, Nyongbyon Silk Mill and other light industry factories in the country.

The colours and patterns of the quilts are elegant and beautiful in conformity with the emotions and aesthetic sensibilities of the Korean people. They also vary in kind, including quilts for each season, those for newly-weds and children, and bedclothes.

The products are greatly favoured by people for their lightness and softness.

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: Ri Myong Guk

A variety of quality quilts are produced to satisfy the tastes and feelings of the people.

Kimchi Production Put on an Industrial and Scientific Footing

Last January the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory accomplished its technical reconstruction to meet the increasing demand for kimchi, Korean traditional dish and one of the world's five health foods.

Located in the suburbs of Pyongyang, it has put all its production processes on an industrial and scientific footing, thereby producing kimchi, food pickled in soy sauce and processed mushrooms.

It has established an integrated manufacturing system that improves the IT and scientific level of production organization, business activities and quality control.

It has markedly reduced manual labour in delivering, cutting, pickling, rinsing vegetables, and other processes by perfectly automating them. Cabbages and radishes are transported from the underground by lifts and vertical conveyors and automatically fed to the machines. Washing containers, supplying seasoned stuffings, and vacuum packing are also automated.

Its machines and equipment are designed and manufactured by the efforts of the researchers from the Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry and the working class of the Pothonggang Ironware Factory who displayed high the spirit of self-reliance and self-development.

Production sites of the factory are germ- and dust-free, and the production processes are tightly closed from corridors to ensure hygienic safety of the products. The sections for fermentation, maturation and packing are arranged adjacent to the finishing processes. The factory has also a laboratory equipped with the cutting-edge instruments for analyzing the products.

The factory produces a variety of kimchi, including whole cabbage kimchi, pickled sliced radishes and cabbages seasoned with pepper, kimchi without seasonings, chonggak kimchi made of small radish with stem, nutritious kimchi for children, watery bean-sprout kimchi, cucumber kimchi, and cubed radish kimchi. It also turns out various kinds of vegetables pickled in soy sauce and fermented fish.

The factory's products are winning favour with the consumers.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: An Chol Won

The factory is fully automated and dust- and germ-free, so as to turn out various products of high quality and make a contribution to the improvement of the people's diet.

Cradle of Happy Life and Learning

- At the Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans -

Last February the Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans was built wonderfully as appropriate to the cradle of life and learning for parentless children, thanks to the love of the Workers' Party of Korea for the rising generation and the future of the country.

Built side by side with the Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans with a fence in between, the Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans is furnished in a picturesque way as suited to the psychological features of the children, resembling a fairy land.

The school occupies an area of thousands of square metres with school building, dormitory and outdoor playing ground.

All its classrooms are made multi-functional and IT-based in conformity with the characteristics of a primary education unit, and school fixtures are fully supplied.

The rooms for education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism, children's union committee, nature observation, music and dance distribution and others are furnished to make students cultivate the love for the country, the organization and collective and to give sufficient general basic knowledge and sports and art education.

Lining the walls of the corridors are diverse range of pictures and others that satisfy the juvenile mind of the students and ensure visual, scientific and vivid effects, thus making all the spaces devoted to acquiring knowledge and common senses.

Bedrooms, dining hall, barber's, medical treatment room and others in the dormitory are well furnished lest the orphans feel the slightest inconvenience in life.

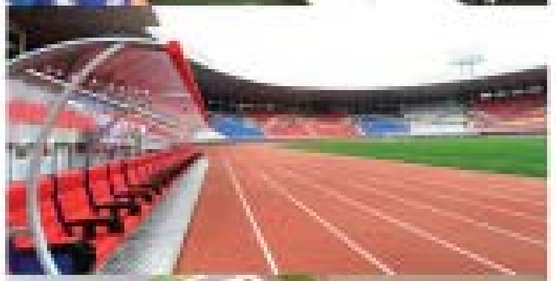
The students are studying zealously to become competent personnel to shoulder the future of the country.

The sounds of learning and singing of the students from the school echo throughout the country, giving strong impetus to the advancing socialism.

Article and Photo: Choe Won Chol

Students lead an affluent life at the dormitory provided with all the living conditions.

Students are preparing themselves as pillars of a thriving Korea who are knowledgeable, morally sound and physically strong.



Renovated Stadium

As many sports facilities are newly erected and renovated in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to make a positive contribution to the development of sports, Kim Il Sung Stadium was renovated in October last year as a public sporting service centre.

The stadium with more than 40 000 seats has a football pitch covered with artificial turf, entrance hall for players, FIFA office, rooms for referees and coaches, interviews, drug test and medical treatment, as well as sporting, cultural and welfare service facilities.

The new artificial turf is elastic and smooth, and the entrance hall is furnished to conform to the international standard, so that everybody finds them effective and convenient.

Lounges for players and rooms for coaches and referees are adequately furnished with all the conveniences.

The stadium has colourful seats with backs that are bigger than the previous ones and favoured by spectators.

The general map is attached with an electrical display for real-time show of the dates and times of the games, scores, matching teams, names of the players and the programme of games, and installed in a unique style so as to ensure people's convenience.

The stadium provides venues for not only domestic and international sporting events but also various political and cultural events of national significance. The working people and students can enjoy various sporting and leisure activities to their heart's content.

Article and Photo: Kim Yun Hyok

The stadium is furnished with facilities for sporting and cultural activities as well as welfare services, and plays host to national political and cultural events, to say nothing of international and domestic sports games.

Tongnim Farmers Holiday Camp

Farmers pose for a souvenir picture of their merry holiday camping.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea holiday camps are built in scenic places and spa areas to improve people's health.

In April last year a holiday camp for farmers was newly built in Tongnim County, North Phyongan Province, in a sunny place at Ryongganbawigol adjacent to Mt Munsu, the highest one in the county. The holiday camp is composed of the building for holidaymakers, park, wading pool, shower bath, resting place, and boating ground, amply furnished with service and cultural facilities necessary for summer and winter vacations.

The agricultural workers in the county enjoy their holidays, playing table tennis and volleyball and other sports and amusement games. Particularly impressive holidaymaking for them is that they enjoy skating in winter and swimming, shower and boating in summer.

They go a sightseeing tour to the Tongnim Falls known as one of the eight scenic wonders in the northwestern part of Korea, to admire beautiful scenery and take shower for their health improvement and physical fitness.

In the library of the camp they read agricultural science books and other references and share their experience in farming.

The holidaymakers spend merry days at the camp, thanks to kind services of the camp's staff who are exerting themselves to provide farmers with every convenience in their life and please their tastes with vegetables, meat and eggs produced at the greenhouse, livestock farming and other supply-service bases.

After their 15-day holidaymaking, the agricultural workers leave the holiday camp, firmly resolved to bring about innovations in farming and thus contribute to making the country prosperous.

Article: Pak Yong Jo
Photo: Ri Il Myong

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E-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp

The hermitage's Main Hall.

Historical Relic

Pobun Hermitage in Mt Ryongak

There is Mt Ryongak in the suburbs of Pyongyang, which is called Mt Kumgang in Pyongyang for its beautiful scenery. And found in it is Pobun Hermitage that was built in the period of Koguryo (277 BC – AD 668) and reconstructed in the period of feudal Joson dynasty (1392 – 1910).

The monument to the hermitage and other written records prove this historical data.

The stones used in the foundations of the hermitage were cut in the technique widely used in the Koguryo period for building fortresses, and antefixes of roofing tiles in the Koguryo period were discovered around the place.

Pobun Hermitage is composed of five buildings—Main Hall, Rahan Hall, Sansin and Chilsong pavilions, and nuns' living quarter—all standing against the high steep cliff and suited to the topographical features of the mountain.

The Main Hall of the hermitage is built on the high foundations, and it measures 10.27 metres in the front and 6.2 metres in the flank. Its hip-saddled roof is supported by 14 tapering pillars.

The rooms inside are either board-floored or floor-heated.

Its layers are short and pillar supporters are treated elegantly.

The Main Hall is featured by unique structures of eaves in the front and flank of the building.

Pobun Hermitage is preserved as a national cultural heritage for its excellent architecture.

Article and Photo: An Chol Won

Toksong Pavilion.

Chilsong Pavilion.

Sansin Pavilion.

BACK COVER: Extravagant fireworks light up the sky over Pyongyang. *Photo: Ri Myong Guk*