

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 1 (2 985) weekly

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Sat, January 6, Juche 107(2018)

Kim Jong Un delivers New Year Address

The Pyongyang Times carries the New Year Address delivered by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un on New Year's Day in 2018.

The following are the full text of it:

Dear fellow countrymen and brave service personnel of the People's Army,

Dear compatriots,

Today, recollecting with great pleasure and pride and deep emotion the proud achievements we performed last year through our diligent and worthwhile labour and sincere efforts and by the sweat of our brow, we are all seeing in the new year 2018 with fresh hopes and expectations.

Greeting the hope-filled new year, I wish the families across the country good health, happiness, success and prosperity. I also wish that the beautiful dreams of all our people, including the hopes of our children in the new year, would come true.

Comrades,

As I look back upon last year, when I worked strenuously on the road of achieving national prosperity, gaining great strength and wisdom from the pure minds of the dauntless people who invariably trusted and followed the Party even in the face of manifold difficulties and trials, I feel my heart swelling with the pride in waging the revolution shoulder to shoulder with a great people.

On behalf of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I extend sincere thanks and New Year greetings to all the people and service personnel who won miraculous victories to be noteworthy in the national history of 5 000 years by sharing mind and purpose with the Party and supporting its determination on the road of arduous yet glorious struggle.

My New Year greetings go also to the compatriots in the south and abroad who are fighting for the reunification of the country and to the progressive peoples and other friends across the world who opposed war of aggression and gave firm solidarity to our cause of justice.

Comrades,

The year 2017 was a year of heroic struggle and great victory, a year when we set up an indestructible milestone in the history of building a powerful socialist country with the spirit of self-reliance and self-development as the dynamic force.

Last year the moves of the United States and its vassal forces to isolate and stifle our country went to extremes, and our revolution faced the harshest-ever challenges. In the face of the prevailing situation and the worst trials on the road of advance, our Party trusted the people and the people defended the Party death-defyingly, turning adversity and misfortune to good account and achieving brilliant successes on all the fronts where a powerful socialist country is being built.

Through last year's grandiose struggle we powerfully demonstrated at home and abroad our immutable faith and will to follow to the end the road of Juche-oriented socialism opened up by the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and the single-hearted unity of socialist Korea in which all the people are firmly united behind the Party.

An outstanding success our Party, state and people won last year was the accomplishment of the great,



historic cause of perfecting the national nuclear forces.

On this platform one year ago I officially made public on behalf of the Party and government that we had entered the final stage of preparation for the test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. In the past one year we conducted several rounds of its test launch, aimed at implementing the programme, safely and transparently, thus proving before the eyes of the world its definite success.

By also conducting tests of various means of nuclear delivery and super-intense thermonuclear weapon, we attained our general aspiration and strategic goal with success, and our Republic has at last come to possess a powerful and reliable war deterrent, which no force and nothing can reverse.

Our country's nuclear forces are capable of thwarting and countering any nuclear threats from the United States, and they constitute a powerful deterrent that prevents it from starting an adventurous war.

In no way would the United States dare to ignite a war against me and our country.

The whole of its mainland is within the range of our nuclear strike and the nuclear button is on my office desk all the time; the United States needs to be clearly aware that this is not merely a threat but a reality.

We have realized the wish of the great leaders who devoted their lives to building the strongest national defence capability for reliably safeguarding our country's sovereignty, and we have created a mighty sword for defending peace, as desired by all our people who had to tighten their belts for long years. This great victory eloquently proves the validity and vitality of the Party's line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up our nuclear forces and its idea of prioritizing science, and it is a great historic achievement that has opened up bright prospects for the building of a prosperous country and inspired our service personnel and people with confidence in sure victory.

I offer my noble respects to the heroic Korean people who, despite the difficult living conditions caused by life-threatening sanctions and blockade, have firmly trusted, absolutely supported and dynamically implemented our Party's line of simultaneously promoting the two fronts.

My warm, comradely greetings go also to our defence scientists and workers in the munitions industry who made devoted efforts all the year round, to demonstrate to the world that the plans and decisions of the Party Central Committee are a science and a

truth and that they automatically mean their materialization.

Last year we also made notable headway in carrying out the five-year strategy for national economic development.

As a result of our vigorous endeavour to establish the Juche orientation in the metallurgical industry, an oxygen-blast furnace of our own style was built at the Kim Chack Iron and Steel Complex to maintain regular production of pig iron by relying on anthracite, and prospects were opened up for consolidating the independent foundations of the chemical industry and attaining the five-year strategy's goal for the output of chemical products.

Numerous light-industry factories in such sectors as textile, footwear, knitwear and foodstuff industries raised high the banner of Juche orientation and made proactive efforts

to propel the modernization of several production lines by means of our own technology and our own equipment. By doing so, they provided a guarantee for making the range of consumer goods varied and improving their quality.

The machine-building industry, by upholding the banner of self-reliance and relying on science and technology, creditably attained the Party's goal for the production of new-type tractors and trucks, and thus laid solid foundations for speeding up the Juche orientation and modernization of the national economy and the comprehensive mechanization of the rural economy. The agricultural sector, by actively introducing scientific farming methods, increased the ranks of high-yield farms and workteams and reaped an unusually rich fruit harvest in spite of unfavourable climatic conditions.

Our service personnel and people built magnificent Ryomyong Street and the large-scale livestock farming base in the Sepho area, and completed the task for the first stage of the forest restoration campaign, thereby demonstrating the might of great army-people unity and the potential of the socialist independent economy.

Amid a vigorous struggle for the creation of the Mallima speed, new model units emerged one after another, and a large number of factories and enterprises fulfilled their quotas of the yearly national economic plan ahead of schedule and made a proud achievement of surpassing their peak-year levels.

Successes were also made on the scientific and cultural fronts last year.

Scientists and technicians resolved scientific and technological problems arising in the building of a powerful socialist country and completed research projects in the cutting-edge field, thereby giving stimulus to economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards. The socialist education system was further improved and the educational environment upgraded, while medical service conditions were bettered. An example of artistic performance activities was created to infuse the whole country with revolutionary optimism and the militant spirit, and our sportspeople won victories in different international competitions.

All the successes made last year are the triumph of the Juche-oriented revolutionary line of the Workers' Party of Korea and a precious fruition of the heroic struggle of the service personnel and people who are firmly rallied behind the Party.

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Our Party and people achieved such signal victories others could never think of achieving by their own efforts in the face of the sanctions-and-blockade moves the United States and its vassal forces perpetrated more viciously than ever before to stamp out the rights to sovereignty, existence and development of the DPRK. Herein lies the source of their dignity and their great pride and self-confidence.

I would like to extend my warm thanks once again to all the people and service personnel who victoriously advanced the cause of building a powerful socialist country, always sharing the destiny with the Party and braving all difficulties and trials in the eventful days of last year.

Comrades,

This year we will mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the glorious Democratic People's Republic of Korea. To mark the 70th anniversary of their state with splendour is of real significance for the great people, who have raised with dignity the status of their socialist country, the greatest patriotic legacy of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, to that of a strategic state recognized by the world.

We should make constant innovations and continued progress until we win the final victory of the revolution by carrying on the tradition of heroic struggle and collective innovation which adorned the founding and course of development of Juche Korea. A revolutionary general offensive should be launched to achieve fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country by taking the historic victory in the building of the DPRK's nuclear forces as a springboard for fresh progress.

"Let us launch a revolutionary general offensive to achieve fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country!"-this is the revolutionary slogan we should uphold. All officials, Party members and other working people should launch an all-people general offensive to frustrate the challenges of the hostile forces who are making last-ditch efforts and raise the overall strength of our Republic to a new stage of development as they brought about a great upsurge in socialist construction overcoming all difficulties through the great Chollima upswing after the war.

A breakthrough should be made in reenergizing the overall economic front this year, the third year of implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development.

The central task facing socialist economic construction this year is to enhance the independence and Juche character of the national economy and improve the people's standard of living as required by the revolutionary counterstrategy put forward by the Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party.

We should concentrate all efforts on consolidating the independence and Juche character of the national economy.

The electric-power industry should maintain and reinforce the self-supporting power generation bases, and direct a great deal of efforts to developing new power sources. A dynamic campaign should be conducted to drastically increase thermal power generation, and lower the loss of electric power and increase its production as much as possible by maintaining and reinforcing imperfect generating facilities. Provinces should build power generation bases to suit their local features and put power generation at the existing medium and small-sized power stations on a normal footing to satisfy the needs of electric power for local industry by themselves. Alternated production should be organized scrupulously throughout the country, and a vigorous struggle waged against the practices of wasting electric power to make effective use of generated electric power.

The metallurgical industry should further improve the Juche-oriented iron- and steel-making technologies, increase the iron production capacity and drastically raise the quality of metallic materials in order to satisfy the needs of the national economy for iron and steel. It is necessary to ensure a preferential, planned and timely supply of electricity, concentrated iron ore, anthracite, lignite, freight wagons, locomotives and funds for the metallurgical industry. By doing so, we can fulfil next year's iron and steel production plans and make the industry Juche-oriented without fail.

The chemical industry should step up the establishment of the C1 chemical industry, push the projects for catalyst production base and phosphatic fertilizer factory as scheduled, and renovate and perfect the sodium carbonate production line whose starting material is glauberite.

The machine-building industry should

modernize the Kumsong Tractor Factory, Sungni Motor Complex and other factories to develop and produce world-level machinery in our style.

The coal and mineral production and rail transport sectors should make concerted efforts to make the country's self-reliant economic foundations prove their effectiveness.

Notably, the rail transport sector should make the best use of the existing transport capacity by making transport organization and control more scientific and rational, and maintain discipline and order in the railways as rigid as in the army, so as to ensure an accident-free, on-schedule rail traffic.

A turn should be brought about this year in improving the people's standard of living.

Light-industry factories need to transform their equipment and production lines into labour- and electricity-saving ones and produce and supply more diversified and quality consumer goods with domestic raw and other materials, and provinces, cities and counties should develop the local economy in a characteristic way by relying on their own raw material resources.

The agricultural and fishing fronts should effect an upswing. We should introduce seeds of superior strains, high-yield farming methods and high-performance farm machines on an extensive scale, do farming scientifically and technologically so as to fulfil the cereals production plan without fail, and boost the production of livestock products, fruits, greenhouse vegetables and mushrooms. We should enhance our ship building and repair capacities, launch scientific fishing campaigns, and reenergize aquatic farming.

This year the service personnel and people should join efforts to complete the construction of the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area in the shortest period of time, push ahead with major construction projects including the renovation of Samjiyon County, the construction of the Tanchon Power Station and the second-stage waterway project of South Hwanghae Province, and channel steady efforts into the construction of houses.

Building on the success we achieved in the forest restoration campaign, we should properly protect and manage the forests that have already been created, improve the technical conditions of roads, conduct river improvement on a regular basis, and protect environment in a scientific and responsible manner.

Every sector and every unit of the national economy should enlist their own technical forces and economic potential to the maximum and launch a dynamic struggle to increase production and practise economy, so as to create a greater amount of material wealth.

A shortcut to developing the self-sufficient economy is to give precedence to science and technology and make innovations in economic planning and guidance.

The scientific research sector should solve on a preferential basis the scientific and technological problems arising in establishing Juche-oriented production lines of our own style, ensuring domestic production of raw and other materials and equipment, and perfecting the structure of the self-supporting economy. Every sector and every unit of the national economy should make a contribution to achieving production growth by intensifying the dissemination of science and technology and waging a brisk technological innovation drive.

The Cabinet and other economic guidance organs should work out a realistic operational plan to carry out the national economic plan for this year and push forward the work for its implementation responsibly and persistently. Positive measures should be taken by the state to ensure that the socialist system of responsible business operation proves its worth in factories, enterprises and cooperative organizations.

Socialist culture should be developed in a comprehensive way.

It is necessary to strengthen the ranks of teachers, improve the contents and methods of education as demanded by the trend of developing modern education, apply the people-oriented character in public health service in a thoroughgoing way, and boost the production of medical equipment and appliances and different kinds of medicines.

We should conduct mass-based sporting activities briskly, create sporting techniques and tactics of our own style, and produce artistic and literary masterpieces which truthfully depict the heroic struggle and life of our service personnel and people in the Mallima era and the beautiful and sublime features proper to human beings. In this way, we can crush the reactionary bourgeois culture by dint of our revolutionary socialist art and literature.

A vigorous struggle should be waged to tighten moral discipline throughout society, establish a socialist way of life and eliminate all kinds of non-socialist practices, so as to ensure that all the people,

possessed of ennobling mental and moral traits, lead a revolutionary and cultured life.

The self-reliant defence capability should be further consolidated.

In this year of the 70th anniversary of the development of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into a regular revolutionary armed force by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the People's Army should perfect its features as befits the revolutionary armed forces of the Party. It should organize and conduct combat training in a highly intensive way, in a real-war atmosphere, to develop all its units in different arms, services and corps into the ranks of a-match-for-a-hundred combatants.

The Korean People's Internal Security Forces should sharpen the edge of the sword of the class struggle and detect and frustrate the schemes by undesirable and hostile elements in time. The Worker-Peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards should enhance their combat capability in all aspects through intensive combat and political training.

By consistently holding fast to the line of simultaneously promoting the two fronts in accordance with the strategic policy set by the Party at the Eighth Conference of Munitions Industry, the defence industry should develop and manufacture powerful strategic weapons and military hardware of our style, perfect its Juche-oriented production structure and modernize its production lines on the basis of cutting-edge science and technology.

The nuclear weapons research sector and the rocket industry should mass-produce nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles, the power and reliability of which have already been proved to the full, to give a spur to the efforts for deploying them for action.

And we should always be ready for immediate nuclear counterattack operations to cope with the enemy's manoeuvres for a nuclear war.

The political and ideological might is the first and foremost strength of our state and the great propellant for opening up an avenue for building a powerful socialist country.

In order to successfully carry out the fighting tasks facing us, we should rally the whole Party more firmly on its organizational and ideological basis and establish a thoroughgoing revolutionary climate within the Party. In this way, we can constantly enhance its fighting efficiency and leadership role in the overall revolution and construction.

All Party organizations should never tolerate all shades of heterogeneous ideas and double standards of discipline that run counter to the Party's ideology, but strengthen the single-hearted unity of the whole Party centred on its Central Committee in every way possible.

The whole Party should launch an intense struggle to establish a revolutionary climate within the Party with the main emphasis put on rooting out the abuse of Party authority, bureaucratism and other outdated methods and style of work, so as to ensure that the ties of kinship between the Party and the masses of the people are as solid as a rock.

Party organizations should intensify Party guidance to ensure that the work of their respective sectors and units is always conducted in conformity with the ideas and intentions of the Party and the requirements of its policies, and find satisfactory solutions to the problems arising in the building of a powerful socialist country by giving definite precedence to political work and motivating the people ideologically.

We should rally all the service personnel and people firmly behind the Party ideologically and volitionally so that they throw in their lot with it whatever the adversity and fight with devotion for the victory of the socialist cause.

Party and working people's organizations and government organs should orient and subordinate all their undertakings to strengthening the single-hearted unity. The benchmark in planning and launching their work should be the people's demands and interests. And they should go deep among the people, sharing good times and bad with them and solving their mental agony and difficulties in their lives. They should ensure that the shorter the supply of everything is, the fuller play is given to the beautiful traits of comrades and neighbours helping and caring for one another with all sincerity.

We should give free rein to the indomitable mental strength of the heroic Korean people on the present grand Mallima march.

Party and working people's organizations should ensure that all the working people cherish patriotism in their hearts and bring about collective innovations one after another in the great campaign to create the Mallima speed with the revolutionary spirit of self-

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reliance and science and technology as the dynamic force. They should see to it that officials, Party members and other working people carry forward the fighting spirit displayed by the elder generations who brought about epochal changes on the grand Chollima march and all of them become Mallima pioneers who vigorously rush forward in the vanguard of the era.

Comrades,

Last year, too, our people made strenuous efforts to defend the peace of the country and hasten national reunification in keeping with the aspirations and demands of the nation. However, owing to the vicious sanctions and pressure by the United States and its vassal forces and their desperate manoeuvres to ignite a war, all aimed at checking the reinforcement of the self-defensive nuclear deterrent by our Republic, the situation on the Korean peninsula became aggravated as never before, and greater difficulties and obstacles were put on the road of the country's reunification.

Even though the conservative "government" in south Korea, which had resorted to fascist rule and confrontation with fellow countrymen, collapsed and the ruling circles were replaced by another thanks to the massive resistance by the enraged people of all walks of life, nothing has been changed in the relations between the north and the south. On the contrary, the south Korean authorities, siding with the United States in its hostile policy towards the DPRK against the aspirations of all the fellow countrymen for national reunification, drove the situation to a tight corner, further aggravated the mistrust and confrontation between the north and the south, and brought the bilateral relations to a fix that can be hardly resolved. We can never escape the holocaust of a nuclear war forced by the outside forces, let alone achieve national reunification, unless we put an end to this abnormal situation.

The prevailing situation demands that now the north and the south improve the relations between themselves and take decisive measures for achieving a breakthrough for independent reunification without being obsessed by bygone days. No one can present an honourable appearance in front of the nation if he or she ignores the urgent demands of the times.

This year is significant both for the north and the south as in the north the people will greet the 70th founding anniversary of their Republic as a great, auspicious event and in the south the Winter Olympic Games will take place. In order to not only celebrate these great national events in a splendid manner but also demonstrate the dignity and spirit of the nation at home and abroad, we should improve the frozen inter-Korean relations and glorify this meaningful year as an eventful one noteworthy in the history of the nation.

First of all, we should work together to ease the acute military tension between the north and the south and create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula.

As long as this unstable situation, which is neither wartime nor peacetime, persists, the north and the south cannot ensure the success of the scheduled events, nor can they sit face to face to have a sincere discussion over the issue of improving bilateral relations, nor will they advance straight ahead towards the goal of national reunification.

The north and the south should desist from doing

anything that might aggravate the situation, and they should make concerted efforts to defuse military tension and create a peaceful environment.

The south Korean authorities should respond positively to our sincere efforts for a détente, instead of inducing the exacerbation of the situation by joining the United States in its reckless moves for a north-targeted nuclear war, which threaten the destiny of the entire nation as well as peace and stability on this land. They should discontinue all the nuclear war drills they stage with outside forces, as these drills will engulf this land in flames and lead to bloodshed on our sacred territory. They should also refrain from any acts of bringing in nuclear armaments and aggressive forces from the United States.

Even though the United States is wielding the nuclear stick and going wild for another war, it will not dare to invade us because we currently have a powerful nuclear deterrent. And when the north and the south are determined, they can surely prevent the outbreak of war and ease tension on the Korean peninsula.

A climate favourable for national reconciliation and reunification should be established.

The improvement of inter-Korean relations is a pressing matter of concern not only to the authorities but to all other Koreans, and it is a crucial task to be carried out through a concerted effort by the entire nation. The north and the south should promote bilateral contact, travel, cooperation and exchange on a broad scale to remove mutual misunderstanding and distrust, and fulfil their responsibility and role as the motive force of national reunification.

We will open our doors to anyone from south Korea, including the ruling party and opposition parties, organizations and individual personages of all backgrounds, for dialogue, contact and travel, if they sincerely wish for national reconciliation and unity.

A definite end should be put to the acts that might offend the other party and incite discord and hostility between fellow countrymen. The south Korean authorities should not try, as the previous conservative "government" did, to block contact and travel by people of different social strata and suppress the atmosphere for reunification through alliance with the north, under absurd pretexts and by invoking legal and institutional mechanisms; instead, they should direct efforts to creating conditions and environment conducive to national reconciliation and unity.

To improve inter-Korean relations as soon as possible, the authorities of the north and the south should raise the banner of national independence higher than ever before, and fulfil the responsibility and role they have assumed for the times and the nation.

Inter-Korean relations are, to all intents and purposes, an internal matter of our nation, which the north and the south should resolve on their own responsibility. Therefore, they should acquire a steadfast stand and viewpoint that they will resolve all the issues arising in bilateral relations on the principle of By Our Nation Itself.

The south Korean authorities need to know that they will gain nothing from touring foreign countries to solicit their help on the issue of inter-Korean relations, and that such behaviour will give the outside forces, who pursue dishonest objectives, an excuse for their interference and complicate matters further. Now it is

not time for the north and the south to turn their backs on each other and merely express their respective standpoints; it is time that they sit face to face with a view to holding sincere discussions over the issue of improving inter-Korean relations by our nation itself and seek a way out for its settlement in a bold manner.

As for the Winter Olympic Games to be held soon in south Korea, it will serve as a good occasion for demonstrating our nation's prestige and we earnestly wish the Olympic Games a success. From this point of view we are willing to dispatch our delegation and adopt other necessary measures; with regard to this matter, the authorities of the north and the south may meet together soon. Since we are compatriots of the same blood as south Koreans, it is natural for us to share their pleasure over the auspicious event and help them.

We will, in the future, too, resolve all issues by the efforts of our nation itself under the unfurled banner of national independence and frustrate the schemes by anti-reunification forces within and without on the strength of national unity, thereby opening up a new history of national reunification.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend warm New Year greetings once again to all Korean compatriots at home and abroad, and I sincerely wish that in this significant year everything would go well both in the north and in the south.

Comrades,

The international situation we witnessed last year was clear proof that our Party and our state were absolutely correct in their strategic judgement and decision that when we are confronting the imperialist forces of aggression who are attempting to wreck global peace and security and make mankind suffer a nuclear holocaust, our only recourse is the power of justice.

As a responsible, peace-loving nuclear power, our country will neither have recourse to nuclear weapons unless hostile forces of aggression violate its sovereignty and interests nor threaten any other country or region by means of nuclear weapons. However, it will resolutely respond to acts of wrecking peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

Our Party and the government of our Republic will develop good-neighbourly and friendly relations with all the countries that respect our national sovereignty and are friendly to us, and make positive efforts to build a just and peaceful new world.

Comrades,

The year 2018 will be recorded as another year of victory for our people.

At this moment when this year's gigantic march has begun, I am filled with confidence that our cause is ever-victorious as it is supported by the people, and I harden my resolve to make devoted efforts to live up to their expectations.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic will never cease to struggle and advance until achieving the final victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche by relying on the trust and strength of the people, but surely hasten the future of a powerful socialist country where all the people lead a dignified and happy life.

Let us all march forward dynamically towards fresh victory of the revolution by displaying the unyielding mettle of heroic Korea under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.



LEADER'S ACTIVITIES

Always giving top priority to the people

The Korean people who have greeted the new year are now brimming with the pride of being led by a peerlessly great man who translates their ideals and dreams into reality.

History does not know such a people like the Koreans who are basking in the policy of prioritizing, respecting and loving the people, forging kindred ties with their leader.

The outlook on the people of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is to make the Korean people, who were placed by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il under his care, the happiest one in the world and to hold them as the most sacred, greatest and the most dignified beings.

The people-first principle is his revolutionary philosophy as well as his outlook on the people. He set forth slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" at the outset of his revolutionary leadership and has regarded it as the starting point of his speculation and activities to prioritize and absolutize their interests and convenience.

When building a structure or making anything, he considers whether it will be liked by the people and whether it will be convenient for them, before figuring out economic profit. In other words, his criterion for assessment and standard for profitability are their opinion and convenience.

He worked round the clock to build Ryomyong Street as an



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un on an inspection tour of Kwail County, South Hwanghae Province in September 2017.

epitome of love for the people and an ideal street where they enjoy the highest quality of civilization, and his leadership of devotion produced an epic of love.

As he inspected the construction site late at night or early in the morning he corrected shortcomings, and said he could vividly visualize the happy faces of the future residents in the street and he was glad to think that he came to be able to keep his promise with the people to complete the construction project by the Day of the Sun (April 15) and that the day of sharing another joy

with them was near at hand. His beaming image impressed them as that of the father of the grand harmonious family who finds the worth and delight of life in the wellbeing of the people.

On the inaugural day of the street, he cut the tape, expressing great satisfaction with the happy life of the residents. Looking up to him, people extended greetings of gratitude to him.

He often tells officials to work hard for the people and keep such a noble outlook on the people that if they are spread as grains of sand on the road for the good of the people, they could not wish for anything

better.

At the time of inspecting the newly-built general-service ship Mujigae, he said he was relieved of a pile of fatigue at the thought of the people who would laugh happily doing excursion on the Taedong River, adding he was most delighted whenever he provided people with an asset.

At the newly built Pyongyang Bag Factory, he said he was pleased to visualize children walking to and from school happily with home-made bags on their backs. And whenever he looks round a structure nearing completion, he says he is already satisfied with the thought that it

will be filled with the people's laughter and revolutionaries carry on the revolution to relish such a taste.

A new legend of love was woven everywhere he went on inspection tours last year, from the Pyongyang Bag Factory to the new quilt production process and hostel for workers at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, Ryugyong Kimchi Factory, Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory, Kumsanpho Fishery Station, Samchon Catfish Farm, Pyongyang Mushroom Farm, Kangso Mineral Water Factory, Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory, Ryuwon Footwear Factory, Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory and Sunchon Catfish Farm.

His endless speculation for the people, the great pains he takes for them and his fervent affection shown to them have sublimated the ties between the head of state and the masses of the people into those between the father and his children, instead of subordinate relationship based on official post, and they constitute the motive power that turns the whole country into a harmonious family and invincible crystallization centring on the leader.

As they keenly feel his love every moment, the Koreans fully entrust their destiny and future to the Supreme Leader anytime and anywhere in humble reverence for him.

By **Jong Tang Song** PT

New Year greetings

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un received congratulatory messages from the Presidents of Palestine, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iran and a basket of flowers from the Nigerian President to mark New Year 2018.

New Year cards came from the Presidents of Laos, Russia, China, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Vietnam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, leader of "A Just Russia", general secretary of the People's Party for the Reconstruction and Democracy of the Democratic Republic of Congo, national secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party of the US, executive director of the World Food Programme, director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Russia's Khabarovsk mayor and other foreign personages. Best wishes also came

from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and the Central Committee of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front, floral baskets and congratulatory letters from the DPRK-based diplomatic, military attaches, and economic and trade counsellors corps and a flower basket from Jong Il Sim, widow of DPRK Hero An Tong Su.

Baskets of flowers were sent to the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang by the family of internationalist Ya. T. Nobichenko, Jong Il Sim and director of a police command hospital in Angola.

The General Association of Koreans in China sent a letter to the Supreme Leader.

Compiled from KCNA

STATEMENT

CPRC chief states DPRK's stand on Pyongchang Olympics

Upon the authorization of Kim Jong Un, supreme leader of the Workers' Party of Korea, the DPRK government and military, the chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country released a statement on January 3 to announce the DPRK's stand in response to the official position of south Korea's Blue House on the DPRK's proposal for sending a delegation to the Pyongchang Olympics and south Korean president Moon Jae In's remarks at the state council meeting.

The statement reads as follows:

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, highly appreciated and welcomed the south Korean authorities' approach after he was told that the Blue House officially hailed his New Year Address initiative related to the DPRK's participation in the

Pyongchang Olympics and improvement of inter-Korean relations and that Moon Jae In voiced his full support and instructed relevant sectors to take working steps in that regard at this year's first state council meeting on January 2.

The Supreme Leader said that the Olympic delegation dispatch he offered in his New Year Address and the talks between the two authorities to this end would be the first step, meaningful and positive, towards rapprochement between the north and south under the current circumstances, and gave detailed instructions to the United Front Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country under the DPRK government, the National Sports Guidance Committee and other relevant units to work together with

the south Korean counterparts to adopt immediate measures with earnest stand and sincere attitude.

And he also ordered reopening of the Panmunjom communication channel between the north and south from 15:00 on January 3 to ensure smooth discussion with the south side of the issues related to the delegation dispatch and holding of talks.

Notably, he emphasized that it entirely hinges on both authorities whether the pending issue of improving the inter-Korean relationship is resolved as expected and desired by the fellow countrymen or not.

We will closely contact the south Korean side in an earnest and sincere manner as intended by our supreme leadership, and discuss the issue of sending a delegation. We hope again the Pyongchang Olympics would open successfully.

MASS RALLY

Pyongyang people vow to carry out new year's tasks

Pyongyang people got together at Kim Il Sung Square on January 4 to resolve to thoroughly implement the tasks set forth in the New Year Address delivered by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

People from all walks of life thronged the square with the revolutionary resolve to launch an all-out offensive and perform miracles and feats in the ongoing great Mallima advance as forerunners had brought about a great upsurge in socialist construction overcoming all difficulties through the great Chollima upswing after the war in the 1950s.

The platform was taken by Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, other senior Party and government officials, and officials from Party and government organs, working people's organizations, industrial establishments and cooperative farms and labour innovators in the city.

Kim Su Gil, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee, delivered a keynote speech.

He described the New Year Address of the Supreme Leader as a guideline that has added more to the Korean people's firm confidence in and optimism for the victory of the Juche revolutionary

cause and illuminated the path ahead of them, and a militant banner that encourages all the service personnel and people to the general offensive aimed at bringing about a fresh leap forward and innovation on all fronts where a powerful socialist country is being built.

Last year, he said, officials, Party members and other working people in Pyongyang powerfully demonstrated the might of single-hearted unity around the Party in ideology, purpose and moral obligation, on different occasions including the military parade and Pyongyang mass rally in celebration of the 105th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung, cemented the political and ideological position of the capital impregnable and made miraculous achievements in production and construction.

He called on all citizens to turn out in the struggle to frustrate the challenges of the hostile forces, who are making last-ditch efforts, and raise the overall strength of the DPRK to a new stage of development, true to the revolutionary slogan "Let us launch a revolutionary general offensive to achieve fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country!" in this significant year of the 70th founding anniversary of the country.

Pyongyang should take the lead in enhancing the independence and Juche character of the national economy and improving the people's standard of living,

take an active part in major construction projects, hit its construction targets without fail and give a constant facelift to itself in line with the requirement of the building of a civilized socialist country, he said.

He also pointed to the need to channel big efforts into innovating the contents and methods of education in keeping with the trend of modern education and into applying the people-oriented character in public health service in a thoroughgoing way.

Mass-based sporting activities should be conducted briskly and a socialist way of life established proactively so as to make the capital brim with a sound, civilized and militant spirit and prevent the enemy's ideology and culture from gaining footholds, he noted.

In this year of the 70th anniversary of the development of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into a

regular revolutionary armed force by President Kim Il Sung, he said, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards should enhance their combat capability in all aspects through intensive combat and political training, while citizens should make an active contribution to developing and manufacturing powerful strategic weapons and military hardware of Korean style in larger numbers.

He said Party and working people's organizations and government organs in the city should orient and subordinate all their undertakings to strengthening single-hearted unity and thoroughly apply the Party's people-first idea, thereby further fortifying the city to be a fortress of single-hearted unity that throws in its lot with the Party in any adversity.

He was followed by speeches. Speakers expressed their determination to implement

the militant tasks set forth by the Party this year without fail by bearing in mind that the plans and decisions of the Party Central Committee are a science and truth and that they automatically mean their materialization and by giving free rein to the spirit of carrying through the assignments given by the Party without fail and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

The rally adopted a resolution, before a demonstration started.

The participants marched past the square in fine array to the tune of dynamic band music, holding in hands placards and boards bearing slogans and letters such as "Let us become performers of feats who add brilliance to the great era of Kim Jong Un!", "All-people general offensive" and "uninterrupted innovation and continuous advance".

By Han Ryo Gyong PT



Pyongyang citizens throng Kim Il Sung Square to pledge to carry out the tasks Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un set forth in the New Year Address.

PHOTOS BY KCNA

Setting out on new year's march in high spirits

ACHIEVEMENTS

First-day targets overfulfilled

Different economic sectors are making innovations from the outset of the year in hearty response to the tasks set forth in the New Year Address of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex generated millions of kilowatt-hours more than its plan in the first three days of the new year and the Wonsan Army-People Power Station overfulfilled its first-day plan by over 70 percent. The Sodusu, Puryong and several other hydropower stations in North Hamgyong Province have carried out their daily plans for power generation over 1.3 times by operating generators at full capacity. The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex has also increased power production by running boilers and generators at full capacity.

On New Year's Day the steel workshop of the Chollima Steel Complex turned out steel twice as much as the daily output in

December last year.

The blast furnace workshop of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex reduced the smelting time and increased molten iron output by scientifically preparing for tapping and managing the newly-built oxygen blast furnace. The complex is also pushing the building of a 20-ton oxygen electric furnace conducive to the country's steel production. It is now working on the making of steel structures and equipment.

The new caustic soda production process started operating at the February 8 Vinalon Complex and the Jenam Coal Mine under the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex is increasing production by speeding up overall tunnelling over 1.5 times.

The railway transport sector carried out its first-day transport plan at 101.2 percent, while the Sangwon Cement Complex is making unprecedented success in production and the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill



The Chollima Steel Complex increases steel output from the first day of the New Year. KCNA

recorded a 101 percent rise in production.

A 100 000-cubic-metre blasting was conducted successfully on New Year's Day for the waterway project in South Hwanghae Province, providing a sure guarantee for stepping up the project.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

RESOLVE

To push economic development by increased power production

After receiving the New Year Address of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un officials and workers in the electric power industry are filled with great enthusiasm to dynamically push the country's economic growth by drastically increasing power generation.

Increased electric power production is a crucial aspect in reenergizing the overall national economy and improving the people's living standards further.

This year we will direct a great deal of energies to maintaining and reinforcing self-reliant power production bases and developing new energy resources.

Efforts will be made to ensure thermal power stations increase power output and generate electricity as much as possible by maintaining and reinforcing imperfect power generating equipment. Projects will steadily be stepped up to add power generating equipment to thermal

power stations and establish a more effective management system. Science and technology will be integrated with power production to shorten the period of equipment repair and build up the capacity of generating facilities.

We will work hard to develop the power production technology based on solar heat, wind power, geotherm and other natural energy resources, especially to perfect the technology to generate more power with less amount of water in hydroelectric plants.

We will also take appropriate steps to put power production at medium- and small-sized power stations on a normal footing so that they can satisfy the needs of local industries. At the same time we will help provinces build power production bases to suit their local conditions. The construction of the Tanchon Power Station and small- and medium-sized power stations in the areas with rich water resources will be stepped



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex exceeds the generation target for the first day of the New Year.

RESOLVE

To press ahead with building of C1 industry

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said in his New Year Address that a breakthrough should be made in reenergizing the overall economic front this year, the third year of implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development. Upon receiving the address, we are determined to speed up the Juche-orientation of the chemical industry.

The chemical industry takes a very important position in enhancing the independence and Juche character of the national economy as it constitutes the foundation of industries.

Based on the past achievements and experiences gained in the efforts to fulfil the five-year strategy, we'll work hard to expand the capacities of major chemical factories and boost the production of a variety of chemical goods.

We'll push the projects for the catalyst production base and phosphatic fertilizer factory as scheduled, and renovate and perfect the sodium carbonate production line whose starting material is glauberite.

For the present, we'll step up the

establishment of the C1 industry, the core of the chemical industry, by conducting operations in a bold and big way.

The establishment of the C1 industry geared to putting the existing foundation of the Juche-oriented chemical industry onto a new higher stage is underway according to phased plans at the country's major chemical industry bases.

We are now faced with a huge task to finish the ongoing construction of the methanol production line in the shortest period.

We'll wind up the installation of the underground pipeline network and the foundation work of buildings in a short time.

And we'll successfully and timely carry out the phased tasks for the establishment of the C1 chemical industry so as to vigorously propel the development of the country's chemical industry this year.

Pae Un Song, deputy department director of the Ministry of Chemical Industry

up to open a bright prospect for continuously increasing power generation.

Stagger production will be organized carefully across the country to keep the balance between power production and consumption and make effective use of generated electric power.

The tasks our industry faces this year, the third year of implementing the five-year

strategy for national economic development, are very important. Without resting on our laurels, we will produce and save as much electric power as possible to fully discharge our duty in this year's campaign for the prosperity of the country.

Ho Ryong Ho, department director of the Ministry of Electric Power Industry

New Year greetings to readers

Having seen out the year 2017 replete with national megaevents made by dint of self-reliance and self-development in the face of manifold hardships caused by the imperialists, the Editorial Board of *The Pyongyang Times* extends best wishes to all the readers around the world celebrating the New Year.

Last year saw the fullest demonstration of socialist Korea.

The world's attention focused on the country all the year round which spearheaded the struggle for independence against imperialism.

The Korean people built up the national defence capabilities a thousand fold with their own efforts and technology and successfully accomplished the historic cause of the national nuclear arms programme, the cause of building a rocket power, thereby safeguarding their rights to sovereignty, existence and development from the US nuclear blackmail and unprecedentedly harsh threatening moves.

They made unheard-of successes in the efforts to build an economic giant by making the most of the self-supporting economy with inexhaustible potentials.

They developed new types of tractors and lorries and built lots of monumental structures including Ryomyong Street epitomizing the socialist civilization, thus giving a total facelift to the appearance of the country.

They feel proud of such achievements and are sure that the self-reliance is stronger than the sanctions and pressure of hostile forces.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the DPRK.

In this significant year, they will make a great stride and win fresh successes.

You will be kept informed of their efforts in political, economic, cultural and military fields. *The Pyongyang Times* will always be with you in pursuit of peace, progress and justice.

We wish you great success in your work and your families happiness.

The Pyongyang Times

VIEW

Needed: Making a new history in reunification movement

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address pointed to the need to open a new chapter of Korea's reunification.

The truth is that the Korean peninsula faces a higher risk of nuclear war due to outside forces.

Last year the US and its vassal forces were hell-bent on vicious sanctions and pressure and frantic moves to ignite a war in a bid to check the DPRK's buildup of its self-defensive nuclear deterrent, and as a result the peninsula situation became aggravated as never before, bringing inter-Korean relations to a stalemate.

This year is significant for both the north and the south as the former will greet the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK as a great, auspicious event and the latter will host the Winter Olympic Games.

In order to celebrate the great national events successfully and demonstrate the dignity and spirit of the nation, it is needed to improve inter-Korean relations and make this year an eventful one noteworthy in the history of the nation.

To this end it is most important to ease the acute military tension between both sides and create a peaceful environment on the

Korean peninsula.

Without peaceful environment, both sides can neither successfully ensure their scheduled events, nor sit face to face to have a sincere discussion on improved relations, nor advance straight towards reunification. That is why they should make joint efforts.

The south Korean authorities should respond positively to the DPRK's sincere efforts for a détente, instead of exacerbating the situation by joining the US in its reckless nuclear war moves that threaten the destiny of the entire nation as well as peace and stability on this land. They should also discontinue all the nuclear war drills they stage with outside forces and all acts of bringing in nuclear armaments and aggressive forces from the US.

It is needed to create a climate favourable for national reconciliation and reunification.

Both sides should promote contact, travel, cooperation and exchange on a broad scale to remove mutual misunderstanding and distrust, and a definite end should be put to the acts that might offend the other party and incite discord and hostility between the fellow countrymen.

The authorities of the north and the south should hold the banner of national independence higher than ever before.

Their relations are, to all intents and purposes, an internal matter of the nation, which both sides should resolve on their own responsibility.

History and reality show that the south Korean authorities will get nothing from touring foreign countries to solicit their help on the issue of inter-Korean relations, but such behaviour will give outside forces pursuing dishonest objectives an excuse for their interference and complicate matters further.

Both sides should acquire a steadfast stand and viewpoint that they will resolve all the issues arising in bilateral relations on the principle of By Our Nation Itself and the south Korean authorities need to sit face to face with the northern counterpart to hold sincere discussions on improved relations and seek a way out for them in a bold manner.

By doing so, both sides will be able to open a new page of national reunification by the concerted efforts of the nation this year.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

CUBA

Under the banner of socialism

January 1 is the anniversary of the victorious Cuban revolution which heralded a new life and bright future for the Cuban people.

On January 1 1959 Cuban revolutionaries overthrew the pro-US Batista dictatorship and won victory under the leadership of Fidel Castro Ruz.

It was a historic event which freed Cubans from the yoke of dictatorship and subjugation.

Cuba chose socialism after the revolution.

Progressive policies were enforced such as the nationalization of major industries, and a socialist system was established in which all people work and learn, enjoying equal rights and freedom.

The Cuban people have maintained and advanced socialism for decades in the face of the persistent embargo, interference and conciliatory tricks by the US and other hostile forces.

A nine-year free and compulsory education is now in force, with the highest number of scientists and technicians per 1 million population in Latin America. A regular public health network is

in service throughout the country and dental, ophthalmic and other medical services have reached the world's advanced level. Pharmaceutical industry also saw steady growth to satisfy the needs of medicines with domestic production.

The government pays growing attention to the upbringing of children.

Sugar and mining industries, fisheries and other economic sectors have made rapid growth and bioengineering, gene engineering and other fields of science and technology also made innovative achievements.

Cuba, which was rife with illiteracy, poverty and backwardness in the past, could bring about a great change as it chose socialism.

The US has persistently pursued vicious moves against Cuba including plots to overthrow its government, armed attack and sanctions over the past several decades.

US' anti-Cuba moves come under criticism of the international community.

As an example, a resolution which urges the US to lift anti-Cuban embargo was adopted for

the 26th time at the UN General Assembly in early November last year with an approval of 191 UN member states except the US and Israel.

Cuba has enhanced its international status as it keeps to the path of socialism and justice.

It has boosted cooperation with regional countries within the framework of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States and other regional organizations and gives priority to improving relations with non-aligned countries.

Last year saw a boost in the traditional bilateral friendship between the DPRK and Cuba. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent a basket of flowers to the Cuban embassy in Pyongyang and the DPRK government delegation visited Havana to mark the first year after the death of Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban revolution.

The DPRK pays particular attention to bolstering up relations with Cuba and voices full support and solidarity with the cause of socialism of the Cuban people.

By Han Jong Chol PT

PALESTINE

Just cause will emerge victorious

Palestinians are increasingly determined to regain territorial integrity after US president Trump announced the US would recognize Kuds as the capital of Israel.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said in a diplomatic event that the US' illegal decision on Kuds is an attempt to deny the history of Palestine and the international community recognizes East Kuds as Palestine's capital. Stating that Muslims are obliged to protect and defend the capital, he noted that the Palestinians would not stop their fight to defend its status.

The Palestinian foreign minister issued a statement to warn that Trump's decision will only isolate the US. Massive protests are held against Trump's decision in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians, who had been deprived of their territory after WWII due to the injustice of the US and other dominationists, launched a revolution against Israeli invaders on January 1 1965 under the guidance of the National Liberation Movement of Palestine and struggled for decades to found a state with

Kuds as its capital. Finally in November 1988, they declared the founding of the state of Palestine, secured the status as a UN observer in November 2012 and hoisted the national flag at the UN headquarters in September 2015.

Their victory wins full support of the international community.

Last year, a resolution recognizing Kuds as the capital of Palestine was adopted with an overwhelming approval in the 37th plenary meeting of the 10th emergency special session of the UN General Assembly, and there was the 6th international meeting of supporting the Palestinians in Tehran, Iran, in February last year with parliamentary delegations from over 50 countries and nearly 700 foreign personages in attendance.

Despite Zionists' moves prompted by Trump's rhetoric, Palestine is striving to hold a general election, which is of great importance in achieving the unity of all political forces and factions, within this year.

The just cause of the Palestinians will surely emerge victorious.

By Ri Myong Hyok PT

CELEBRATION

Seeing in new year full of hope and determination

Service personnel and people throughout the country have greeted the New Year 2018 with great pride and joy of having glorified last year with megaevents and auspicious events unprecedented in national history under the guidance of the great Party.

Kim Yong Nam, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, and other senior Party and government officials visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on January 1 to pay respects to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

On New Year's Day, a constant stream of visitors, including service members, working people and schoolchildren, flowed to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and the statues and portraits of the great leaders in Pyongyang and local areas.

They made a deep bow to their statues and portraits with a determination to hold the great leaders in high esteem as the eternal Sun of Juche Korea and hasten the day of building a powerful socialist country without fail under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Resident diplomatic envoys, representatives of international organizations and military attaches and other foreigners and home-visiting overseas Koreans paid homage to the great leaders at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

There was a stunning display of fireworks in Pyongyang at midnight on New Year's Eve.

The fireworks representing letters "Happy New Year" lit up the nocturnal sky of the capital city, colouring it red.

To add to the delight a new year celebration performance was given in Pyongyang.

The entertainers of the State Merited Chorus and Moranbong Band, who had inspired service



A happy mood pervades Pyongyang streets on New Year's Day.

PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

members and people to the grand Mallima advance of self-reliance and self-development, while demonstrating the might of Juche-oriented musical art, sang highly of a great power which ushered in the most

glorious era in the 5 000-year history of the Korean nation.

Schoolchildren also staged a celebration at Pyongyang's Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace on December 31 last year.

They gave a vivid representation

of the bright looks of children who are growing happily as knowledgeable, virtuous and healthy sons and daughters of the socialist country in the embrace of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, who safeguards the future of Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Korea and brings it into bloom.

The Pyongyang Ice Sculpture Festival-2018 was held at Kim Il Sung Square.

The venue which unfolded a mysterious world of ice in good harmony with different colours of decorative illuminations added more to the festive mood, giving great pleasure to holidaymakers.

Celebratory performances in Pyongyang and local areas stirred up the holiday atmosphere.

Schoolchildren in local areas gave new year performances at the Phyongsong Schoolchildren's Palace, North Phyongan and North Hwanghae provincial art theatres and other places.

Schoolchildren played folk games at Kim Il Sung Square and other places of Pyongyang, Hamhung and Kaesong.

The Mangyongdae, Rungna and Taesongsan amusement parks and pleasure grounds were full of people's laughter of joy and optimism.

The Okryu, Chongnyu, Kyonghung and Chilsong restaurants, Pyongyang Noodle House and other service facilities in the capital city served a variety of foods including noodles garnished with pheasant meat, and sturgeon and terrapin dishes.

Working people, youth and schoolchildren visited their teachers, seniors, neighbours, relatives and friends to exchange best wishes.



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The card store is crowded with people.



HAM YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Children play folk games at Kim Il Sung Square.



A dazzling display of fireworks signals the turn of year.

HAM YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Jong Sun Bok PT