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Clear display of DPRK strategic forces' toughest retaliation will and overwhelming strength Drill conducted to launch ICBM Hwasongpho-18



Combat readiness of DPRK's nuclear war deterrent reviewed and its mobility, combat capability and reliability confirmed

KCNA

The Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea gave an order to take a powerful warning measure

under the grave situation, in which the hostile forces' anti-DPRK military threat that has persisted for the whole of this

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year is getting evermore undisguised and dangerous even at this moment of December, the last month of the year.

On December 15, the US and the military gangsters of the Republic of Korea held a nuclear war confab called the second meeting of the "Nuclear Consultative Group" in Washington and openly revealed their intention to conduct large-scale joint drills putting "retaliatory nuclear strike" at the DPRK on real war format, crying out again for the "end of its regime".

Such reckless behaviour of the enemies,

who are raising the scary security prospect on the Korean peninsula and in the region next year as the stark reality before the eyes of the world, is further arousing the strong resentment of the government and armed forces of the DPRK and their will to take the toughest retaliation.

The enemies have determinedly strained the regional situation by staging military drills targeting the DPRK on different scales every month since January, recording the largest-ever level. And they are now loudly touting the planned war drills which are aggressive in nature and which will be further detailed in the

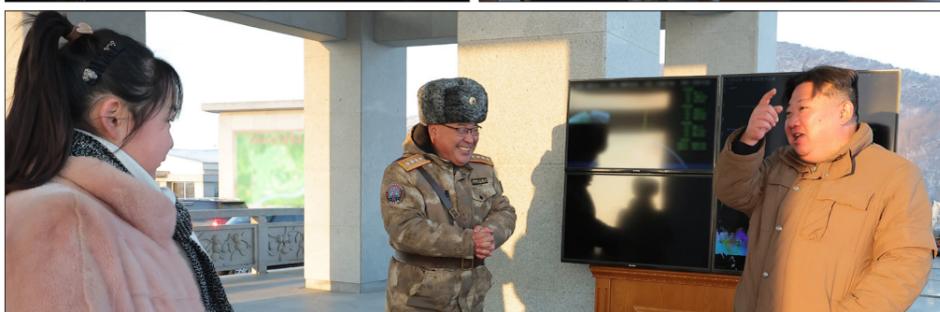
new year. The present situation clearly shows the inveterate confrontation stand of the US and its predominant stooges keen on their unchangeable instinctive and constitutional ambition for aggression and augurs ill for the security environment in the Korean peninsula to be further aggravated into total destruction.

What should not be overlooked is the fact that the US again dispatched its nuclear-powered submarine *Missouri* to the Korean peninsula, as an extremely provocative action, on December 17 to pose a more grave threat to the security environment of the DPRK and the region,

loudly advertising it, not content with the frequent deployment of various kinds of nuclear war hardware, including nuclear strategic bombers, super-large strategic nuclear submarine and nuclear carrier, in the Korean peninsula to turn it into an assembly base for all the US nuclear strategic assets.

Due to the confrontational manoeuvres of the US escalating the tension on the Korean peninsula by going in and out of the region like their home and its puppet military gangsters, the territory of the DPRK and its boundary area are

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being exposed to serious danger every moment and its security and interests are extremely violated. This grave situation urgently requires the DPRK to inevitably turn over to a changed action, a more offensive counteraction.

According to the decision of the WPK Central Military Commission on neutralizing the enemies' intentional and premeditated confrontational military threats with our strong behavioural warning, a drill of launching ICBM Hwasongpho-18 was staged as an important military action to clearly show the DPRK's nuclear strategic forces' overwhelming counteraction will and matchless strength to the enemies.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, watched the launching drill of an ICBM unit on the spot.

Accompanying him were commanding officers of the DPRK Missile Administration.

The drill was aimed at reviewing the combat readiness of the DPRK's nuclear

war deterrent and confirm its mobility, combat capability and reliability.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un listened to the plan for the launching drill, acquainting himself with the preparation for launch in a standby zone beforehand.

Then he mounted the central command observation post to approve the launch of a strategic weapon, and General Jang Chang Ha, director of the Missile Administration, issued a launch order to the Second Red Flag Company.

The moment, a huge body fully charged with the absolute will and strength to mercilessly retaliate against the hostile forces obsessed with the ambition for nuclear confrontation with the DPRK began soaring into the sky with a shower of fire in its tail, making a deafening explosion.

The missile travelled up to a maximum altitude of 6 518.2km and flew a distance of 1 002.3km for 4 415 seconds before accurately landing on the preset target area in the open waters of the East Sea of Korea.

The launching drill had no negative effect on the security of the neighbouring countries.

Through the drill, the combat capability

of the ICBM unit was highly estimated. And also verified once again were the rapid response posture of the strategic armed forces of the DPRK and the reliability of the most powerful strategic core striking means of the DPRK's military muscle.

Expressing great satisfaction over the results of the launching drill, Kim Jong Un said with pride that the successful drill is a practical demonstration of the actual condition and reliability of the formidable striking capabilities and absolute nuclear war deterrent possessed by the DPRK's armed forces.

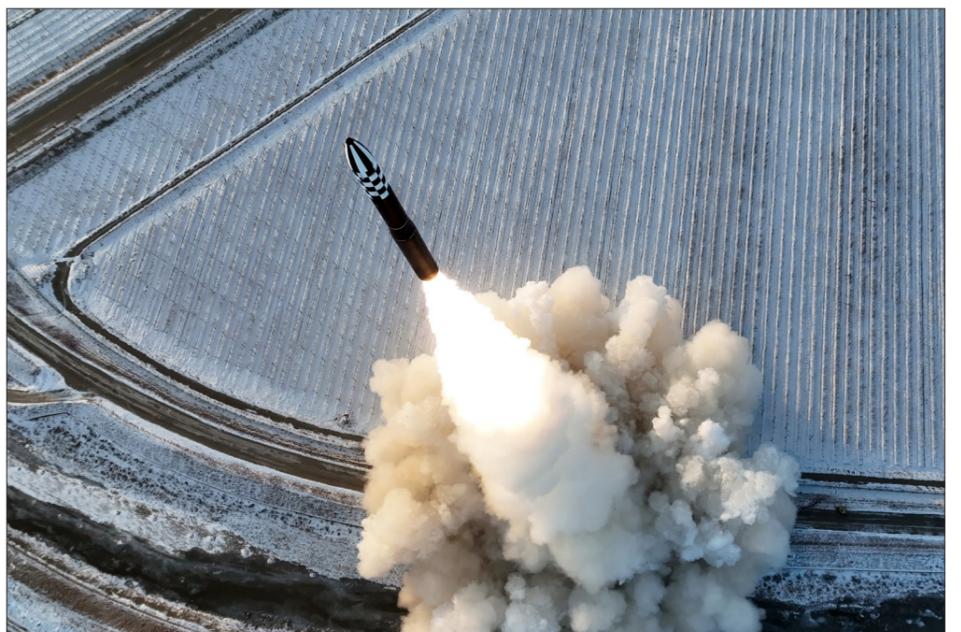
He said that the launching drill sent a clear signal to the hostile forces, who have whipped up the reckless military confrontation hysteria against the DPRK all the year round and are frantically maximizing it till the end of this year despite the repeated stern warnings and denunciation by the DPRK. Noting that it was an occasion to clearly show what action the DPRK has been prepared for and what option it would take when Washington makes a wrong decision against it, he appreciated that the drill once again and strikingly displayed the DPRK's indomitable will for toughest

counteraction and its overwhelming strength.

The US imperialists and their vassal forces' vicious ambition for confrontation will not abate of its own accord, he said, stressing the need for the DPRK to never overlook every reckless and irresponsible military threat of the enemies destroying the basis of peace and security on the Korean peninsula and to strongly counter them with more offensive actions by adopting a more evolved and threatening way when the enemies continue to make a wrong choice.

After inspecting the launching drill he set forth some new important tasks for accelerating the development of the DPRK's nuclear strategic forces.

The steady buildup of the national defence capability and the overwhelming counteraction are the DPRK's consistent and immutable revolutionary policy and keynote of struggle that cannot be deferred in the least to defend national dignity, sovereignty and interests. The nuclear strategic forces of the DPRK will perfect their military posture with more accuracy and confidence to resolutely deal with any grave military crisis and war crisis that may come at any moment.



Kim Jong Un congratulates soldiers of Second Red Flag Company under Missile Administration



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, invited to the office building of the Party Central Committee the service personnel of the Second Red Flag Company under the Missile Administration, who participated in a launching drill of ICBM Hwasongpho-18 and congratulated and encouraged them on December 20.

The service personnel were greatly excited and delighted to enter the yard of the Party Central Committee with their glorious colours in high spirits of having fully demonstrated the might of the nuclear strategic force of the DPRK in the launching drill to be specially recorded in the history of the development of the strategic force under the personal guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Attending a photo session were Kim Jong Sik, deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, and

Jang Chang Ha, director of the Missile Administration.

When Kim Jong Un appeared at the venue of the photo session, all the missile soldiers broke into cheers as a token of their most enthusiastic respect, looking up to him, the absolute strength of powerful Juche Korea and representative of great dignity.

Kim Jong Un congratulated the soldiers of the company on showing by practical action the steadfast stand of the Party, government, army and people of the DPRK to stand against and counter the US and successfully carrying out the Party's combat order to demonstrate the reliability and militant might of the nuclear strategic force of the DPRK by resolutely and proudly conducting the launching drill of the most powerful ICBM which greatly shocked the US imperialists and their top class stooges, the wreckers of peace and stability, who have committed self-destructive acts all the year round, obsessed with the incurable hysteria of confrontation with the inviolable DPRK.

Saying that he deeply admired the combat efficiency of the company which displayed high mobility and rapid attack capability in the launching drill, he expressed warm thanks to the company, reflecting the trust of all the people in it.

He said that the resolute military activity conducted by the company this time true to the Party's combat order was a demonstration of loyalty and strong stand of the DPRK armed forces defending the sovereignty of the country and a clear explanation of the offensive counteraction mode of the DPRK, which is determined not to hesitate to carry out even a nuclear attack when the enemy provokes it with nukes, and the evolution of its nuclear strategy and doctrine.

Saying that the defence of the country's dignity, sovereignty and interests can be certainly guaranteed only by strong power, he noted that it is the genuine defence capability and the strong defence of peace to have the real capability of preemptively attacking the enemy anywhere and the war posture, making any enemy fearful.

He said that the duty of the company is very important, adding that the company should always bear deep in mind the heavy responsibility for safeguarding the final fort for defending the sovereignty and social system of our state and strive to steadily improve its combat efficiency as a force performing a part of the strategic forces of the country.

Expressing expectation that the company would reliably carry out its sacred special mission of preventing war and defending peace by fully preparing itself for fulfilling its mission of nuclear war deterrence anytime, he paid tribute to the brilliant honour of the Second Red Flag Company of the Missile Administration, a pride of the Party and the state, and had a photo session with the reliable soldiers.

The combatants of the company made a firm pledge to always remain faithful to the order of the great Party Central Committee and carry out in a responsible manner the important mission the company assumes before the Party, the country and the revolution.

Kim Jong Il remembered in humble reverence

KCNA

All the people including service personnel of the DPRK commemorated the 12th anniversary of the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the peerlessly great man, the eternal strength and ever-victorious banner of powerful Korea, in the humblest reverence.

On the occasion of the greatest national memorial day, they visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

People, service personnel, youth and students made deep bows of best wishes for immortality towards the portraits of smiling Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il at the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

Working people, service personnel, youth and students laid flower baskets, bouquets and flowers before the statues of the President and the Chairman on

Mansu Hill and their statues and portraits of their smiling images and mosaics depicting them in different parts of the country.

Officials, members of the Workers' Party of Korea, working people, service personnel, youth and students across the country watched documentary films dealing with the personality and noble traits of Kim Jong Il as a great man in their workplaces, posts and homes.

The workplaces, posts and homes were full of their firm will to hold Kim Jong Il in high esteem forever and carry out his behests to the last.

Meetings of working people to tell stories about the noble virtues of Kim Jong Il were held at the Central Hall of Workers and other places to praise his noble career and immortal exploits.

At the meetings speakers said that the present happiness and future of all ages are firmly guaranteed thanks to the patriotic devotion of Kim Jong Il who continued his journeys for the country and people even on his birthdays and holidays.



People from all walks of life visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme sanctuary of Juche, on the greatest memorial day of the Korean nation.

14th SPA Standing Committee holds 29th plenary meeting

KCNA

The 29th Plenary Meeting of the 14th Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on December 21.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea,

first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the SPA, presided over the meeting.

Put on the meeting as agenda items were the issue of convening the SPA of the DPRK and the issues of examining and adopting the law on supporting education and the law on organizing and operating neighbourhood units.

The meeting adopted a decision of the SPA Standing Committee on convening the Tenth Session of the 14th SPA of the DPRK and the decrees of the SPA Standing Committee "On Adopting the Law of the DPRK on Supporting Education" and "On Adopting the Law of the DPRK on Organizing and Operating Neighbourhood Units" with unanimous approval.

People's Prize awarded to statue of 'Victory'

KCNA

The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK issued a decree on awarding People's Prize to the main sculpture "Victory" in the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War on December 11.

The main sculpture "Victory" in the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War shining with golden letters "Respects to the Great Years" is

an edifice symbolizing the proud victory and matchless heroism our army and people won and displayed in the showdown with imperialism under the distinguished leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. And it represents the strong spirit of the heroic country and people that have won one victory after another through decades and from one century to the next.

The decree said that along with the sculpture

that gives the immortal glory and reputation to the DPRK and instills into the Korean people the history and tradition of victory to be remembered with pride for all ages, the ever-victorious history of the great Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Korea is given steady continuity and victory is always in store for the DPRK as it has the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, a peerlessly great man, in the van of the revolution.

Manifestation of all-people patriotism for defence build-up

Multiple rocket launchers presented by youth and students, workers, farmers and women

KCNA

The university and college students of the DPRK have prepared weapons conducive to building up the country's defence capabilities in all sincerity by cherishing the preciousness of their country before learning science and technology.

A ceremony for presenting multiple launch rocket systems "Taehaksaengchongnyon" (university youth) was held at the plaza of the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang on December 19.

It was attended by Ri Tu Song, department director

of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, youth league officials, service members and university and college students.

Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, gave a presentation address.

A presentation document was handed over to an officer of the Korean People's Army (KPA).

Members of the trade union, the union of agricultural workers and the women's union donated "Jingmaeng" (trade union), "Nonggunmaeng" (union of agricultural workers) and

"Nyomaeng" (women's union) multiple launch rocket systems to the Korean People's Army by actively conducting a do-good-thing movement.

A ceremony of donating them took place at Nampho Stadium on December 21.

It was attended by Ri Tu Song, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials and members of the trade union, the union of agricultural workers and the women's union, and service personnel of the Korean People's Army.

Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea, and Kim Jong Sun, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea, conveyed their donation certificates to a KPA officer.

Speeches were made.

After the meeting was over, the multiple launch rocket systems left for KPA units amid the send-off of working people.



A ceremony takes place on December 19 at the plaza of the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang to present multiple launch rocket systems "Taehaksaengchongnyon" (university youth).

Brilliant Songun commander trains elite revolutionary army

The Korean people held Chairman Kim Jong Il in high esteem at the top post of their revolutionary armed forces on December 24 1991.

By Pang Un Ju PT

The Korean people held Chairman Kim Jong Il in high esteem at the top post of their revolutionary armed forces on December 24 1991.

It was the hardest time for the country and nation when he assumed the heavy responsibility as the supreme commander and led the Korean revolution.

When the destiny of the country, people and socialism stood at the crucial crossroads of life and death due to the frantic anti-DPRK manoeuvres of the imperialist allied forces, he inspected the Dwarf Pine Post of the Korean People's Army. After completing the inspection, he told KPA commanding officers that he would remain a supreme commander smelling the sweet fragrance of soil of the trenches, sharing weal and woe and braving the shower of shells and powder smoke with KPA service personnel in the future, too.

With such faith and will Kim Jong Il continued to make the long journey for national defence in the face of the multitude of difficulties and trying ordeals.

He implanted in the minds of the KPA officers and men the truth that an army wins if it holds an ideology, but it loses if it abandons it and that guns without ideology are no more than sticks, training the KPA into an army strong in idea and faith that sacrifices their lives for the Party and revolution, the country and people without hesitation.

He defined the modelling of the entire army on Kimilsungism as the general objective of army building in the early years of his revolutionary leadership and energetically led the struggle to implement it. And he kindled the flames of the Movement for Winning the Title of O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment to remarkably promote the single-hearted unity of the whole army based on the revolutionary outlook on the leader and ensure that all the KPA service personnel cherish

loyalty to the Party and leader as their lifeblood.

During the Arduous March when the country experienced the worst hardships he continued the long journey of Songun to improve the combat capability of the KPA with an iron will that the independent dignity of the nation, peace and victory of socialism are all guaranteed by an invincible army.

Wherever he visited he encouraged the service personnel to exhibit a-match-for-a-hundred valour and taught outstanding strategies and tactics and war methods to defeat any formidable enemy one by one.

Thanks to the untiring and painstaking efforts of the Chairman who put his heart and soul into building up the KPA as invincible revolutionary armed forces equipped with all modern means of attack and defence, the socialist country could be defended impregably.

Many touching stories were

told about the love and trust the Chairman had shown for the soldiers during his continued inspection tour along the far and rugged path to the front.

Once, he waited for a long time until daybreak not to interrupt the deep sleep of the soldiers though he left for the frontline army post as he missed them so much that he could not fall asleep. Whenever he visited the barracks, he measured the room temperatures and asked officials to turn on the TV in the education room, saying that he wanted to see if it worked well.

His distinguished leadership and intense love were the driving force behind the KPA growing into an invincible strong army.

The great army-people unity was promoted under the leadership of the Chairman who led the KPA to play a leading role not only in national defence but also in socialist construction.

In those years he never had a proper rest in peace.

Having short naps and meals with

rice-balls in his car, he continued to visit KPA units including those on Height 1211 and Mt Osong and at Panmunjom.

Along with the long journey made by the Chairman, the KPA was further built up into an invincible revolutionary army and Korea, which had been subjected to all kinds of sufferings and humiliation in the past as it had no strength to defend itself, emerged as a dignified politico-ideological and world military power.

Now the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK demonstrate their might as the number one death-defying corps defending the security of the country and people reliably and an invincible strong army equipped with the strongest offensive and defensive power under the wise leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who continues his long journey to increase the military capability, keeping in mind the continued inspection the Chairman made along the road to the front.

Constitution guarantees independent rights of people

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

The Korean people are significantly commemorating the 51st anniversary of the enactment of the Socialist Constitution in this year of fulfilling struggle.

The foundation of the constitution embodying the immortal Juche idea was provided in the course of the struggle to realize the independent demand and interests of the masses of the people and it is a constitution of the people enacted by reflecting the general will of all of them.

Enacted and promulgated at the First Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on December 27 1972, the constitution became the institutional and legal framework for strengthening and developing it into a genuine country of the people.

It was named the Kim Il Sung Constitution at the First Session of the 10th Supreme People's Assembly in 1998 and formulated and further developed as the Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il Constitution at the Fifth Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly.

The constitution has a preamble as an independent major component which regulates that President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il shall be held in high

esteem as the eternal leaders of Juche Korea and that the ideas and exploits of the President and the Chairman shall be defended and carried forward and developed so as to carry on and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Unlike those of other countries mainly regulating the system of state organs, the constitution has independent chapters for politics, the economy, culture and national defence and lays down the basic principles and fighting tasks to develop all fields of state and social life.

The constitution legally and clearly stipulates all principles to actually vest all the people with the position and role as masters of everything and fully provide them with well-being. It codifies everything to suit the independent and creative nature of the people from national sovereignty to ownership of the means of production, the rights to vote and to be elected, those to work, rest and education and freedom of all social and cultural activities which are vested in citizens.

The main ideal of the constitution is the people-first idea that all problems arising in the revolution and construction should be resolved by relying on the strength of the people and that everything in society should serve them. And it comprehensively sets forth

principled and line-related matters arising in thoroughly directing state building and social development to realizing the independent interests of the people.

An important characteristic feature of the constitution lies in the fact that it provides the masses with an independent and creative life and firmly guarantees their revolutionary cause institutionally and legally.

The constitution has creditably carried out its mission as a powerful motive force for defending and developing socialism.

When the Korean people faced the life-and-death battle to decide whether they would be reduced to the slaves of imperialism again or safeguard their independence in the middle of the 1990s, the Workers' Party of Korea resolutely held high the banner of Songun to defend the destiny of the people and the country and socialism. The system of state administration with priority given to national defence, which legally guaranteed Songun politics of the WPK, was of special significance in defending socialism and providing a springboard for building a powerful country.

The Korean people successfully advanced the revolution and construction by meeting the requirements of the socialist constitution despite harsh trials and challenges in the new century of the

Juche era.

The establishment of the new system of state administration with the State Affairs Commission as its backbone was the noble manifestation of the Korean people's unanimous will to accomplish the socialist cause under the unified leadership of the great leader and a political event which laid a foundation of lasting value for the eternal prosperity of Juche Korea.

As the State Affairs Commission became able to lead and manage all state affairs including defence building and economic construction, a new turn was brought about in the struggle of the Korean people to implement the WPK's plan for building a powerful country.

The Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly solemnly legalized the DPRK's nuclear force policy in accordance with the general will of all the Korean people one year ago and the important agenda item for formulating the policy as a basic law of the state was adopted with unanimous approval at the Ninth Session of the 14th SPA in September this year. It is a landmark event as it provided a powerful political weapon for markedly strengthening the national defence capabilities, including the nuclear force, consolidating the institutional and legal foundations for

guaranteeing security and protecting national interests by relying on them and accelerating the comprehensive development of Korean-style socialism. The event made it possible to further exalt the prestige of Juche Korea possessed of the practical force and capacity which can put an end to the imperialists' tyranny and further accelerate the all-people advance for the overall development of socialism with a firm legal guarantee.

Many sectional laws were newly enacted or amended and supplemented on the basis of the Socialist Constitution to bear precious fruit.

The laws on universal 12-year compulsory education and childcare were adopted to enable the state to show greater love and care for children. Innovative successes for rural development in the new era were made across the country thanks to the adoption of the law on socialist rural development and several related laws. The law on emergency epidemic prevention was further subdivided and perfected, thus further increasing the country's anti-epidemic capacity and capabilities to counter crisis.

It is a great honour and pride of the state and people of the DPRK to have the great political charter, which firmly supports Korean-style socialism and realizes dreams and ideals of the people.

Creations of self-reliance demonstrate vigorous advance of Juche Korea

Energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and 15 000 cubic metres per hour-capacity oxygen plant inaugurated at Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex



An inaugural ceremony of energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and 15 000m³/h-capacity oxygen separators is held at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex on December 20.

KCNA

A Korean-style energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and oxygen separators with the capacity of 15 000 cubic metres per hour have been additionally installed at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex in the DPRK.

An inauguration ceremony of the oxygen blast furnace and oxygen separators took place on December 20.

Present there was Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs

Commission of the DPRK.

Also attending it were O Su Yong, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Yang Sung Ho, vice-premier of the Cabinet, Kim Chol Sam, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK, An Kum Chol, minister of Metallurgical Industry, officials and employees of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the Chongjin Metal Construction Complex and the Equipment Assembly Complex, officials of commissions, ministries, national agencies and the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK who contributed to the construction, members of the February 17

Shock Brigade of Scientists and Technicians, scientists, technicians, researchers and officials concerned.

O Su Yong conveyed a message of thanks from the WPK Central Committee to the workers, technicians and officials who performed distinguished feats in building a new-type Juche-based iron-making process at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

The WPK Central Committee in its message highly appreciated the feats and exploits of all the builders and helpers who contributed to providing precious wealth further vitalizing the advance of the country in the most difficult period.

The premier of the Cabinet made an inauguration address.

Upon authorization of the Party Central Committee and the government of the DPRK, he extended warm congratulations and respects to all the builders, scientists and technicians including the working class of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex who made a great contribution to the development of the country's metallurgical industry.

He said that the proud edifice is associated with the detailed guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who personally examined a map showing the bird's eye view of the new floating

preheating oxygen blast furnace and its layout and made sure that the most efficient design was found and gave infinite wisdom and courage to successfully complete the project at one go by scrutinizing every process.

The completion of the new blast furnace is a clear demonstration of the revolutionary spirit of the Korean workers who have firmly built the pillar of the self-supporting economy with the faith of self-reliance and the indomitable struggle, staking their life on the implementation of the Party's resolutions, he stressed.

He underlined the need for the metallurgical industrial

sector to intensify the work for expanding the successes and experience gained in the project so as to further consolidate the foundation of the country's Juche-based iron production and definitely put the metallurgical industry of the country on a stage of steady development.

The premier called upon all to further strive to attain the steel production goal of the five-year plan without fail in the same spirit as was displayed to victoriously implement the Party's resolutions.

Then followed speeches.

At the end of the ceremony the participants looked round the new-type Juche-based iron making process.

Glauberite-based crystal thenardite production process completed

By **Jong Hwa Sun** PT

Among the achievements made this year to be conducive to substantially strengthen the self-supporting economy there is the completion of the crystal thenardite production process of the December 5 Youth Mine.

The mine is rich in deposits of glauconite, a valuable mineral which is used in different sectors of the national economy including the chemical industry.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il left instructions on renovating and completing the glauconite-based sodium carbonate production line.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, set forth the task of completing the crystal thenardite production

process of the December 5 Youth Mine as early as possible and indicated the orientation and ways to implement it at the Eighth WPK Congress and plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee.

The Ministry of Mining Industry and the mine drew the relevant design in an innovative way so as to make the newly-built production process development-oriented, innovative and technologically-intensive.

The mine finished the construction of dozens of structures, including an ore crushing mill and chute with a total floor space of well over 10 000 square metres and crystallizing and freezing grounds, in a short time.

Meanwhile, researchers of the State Academy of Sciences and Kim Chaek

University of Technology developed rational mining and leaching methods, making a contribution to the establishment of the process.

The process was thus established at one try and several months of trial run proved that technical indexes of the process exactly meet the design requirements and that the quality of crystal thenardite, main raw material for sodium carbonate production, is high.

The high-purity crystal thenardite is now provided for the production of sodium carbonate at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.

The mine also carried out a project for expanding the mineral production capacity, thus laying a foundation for sufficiently supplying the mineral needed for the production of crystal thenardite.

New branch mine developed

By **Yun Kyong Il** PT

This year witnessed the development of the Sohaeri branch of the Unnyul Mine, another production foundation conducive to the growth of the country's metallurgical industry.

Inaugurated on August 30, the branch mine is located in the Sohae-ri area of Unnyul County, South Hwanghae Province, with a rich deposit of magnetite.

It has production and auxiliary buildings such as crushing and ore dressing plants and is equipped with necessary facilities for mining, ore dressing, etc.

It is the behests of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il to develop the branch mine.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un solved all the problems arising in the development of the mine, which would play a

crucial role in the supply of concentrated iron ore, and led the whole processes of the project.

The project was a huge and difficult one, where several blocks of production buildings were built and many facilities and structures were made, constructed and installed.

It was carried out with the powerful assistance of the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry and South Hwanghae Province.

After mapping out phased goals in detail, the mine completed the construction work far ahead of schedule by employing rational construction methods, while technicians put production processes on a modern footing.

The electric cars loaded with ores are running through the haulage system of the mine and the mine cars carrying ores coming down from the bunker are

pulled up in succession at the hoisting ground.

In the crushing system with the capacity of hundreds of thousands of tons, highly-efficient crushers constantly process iron ores carried by a conveyor belt as minerals coming through the dry magnetic separators are turned into high-grade concentrated ore by the grinding mills, spiral classifiers and wet magnetic separators of the ore dressing system.

Meanwhile, the control room optimizes production processes and business activities on a high level by dint of the automatic control system and integrated manufacturing system of ore dressing operation.

The branch mine exceeded its economic quota for the first month after inauguration and keeps increasing iron ore production every month.

A step forward in raising living standards

Exhibition shows development level of light industry

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The light industrial goods exhibition “Development of Light Industry-2023” took place at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House in Pyongyang this year.

The exhibition which brought together typically excellent products made in the DPRK enabled visitors to realize the aspects, level and prospect of the development of the country’s light industry which has been consolidated and developed for over 10 years under the leadership of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

Hundreds of units across the country put on display over 12 000 articles in more than 670 kinds, including garments and footwear, reflecting the specific needs of the people in their life.

As its theme “Undying exploits and precious fruition that will shine forever along with the development of light industry” shows, each of the exhibits was associated with painstaking efforts made by General Secretary Kim Jong Un for the improvement of the people’s living standards.

Nearly 200 photos of the General Secretary at the exhibition venue showed that he led the improvement of the people’s standard of living through his continuous field

guidance to the sector of light industry.

Under his leadership, schoolbag production bases were built across the country, modern regional industry factories appeared in Kimhwa County, hundreds of light industry factories were renovated, production lines modernized and the domestic production of raw and other materials and equipment was pushed.

Hosiery, foodstuffs, school things and other goods most essential to life began to be domestically made in the country and now the varieties of domestically made products have drastically increased, including leather shoes, trainers, cosmetics, rice and soup bowls, ceramics, vinyl wallpaper, raincoat, smart phone, deep-freezer, hygiene supplies, musical instruments, bicycle, toys and furniture.

Every visitor expressed admiration at nice high-quality consumer goods filling the exhibition venue.

The exhibits of the garment booth showed well the rapid developments of garment processing technology.

Different garment producers displayed stylish garments, including school-specific uniforms, duck leather-padded clothes, clothes patterned with the national flag, flower and bird, suits for men and women and



The light industrial goods exhibition “Development of Light Industry-2023” offers a glimpse into the aspects and prospects of the development of the country’s light industry. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

dresses.

The booth of silk products particularly attracted many.

On display there were scores of articles in several kinds, including Yaksan and Kuryong silks, natural silk neckerchiefs, house dresses, carpets, neckties and quilts.

Korea is one of the homes of silk. Korean silk has long been regarded as a rare

treasure as it not only feels warm and soft but absorbs sweat well.

On display at the booth of smart phones with stylish external shapes and superior functions were dozens of kinds of phones including Sonamu(pine tree)-, Jindallae(azalea)- and Arirang-brand ones which are familiar with the Korean

people.

Different foodstuff production units exhibited various kinds of functional confectionery made with natural plants abundant in the country and staple and subsidiary foods which can further diversify diet.

The exhibition was also as good as a campus.

Participants and visitors

exchanged experience and had animated discussions at a specially arranged venue of exchange.

The exhibition served as a significant occasion to show the developments and prospects of light industry and as an important turning point in bringing about a great turn in the production of consumer goods.

Modern factories built to produce school uniforms and shoes

By Kim Il Jin PT

The provision of school uniforms and school things to the students across the country at state expense is a consistent, eternal policy of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the DPRK.

This year, modern factories specializing in the production of school uniforms and shoes have been built one after another in all provinces.

According to data available, the construction projects for school uniform factories were completed in North Phyongan and North Hamgyong provinces and Rason city, and the Nampho city student uniform factory has been recently inaugurated.

At the inaugural ceremony, speakers said that the school uniform factory was successfully built thanks to the noble outlook on the rising generation and future of the respected Comrade

Kim Jong Un who spares nothing for the children, the future of the country.

They said that Kim Jong Un took a benevolent measure to build factories exclusively producing school uniforms in all provinces and energetically led the construction works.

The school uniform factories built in a modern style are equipped with all facilities for producing various kinds of school uniforms and also have cultural amenities providing the employees with all conveniences.

South Phyongan, North Hwanghae, Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces have undertaken the projects for renovation and construction of such factories in the final stage.

Kangwon Province, in particular, is pushing ahead with the construction of production and auxiliary buildings and the purchase and manufacture of

equipment at the same time.

The construction projects for students’ shoes factories are well underway in every province.

Pyongyang is concentrating citywide efforts on the construction of a students’ shoes factory, while North Phyongan, North Hwanghae and North Hamgyong provinces are speeding up the internal and external plastering after finishing the frameworks in the main.

The State Academy of Sciences and other relevant units are working to design and build the equipment needed for the factories.

The school uniform factories and students’ shoes factories rising up across the country are an epitome of the noble love for the rising generation and future of the Workers’ Party of Korea which spares nothing for the rising generation.

Wheat processing factories spring up throughout country

By Yun Kyong Il PT

All the provinces, cities and counties are striving to enhance their wheat processing abilities as nationwide efforts are made to change the rice- and maize-oriented agricultural structure into the rice-, wheat- and barley-oriented one and wheat output is on the increase.

Projects to expand the wheat processing capacity has been pushed throughout the country in a unified manner by organizing a powerful force consisting of officials from the Cabinet, ministries and university lecturers and researchers.

A renovation project was completed first at the

Haeju Wheat Processing Factory in South Hwanghae Province, which was followed by the Nampho Wheat Processing Factory.

The modernly renovated factories have automated and modernized production processes including grading, washing and milling, and all conditions have been provided for the production and cultural life of employees.

Based on the experience, activities are widely conducted to renovate large-capacity wheat processing factories in the eastern, western and southern areas at fast pace.

The expansion of production capacity and manufacturing and installing of equipment are being conducted

simultaneously at the sites of upgrading projects.

Meanwhile, city and county food administration stations throughout the country also have pressed on with the enhancing of wheat processing abilities.

In addition, proactive measures have been taken to increase the variety of processed wheat products and improve their quality.

Condiments production units in all parts of the country supplemented and perfected relevant processes and are now fully ready for producing tasty wheat soy sauce and paste with early crops.

Practical measures have been taken to increase the variety of processed wheat products while actively exchanging experience and technology by often organizing exhibitions.

Studio creates thousands of industrial designs this year

By To Kyong Chol PT

The selection of forms, shapes and colours of products and the design of trademarks and packages are raised as pressing and essential requirements in the realm of material and cultural life today.

In recent years, the Korean Industrial Design Studio has achieved marked successes in its drive to produce excellent and original designs reflecting the economic development and demand of the times.

This year alone, the designers of the studio created thousands of industrial designs of all kinds for dozens of units including those of satchels and the 70th Anniversary of Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War Medal and interior designs of modern passenger train.

The signboards for the public service amenities

in the residential quarters in the Hwasong area they produced are so designed to ensure fine formative artistic representation of the subtle and contrasting colours and calligraphic styles while adding to the quality of buildings that they draw the attention of many people. The designs of advertisements for various kinds of building materials of the Hwasong Kyongsang Shop, for example, fully represent specific features of goods including wallpaper, finishing building materials and tiles to catch the eye of customers.

In the design of the logo for the light industrial goods exhibition “Development of Light Industry-2023”, in particular, they clearly reflected the multifaceted and continued development of light industry in the calligraphic style of the words “development of light industry”

and used different colours to paint the number “2023” to show plainly that exhibitions of various divisions are held.

The studio also developed new trademark designs well-liked by the children.

Over 50 trademark designs, including those portraying a child who unconsciously holds out his hand as he sees dairy products with a colourful trademark, a plump baby and happy-looking children who pride themselves on their growing stature, are all very distinctive.

Others include designs of clothes and school things associated with the extensive search and innovative thinking of the designers, those of new styles of satchels for various kinds of schools and those of certificates created with novel and creative ideas. They offer a glimpse of developing industrial design in the country.



Designers brainstorm over new industrial designs at the Korean Industrial Design Studio.
WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Talented industrial designer

“My creative imagination is steadily inspired by the determination to dedicate my wisdom and enthusiasm to accelerating the rapid advance of the country.”



By Ko Kwang Yon PT

A design of a multi-functional construction machine, which was presented to the national industrial design exhibition held in celebration of the Day of the Sun this year, was favourably commented upon by the visitors as it reflected the creator’s bold and novel idea.

The winner of the exhibition was produced by Ri Kum Ryong (pictured), 27-year-old industrial designer of the industrial design production unit at the Korean Industrial Design Studio.

Born in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, Ri has worked as a creator of the studio since 2017 after graduating from Pyongyang University of Fine Arts with flying colours. His design of a new product was highly rated at the industrial design exhibition held two years ago. Afterwards,

he completed dozens of designs including that for the interior of sleeping compartment of general passenger car.

This year, too, he decided to produce another excellent design and visited different construction sites to think of such a design. In the course of this, he found machinery and equipment not high in working efficiency in a narrow space. After thinking about it again and again, he hit upon the idea that if one machine performs different functions at one place, it will make it possible to double working efficiency while saving much time as compared to before.

So he buckled down to creating the design of a multi-functional construction machine.

An industrial designer should define not only the exteriors of machinery and equipment but also harmonious correlations between their structures and their parts and clearly show the interrelationship

between all elements related to their shapes, control systems and technical specifications.

Therefore, Ri delved into mechanical engineering, electronics and other technologies, thereby creating the design of the machine which can move even in unfavourable topographical conditions and be effectively used for not only construction but also disaster prevention as it is harmoniously equipped with different sensors for objects of work.

The machine capable of different tasks, including excavation, rock drilling and surface stripping just resembles an ant in shape.

“My creative imagination is steadily inspired by the determination to dedicate my wisdom and enthusiasm to accelerating the rapid advance of the country towards a prosperous and powerful country,” said Kum Ryong.

Historical cartoon a box office success

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

New historical cartoons “Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang” (Parts 3 and 4) are now on at cinemas across the country, drawing public interest.

Parts 1 and 2 of the cartoon film enjoyed great popularity among the people as soon as they were produced as they were 3D cartoons based on the actual historical facts, creating great expectations for new sequels from the audience.

To meet such expectations and interest of the audience, the Korea April 26 Animation Studio produced Parts 3 and 4 of the historical cartoon in a short time and the film now on screen at all cinemas throughout the country is a huge box-office hit.

In Parts 3 and 4, shocking events continue to unfold, contrary to the hope and

expectations the audience held for the fates of its heroes, attracting interest from beginning to end.

The love story of Prince Hodong and the princess of Rangnang, including the successive dramatic events surrounding the prince who writhes in agony as he has to decide whether to accept the marriage proposal from the royal family of the State of Rangnang and marry its princess or take revenge and the evil plot hatched by the State of Rangnang against him on his journey to it he chose with great effort, gets intertwined with the issue of territorial merger or division.

For example, the scene of a brawl between Hodong and the entourage of the State of Rangnang’s emissary at the shopping mall and the veiled enmity between Koguryo and the State of Rangnang surrounding it in Part 3 are really nail-biting for the

audience.

The scene of Hodong, driven by a burning desire for revenge on the State of Rangnang after losing his close friend Songra, the son of Ubo, a senior minister of Koguryo, being tricked by the entourage of the State of Rangnang’s emissary to be on the threshold of death, and the portrayal of Tae Mu Sin, king of Koguryo, who brings the Rangnang’s entourage to its knees with outstanding courage and broad strategy and pushes Hodong along the road of national unification, leave a strong impression on the audience.

In Part 4, Hodong leaves for the State of Rangnang, bearing in mind the noble intention and grand aspirations of his father.

But in the country, the plot of King Choe Ri is waiting for him.

King Choe Ri tries in vain to create discord between

Koguryo and the State of Rangnang by using the issue of marriage between the royal families of the two countries. He also offers Hodong to go hunting in Okjo, another small Korean state, in an attempt to aggravate the contradiction between the states.

However, Hodong finally persuades King Choe Ri at the risk of his life and makes their way to the capital of the State of Rangnang.

As seen above, the cartoon film deals with the profound issue of national unification on the basis of the true historical facts and shows it with vivid pictures, well-knit construction of plots and charac-

teristic musical representation, thus leading the audience to the world of the film.

The production unit has reportedly introduced a new program into the production of the cartoon film to achieve notable successes.

“The production unit introduced advanced technology including the

latest three-dimensional animation production program to shorten the time of production by a third and depicted cartoon characters so lifelike by giving them flexible and three-dimensional effects,” said Thak Kwang Chol, head of the directors’ office in charge of the direction of Part 4.



Artists hold a discussion on the plot of 3D animated cartoon series “Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang” at the Korea April 26 Animation Studio. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

US and puppet group will meet final ruin for what they have done:

KCNA commentary

The US summoned the south Korean puppet military warmongers to Washington on December 15 to hold the second meeting of "Nuclear Consultative Group (NCG)". They discussed the extremely adventurous and provocative issues targeting the DPRK, including the completion of the "guidelines on nuclear strategic plan and operation" and the establishment of "extended deterrence system" by the middle of next year. And they openly announced that they would conduct a nuclear operation drill during the large-scale joint military exercises Ulji Freedom Shield to be staged in August next year.

What merits a more serious attention is that the large-scale joint military drills, which have been staged under the signboard of "offering the puppet forces nuclear umbrella" and "protecting them", will be staged from next year to attain the utterly offensive and aggressive goal for making an

actual preemptive nuclear strike at the DPRK.

In other words, the conventional war drills, hyped up with such terrible figurative phrases as "occupation", "annihilation" and "scorched-earth operation", will develop into nuclear war drills against the DPRK, which presuppose the preemptive use of nuclear strike means, after casting away the mask of "defensive" and "annual" ones for deceiving the international community.

This is a clear declaration of war, by which the US and the puppet group, which have been hell-bent on bringing the dark clouds of a nuclear war to the Korean peninsula and the region all the year round, openly revealed their sinister intention to ignite a nuclear war against the DPRK at any cost.

The US nuclear-powered submarine Missouri, which already anchored in Pusan on December 17, is busily moving under the new nuclear

war scenario. And all sorts of large-scale joint military drills involving not only the US and the puppet group but also ruffians are going on in a frantic way even at this moment close to the year-end.

The US is further escalating the danger of a nuclear war in the Korean peninsula and the region, being faced with a dilemma for proxy wars in different parts of the world. This is aimed at "soothing" the puppet group, which is trembling with security uneasiness, afraid of being driven out of the "favour" of its master, and mainly, its aim is to attain the goal of stifling the DPRK by force of arms.

Namely, it is the point of the confab to maintain the deceptive position as the "only superpower" and prevent the "unipolar world" from collapsing even through adventurous nuclear gambling, as they fear that the strength of the DPRK, which is commonly acknowledged as a world-class

military power, is shaking its hegemonic position.

But the US should clearly understand that this land is not the Korean peninsula in the 1950s.

A spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence of the DPRK in a statement on December 17 declared that the armed forces of the DPRK will reliably ensure peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the region and faithfully fulfil their constitutional duty to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and the rights and interests of its people and the hostile forces' any attempt to use armed forces against the DPRK will face a preemptive and deadly counteraction.

The military superiority of the DPRK that will continue in the future, too, will make the US and the puppet group keenly realize that the DPRK's warning is not an empty talk and that they will meet the final ruin for what they have done.

Support to Ukraine for whom?

By Song Jong Ho PT

It has been nearly two years since Russia launched special military operations in Ukraine to counter the dangerous military threats of NATO.

The US and the West, regarding Russia as an obstacle to their policy for domination, incited the ultra-right government of Ukraine to become a shock brigade in the proxy war against Russia and have been keen on military support to it.

But the "defeat of Russia" much desired by the US and the West turned out to be a wild dream and the Ukrainian battlefield has become a "black hole" which continuously sucks up their financial, military and material potentials.

Though the US knows that it cannot defeat Russia by means of military support to Ukraine, it keeps supporting the country.

Lurking behind this is a sinister calculation.

One of its purposes is to weaken Russia gradually through the continuous war of attrition, and the other is to shore up its declining munitions industry.

It is not Ukraine but the US which is benefiting from the present Ukrainian dispute.

Dmitri Medvedev, vice-chairman of the Security Council of Russia, on December 3 referred to the purpose sought by the US in supporting Ukraine, saying it is neither to help the "dying residents or the state about to disappear from the world map" nor to support "democracy against tyranny", but the US' real purpose is to bring huge profits to its large munitions companies. He also noted the US defense secretary's remark that the real reason for the US to support Ukraine is that it needs \$40 billion for upgrading its munitions industry.

A Russian internet newspaper reported that the US provides Ukraine with a large amount of military supplies but the former is the biggest beneficiary in practice.

The funds allocated for the armament of Ukraine are not directly given to the country but used for the production of new weapons in the US or for the replenishment of its munitions inventory which is reduced through the support to Ukraine, the paper said.

According to data available, 90 percent of the \$68 billion disbursed on the pretext of military and other support since the Ukrainian conflict started still remains in the US.

The US' sustained support for Ukraine is geared to giving fresh vitality to its weakened military industry.

J.D. Vance, a Republican senator, admitted that the military support to Ukraine is aimed at restoring the US munitions industry, which is arising as a challenge to the nation.

While many countries are anxious about the rise in energy prices and the turmoil in the financial market after the Ukrainian crisis broke out, the Lockheed Martin and Raytheon of the US are enjoying a climb in the stock prices and the US munitions monopolies are getting revitalized.

A researcher of the US center for strategic and international studies concluded that the majority of the aid funds for Ukraine is not spent abroad but within the US and, therefore, the \$68 billion allocated to the support for Ukraine cannot be called "aid".

Facts show that the US is a top-class war merchant who only seeks its interests by wrecking peace and stability of the international community.

Construction is progress, change and investment for future



Pak Song Chol
Section chief of the Academy of Social Sciences

Our country in a golden age of construction has witnessed the rise of an ideal street for the people as a symbol of remarkable development and change every year.

Amid the current trend towards new innovation, bold creation and constant advance, construction is regarded as a prerequisite for the overall development of socialism of a Korean style and improvement of the people's living standards and patriotic work conducted for bringing about a civilized future under a far-sighted plan.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un, who said that today's large-scale construction

project is a great undertaking for writing an era of glory in history, is steadily glorifying the golden age of construction.

He has devoted all his thinking and efforts to making monumental structures built in the country reflect the advancement and modernity of Korean-style socialism.

In order to provide the people with excellent houses which will be flawless even 50 or 100 years later, he examined over 1 200 layouts of apartment houses to be built in Songhwa Street and solved all problems arising in the construction project on a top-priority basis.

He also gave detailed

instructions to complete skyscrapers, high-rise apartment houses, public service facilities and decorative structures as the best ones distinctively incorporating formative and artistic features and correlativity, connectivity and practicality on a high level.

Changes were made not merely in the appearance of the country.

While building new streets in the face of severe difficulties, our people came to have the insight for opening up a new path for developing Juche-oriented architecture, learn the method of overcoming difficulties and become those strong in the spirit of self-

reliance.

In this sense, today's revolution in construction is a worthwhile undertaking to create valuable wealth of the country and at the same time a process of enlightening people and guiding them towards a bright future.

The Workers' Party of Korea put forward a grand plan for turning the country into an ideal socialist nation envied by the world, a socialist paradise where people enjoy the highest level of civilization and live a comfortable and harmonious life, by radically improving their living environment all across the country in the coming 20-30 years, and regards construction as the most important thing in achieving the target.

If the lofty ideal is realized, our country will make a greater stride towards progress and change and a rosy future will come earlier as much.

BYWORD

The new Pyongyang speed, an amazing speed, has been created in the capital city of Pyongyang, where 10 000 modern flats are built every year according to the far-reaching plan of the Workers' Party of Korea to turn the Democratic People's Republic

of Korea into the country which has solved the housing problem of the people first.

As every day, morning or evening witnesses a change, Songhwa Street was completed in April last year and the construction of first-stage dwelling houses for 10 000

families on Hwasong Street was finished in April this year, and thus a happy event of moving into new houses happened.

Modern houses are mushrooming as new records are set through a campaign for continuous offensive in the construction sites of the

second-stage 10 000 flats on Hwasong Street and the new street in the Sopho area.

The new Pyongyang speed has become another byword of the day symbolizing the DPRK which is dashing forward to realize the people's dreams and ideals.

Pyongyang speed

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DPRK representative addresses UNSC open meeting

KCNA

The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations made a speech at an open meeting of the UNSC, which was held at the UN headquarters on December 20 (December 19 local time) as regards the DPRK's launch drill of ICBM conducted on December 18.

He said:

The US and other hostile forces have persistently committed acts of military threat against the DPRK throughout this year. They are becoming all the more undisguised and extremely dangerous until this moment in December close to the year-end. The ICBM launch conducted by the DPRK this time is a warning countermeasure in the face of the grave situation.

This notwithstanding, the US and a few countries blindly following it forcibly convened this meeting again to be recorded as a shameful one in the history of the UN, while illegally and unlawfully taking issue with the DPRK which exercised the undeniably just and legitimate right of a sovereign state to self-defence recognized by international law including the UN Charter and equally conferred on all UN member states.

I strongly denounce and categorically reject the unfair abnormal practice that has been repeated again at the UN Security Council to deal unjustly with the legitimate exercise of the right to self-defence of the DPRK, at the brigandish demand of the US and its followers.

Only ten days ago, right here in this place, the US wielded the veto on the draft resolution on the settlement of the Middle East situation on the ground that it "failed to mention the right of Israel to self-defence", patronizing and shielding Israel's crime of mass killings of civilians as a "legitimate exercise of the right to self-defence". Such being the case, it is just a mockery of and disregard for the UN Charter and the height of tragicomedy for the US today to pick on the DPRK's exercise of the right to self-defence made in a warning dimension to cope with its military provocation.

Had it not been for the intolerable provocation of the US and ROK which introduced the nuclear-powered submarine into the region of the Korean peninsula, talking about the "end of regime" of the DPRK, against the aspirations of the international community to spend the end of this complex and unhappy year in peace, the representatives of the UN member states would not have sat in this absurd and unwarranted room to argue for and against the just exercise of the right to self-defence of a UN member state, while wasting precious time more needed for the discussion of such substantial issues directly related to the maintenance of international peace and security as the mass killing atrocities of Israel, just around 10 days ahead of the new year.

At this juncture close to the year-end of 2023, the international community needs to seriously reflect upon whether the situation of the Korean peninsula this year could have reached such an extreme phase as today, if the US and ROK had stopped the acts of military provocation against the DPRK, waking themselves from the illusion of the "extended deterrence posture".

As witnessed by the world, this year is bound to be recorded as the most dangerous one when the military security landscape of the Korean peninsula and the region plunged into an unprecedentedly serious crisis due to the frenzy of reckless military confrontation of the US and its followers.

From the beginning to the end of the year, the US staged joint military exercises of clear aggressive nature one after another together with the ROK such as "Ssangryong", "Combined Joint Fire Annihilation Drill" and "Ulji Freedom Shield". It also framed up the "Washington Declaration" which made it a policy to use nuclear weapons against the DPRK and set in motion the so-called "nuclear consultative group" whose mission is to plan, operate and implement the preemptive nuclear attack.

This year, the US introduced six nuclear-powered submarines including the strategic nuclear submarine Kentucky into the area

of the Korean peninsula under the disguise of the "enhanced regular visibility of strategic assets". It also pushed in nuclear aircraft carrier strike groups in succession such as *Nimitz* and *Ronald Reagan* and deployed B-1B and B-52H strategic bombers on more than 20 occasions.

The area of the Korean peninsula has literally been turned into a general depot of the strategic nuclear assets of the US and the most unstable zone of nuclear war danger, due to the deployment of nuclear strategic assets and large-scale joint military exercises conducted incessantly by the US all the year round.

This reality clearly shows that the vicious cycle of the aggravated situation in and around the Korean peninsula is attributable to none other than the US and the ROK which unilaterally heighten the level of military tensions, both in rhetoric and action.

Some countries lend ears only to the one-sided argument of the US and the ROK that they were compelled to strengthen "extended deterrence posture" under the pretext of countering the so-called "nuclear threats" from the DPRK. This is a typical example of extreme double standards which turns back on the truth.

The international community needs to think at least once about the security concerns of the DPRK on the opposite side of the US and the ROK.

The US and the ROK brought in vast aggressive armed forces including nuclear submarines which are more than enough to reduce the whole territory of a state to ashes and are conducting provocative nuclear war exercises before us at any time. If this is not a violation of the DPRK's security and interests, then what is it?

Who would surrender to an enemy attacking with a sword and which country would remain indifferent or defenseless towards the large-scale military exercises waged by an enemy state at its doorstep?

Such a man without a future as the lame duck US president may remain indifferent to it, but never in the case of the DPRK which is a dignified sovereign state.

Anyone who thinks reasonably

can easily judge that the DPRK's counter-measures against the security threats from the US and the ROK are absolutely reasonable, normal and reflective response.

Overwhelmed by the high-handedness and arbitrariness of the US, the UN Security Council has now been reduced to a mechanism of injustice that openly allows such brigandish logic and double standards as to call into question "who did it" instead of "what was done".

The prevailing reality shows that the biggest threat to the international peace and security is coming from the UN Security Council itself.

As long as the illegal and unlawful acts of double standards of the US and its followers are allowed, the UN Security Council has no moral and legal qualifications to deal with the issues on the international peace and security.

If the US and its following forces again seek to divest our state of its sovereignty clamouring about the implementation of the unlawful and unwarranted "sanctions resolutions" of the UN Security Council against the DPRK, it will inevitably invoke the just exercise of the right to self-defence of a sovereign state enshrined in the UN Charter.

We take this opportunity to send our stern warning once again to the US and the ROK. If they continue with their reckless and irresponsible military threat in an attempt to infringe upon the sovereignty and security interests of the DPRK, its armed forces will never remain an onlooker to it and the provokers will be held entirely responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

The DPRK will, in the future, too, continue to build up its strategic power of a more advanced type to counter and control any threat from the US and its followers with immediate, overwhelming and decisive countermeasures. It will also work hand in hand with the righteous international community to establish a new independent and peaceful international order based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, justice and equality.

Mounting international criticism against US for patronizing Israel's aggression

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Recently, the UN Security Council called a meeting to discuss the issues of promoting the political settlement of the Syrian issue and providing further humanitarian assistance.

The main subjects of discussion at the meeting were the issues of achieving an immediate ceasefire in Syria, ensuring lasting peace and taking urgent actions to prevent the humanitarian situation from

worsening. The meeting also became an occasion of hearing an increased voice of criticism against the US for openly patronizing Israel which further aggravates the situation in the Middle East.

Russia denounced the recent atrocious Israeli air raid on Aleppo and Damascus international airports in Syria. At the same time, it strongly criticized the US for illegally setting up military bases in Syria.

China asserted that the UN should promote the process of political settlement in Syria based on the

principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Syria and Iran revealed that the US force's presence in Syria is the root cause of the unstable situation in the Middle East. They strongly urged the UN Security Council and the international community to take issue with the aggressive and inhumane acts perpetrated by Israel under the patronage of the US and the West, and bring those responsible to account.

The world media are now commenting that the one-sided pro-Israel policy of the US and its

military support are the biggest malignant factors in inciting Israel to the rash expansion of the war of aggression.

Even the US media have exposed the fact that the US supplied enormous amounts of munitions to Israel.

Experts are saying that the armed conflict between Palestine's Hamas and Israel has now begun spreading towards Syria.

They blamed the US for delivering to Israel high-explosive bombs with high killing power it had used in the wars against Iraq and Afghanistan even though it outwardly says the Israeli forces should minimize civilian loss during its military activities.

Briefly

Russia

Putin calls for developing rail transport

Russian President Vladimir Putin underlined the need to develop rail transport in his speech at the fourth railway conference on December 15.

He referred to the necessity to resolve the matter of increasing the speed of passenger and freight transport and improving service for the passengers.

Describing the next decade for Russia as a period of implementing large-scale and significant projects in the railway sector, Putin said that a large-scale project has already been launched for the construction of a high-speed railway network.

He announced that he will press on with the strengthening of the talent force, improvement of working conditions and social protection of meritorious persons in the railway sector.

China

President Xi stresses importance of disaster prevention and response

Chinese President Xi Jinping issued on December 15 an important instruction related to the prevention of disasters caused by low temperature, snow and rain and response to them.

There were heavy falls of snow and rain in different parts of the country recently to badly affect power supply, transport and people's production activities and life, he said.

He pointed to the need to closely watch the climate change, promptly publish information, strengthen patrol and remove ice and snow in time so as to ensure the safety and smoothness of traffic, road and electric power networks.

Japan

COVID-19 cases increase

In Japan, 17 379 people were infected with COVID-19 in a week until December 10.

The figure is 3 796 more than the previous week.

The Ministry of Welfare and Labour said that the cases increased in all areas of the country, expressing concern that the infection shows a tendency of expansion every winter.

WMO

This year dubbed the hottest

The World Meteorological Organization termed 2023 as the hottest year in human history in the recently released world climate report.

According to the report, this year's mean temperature until late October was about 1.4°C higher than that in the period before the industrial revolution.

Greenhouse gas emission has broken an all-time record in 2023.

The rise in the sea level has also beaten the previous record.

Ice in the sea reportedly decreased to the lowest level in history in and around the Antarctic.

The WMO warned that the high temperature phenomenon would get worse next year due to El Nino that happened early this year.

Sangwon Valley in Mt Myohyang in winter



FIRST ROUND OF 2023-2024 DPRK PREMIER LEAGUE GOES ON

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The first-round matches of the 2023-2024 DPRK Premier League are going on with vigour at Kim Il Sung Stadium in Pyongyang.

The most spectacular match of last week was played between the Hwaepul and Kigwancha teams.

Both teams demonstrated high attacking speeds while giving full play to the strong points of individual players. Their characteristic manoeuvres left a strong impression on the spectators.

The Hwaepul, in a 4-3-3 formation, created opportunities for scoring by making a rapid transition to attack as soon as they possessed the ball in midfield, while Kigwancha played in a 3-5-2 formation chiefly relying on breaks on both sides.

A seesaw battle continued as both team unfolded palm-sweating scenes.

It was noticeable that their free-kick tactics were well honed.

In the fifth minute, Hwaepul opened the scoring with a free kick from the right attacking side, and Kigwancha scored the equalizer with a free kick from the left attacking side in the 20th minute. Both teams failed

to make another goal before the final whistle and the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Ryomyong defeated Hwaepul 4-2 and Kigwancha beat Wolmido 3-1 in the matches held on December 19. In the match between Sonbong and Amnokgang in the afternoon of that day, splendid goals were made to earn rapturous applause of the fans.

A centre-forward of Amnokgang intercepted the opponent's pass and scored the opener over the goalkeeper in the seventh minute. But Sonbong succeeded in equalizing through a free-kick within the first half.

However, Amnokgang netted another goal in the first-half stoppage time, though it could not relieve the psychological pressure of the national power.

Amnokgang won the trophy

in the DPRK championships of last year and took the third place in the 2022-2023 Premier League, and Sonbong took the 10th and 5th places in those two events.

Therefore, the second half was a battle of defending the reputation for Amnokgang and an opportunity of reviving the tarnished image for Sonbong.

Such inner thoughts of the coaches and players of both teams were reflected in the game and they missed real

opportunities continuously. However, Amnokgang netted another goal in the 68th minute but let in a goal in the 80th minute.

There was no more scoring and the match ended 3-2 in Amnokgang's favour.

Though Amnokgang managed to secure its repute, experts and fans commented that the game offered hope to Sonbong and taught a lesson that the underestimation of an opponent might lead to a failure.



A scene from the match between Sonbong and Amnokgang teams held on December 19. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Seven-storeyed pagoda in Hyonhwa Temple

By Choe Yong Nam PT

According to historical records, the seven-storeyed pagoda in Hyonhwa Temple was erected in 1020.

At present, it stands in the Koryo Museum.

It consists of a one-tiered platform, a seven-storeyed tower body and a head.

It is 8.64m high and 3.9m long at each side of the platform. It is comparatively large for a pagoda from the period of the Koryo dynasty.

There are three pillars on each side of the platform, the gaps between them are filled with stones trimmed like bricks in five layers and thick slabs of stone are put on them. This is a rare style of pagoda platform.

The corrugated curves of its eaves and corner columns are also unusual.

Buddhist images carved on the four sides of each block supporting each floor are very exquisite and excellent.

The pagoda is big in size, grand in construction method, exquisite in detail and is good in balance between the whole body and parts.

It is a precious relic of national treasure value showing the pagoda-construction techniques of the Korean ancestors and the course of their development.

