

Kim Jong Un delivers policy speech at 10th Session of 14th SPA of the DPRK

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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, made an important policy speech "On the Immediate Tasks for the Prosperity and Development of Our Republic and the Promotion of the Wellbeing of Our People" at the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on January 15.

He said:

Dear Comrades Deputies,

Respected Comrade Chairman of the SPA Standing Committee

and Comrade Speaker of the SPA,

Comrades observers,

The 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly is being held at an important time when the DPRK, our motherland, proudly reviewed 2023, specially recorded as a year of great turn and change in its history of development, and started the advance of 2024 to ensure the practical guarantee for the fulfilment of the five-year plan set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As we all experienced, last year was an unforgettable year when our Party,



government and people displayed their spirit of exertion and fighting capacity in the face of manifold difficulties and registered important successes and events in history with pride.

It is rare in the nearly 80-year history of the DPRK that such a clear advance was made in increasing our national power in an all-round way and our national sovereignty and prestige was demonstrated powerfully as in 2023.

The successes achieved in all fields of politics, the economy, military affairs and culture last year were already reviewed and evaluated at the Ninth Plenary

Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. So there is no need to mention them again. But it is clear that as all the members of the state actively supported and upheld the leadership activities of the Party and the government, the cumulative strenuous efforts of several years have finally come to fruition.

It was proved through our struggle in 2023 that the Party and the government of the Republic correctly adopted the line and administrative policy on achieving the comprehensive development of socialist construction in the right time and they

national interests or of our overwhelming power.

Internally, it lifted the spirit of all the people and the service personnel of the armed forces of the Republic, and externally it absolutized its entity as a military power that cannot be trifled with and brought about a dramatic change not only in the national prestige but also in the world geopolitical landscape.

It is the fact to be held dearer than anything else that our people confirmed once again the justice of the cause

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Tenth Session of 14th SPA of DPRK held



KCNA

The 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on January 15.

Present there were deputies to the SPA. Attending it as observers were officials concerned in Pyongyang and local areas, including those of the Party Central Committee, the SPA Standing Committee, the Cabinet, ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs.

The platform was taken by Presidium members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee Kim Tok Hun, Choe Ryong Hae and Ri Pyong Chol and other senior officials of the Party, the government and the military, the speaker and deputy speakers of the SPA, members of the State Affairs Commission and vice-chairperson, the secretary general and members of the SPA Standing Committee.

Pak In Chol, speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly, made an opening address.

The national anthem of the DPRK was played when the session was declared open.

The 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK brought out the following agenda items:

First, on the fulfilment of the DPRK state budget for 2023 and the state budget for 2024

Second, on abolishing the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country of the DPRK, the National Economic Cooperation Bureau and the Kumgangsan International Tourism Administration

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, appeared on the platform to clarify the policy of the DPRK government.

All the participants broke into thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!", looking up to him, the supreme representative of the dignity of the Party, state and people who is dynamically ushering in a new era of overall prosperity of the country powerful with independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in national defence while guiding the historic struggle for building a rich country with a strong army, our noble idea and our sacred cause, always along the road of victory.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made an important policy speech "On the Immediate Tasks for the Prosperity and Development of Our Republic and the Promotion of the Wellbeing of Our People".

He expressed deep thanks to the deputies who had worked hard to fulfil their duty with loyalty to the sacred cause of the Party and the state and the spirit of devoted service to the people. And he put forward in an overall way the main agenda of the session discussing the new year's state affairs, the important tasks facing the DPRK government in bringing in a multi-stage, three-dimensional and offensive way great changes for the comprehensive development of socialist construction, and the principled issues to be maintained in carrying them out.

The supreme task of the WPK and the DPRK government, which set forth the promotion of the people's well-being as the supreme principle of state activities, is to improve the people's living as early as possible, he said, declaring the new regional industry development policy for a great revolution in eliminating the centuries-old backwardness of localities and realizing the long-cherished desire of the regional people, and important measures for its implementation.

He sternly analyzed and estimated the security environment of the DPRK, which turned into the most dangerous zone with

a risk of war outbreak in the world, and the danger of the confrontation racket by the US imperialists and their followers, and clarified the orientation of struggle against the enemy and the militant tasks to be carried out most thoroughly and uncompromisingly.

His speech clarified the political issues for adhering to the principle of defending national sovereignty and interests in the external affairs in keeping with the dignity and prestige of the DPRK which adopted the anti-imperialist independence as its first state policy, immutable and consistent.

All the participants listened in a state of great excitement to the speech of Kim Jong Un who set the basic guidelines for building a powerful country as a solid pillar, clearly looking forward to the future of accomplishing the socialist cause.

His historic policy speech, full of the great sense of mission and confidence in sure victory, is a militant banner and a great immortal revolutionary programme that enables our Party, state and people to bravely overcome manifold difficulties and crisis with their heroic dignity and indomitable stamina and further accelerate the victorious advance toward a powerful country.

The session discussed the fulfilment of last year's state budget and the draft state budget for the new year as the first agenda item.

A report was made by Ko Jong Bom, minister of Finance.

Then, speeches were made by deputies Pak Jong Gun, Jon Hak Chol, Ri Yong Chol, Han Nam Chol and Kim Myong Chol.

Speakers expressed full support for the report submitted to the session, noting that last year's implementation of the state budget was correctly reviewed and settled and the new year's state budget has been planned on the principle of financially supporting the struggle to secure a clear practical guarantee for the fulfilment of

the five-year plan in the spirit of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

They analyzed and reviewed in detail the successes, experience and shortcomings made in their sectors and units last year and proposed measures to settle the knotty problems arising in reality in conformity with the changed circumstances and situation and ensure the smooth promotion of the long-term development.

They expressed their determination to fully display the responsibility and activeness in this year's struggle of great significance in the successful implementation of the WPK's programme and thus guarantee the steady development of socialist construction with courageous and substantial practices.

The session adopted with unanimous approval a decision of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK "On approving the fulfilment of the DPRK state budget for 2023" and an ordinance of the SPA of the DPRK "On the DPRK state budget for 2024".

The session discussed the issue of abolishing the mechanisms in charge of affairs with the south as the second agenda item.

Maeng Kyong Il, deputy speaker of the SPA, proposed a draft SPA decision which stipulates the validity and legality of the immediate abolition of the mechanisms which had existed for north-south dialogue, negotiation and cooperation.

The session unanimously approved the SPA decision of the DPRK "On abolishing the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country of the DPRK, the National Economic Cooperation Bureau and the Kumgangsan International Tourism Administration".

Pak In Chol, speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly, made a closing address.





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of building a powerful country they chose and have pushed ahead with, and actually experienced the period of overall development of socialist construction and hardened their faith in it through the current growth of our country.

All these valuable successes are also associated with the efforts of you, Comrades Deputies who have strived for the proper exercise and development of our state power, always mindful of the people's expectations.

I express my thanks to you, deputies who have made efforts to fulfil your responsibility and duty with loyalty to the sacred cause of the Party and the state and in the spirit of devoted service for the people.

Comrades Deputies!

Of course, all these are not enough for us to be satisfied with and we have just taken the first step in realizing our ideal for building a powerful country and winning a victory of socialism.

The issue of making continuous development and success in 2024 after gaining valuable achievements in 2023 and providing the next-term government with a solid foothold was a key agenda item of today's session for discussing the state affairs of the new year.

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee defined 2024 as a decisive year of determining the victory in attaining the goals of struggle set forth at the Eighth Party Congress by further raising the offensive spirit on all fronts of socialist construction, and unanimously adopted scientific and feasible decisions.

The decisions comprehensively encapsulate the long-cherished desire of our Party for the beloved people and children and policies for the uninterrupted development of our great state and social system.

The Party's decisions are the guidelines for state building and activities and the political task the government of the Republic should carry out without an inch of deflection. Only through their thorough implementation, can we guarantee a radical turn in economic construction and improvement of the people's living standards, elevation of the national power, defence of the national interests and enhancement of national prestige.

We should regard the Party decisions as the lifeline in all fields of state affairs and carry them out perfectly without any mistake and without any shortcomings,

and thus continue to write the sacred development history of the Republic with more definite and innovative successes.

An important task facing the government of the Republic at present is to continue to reinforce the trend of upturn in the national economy and thus firmly put the overall economy of the country on the track of stable and sustainable development.

The economic front is the main front of socialist construction and without the strong and modern support of the self-supporting economy, it is impossible to think of the great dignity and independent development of our state and the rich and civilized life of the people.

As we all have seen with our own eyes and felt with our own hearts, the struggle of our Party and people to implement the five-year plan is progressing successfully while steadily going up the steps of progress and development, which make sharp contrast each year, despite unprecedented trials.

We should further boost the upward trend of the national economy and the spirit of dynamic advance which has been achieved through dear efforts, blood and sweat, and thus fully prove that our ideal is a reality ahead of us, not the one in the distant future.

All sectors of the national economy should put steady spurs to the growth of production and concentrate their efforts on finishing the work of reinforcement and readjustment.

Last year we set it as the main task of economic work to mainly finish the plan for reinforcement and readjustment decided by the Party Congress while revitalizing the production of the overall sectors and units of the national economy and conducted a vigorous struggle. But there are some incomplete projects.

Since the fulfilment of the plan for reinforcement and readjustment is a conclusion of the struggle to implement the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress, we should continue to intensify this work, irrespective of the conditions and the changing situation, and thus bring about good results this year, too.

Consistent is our Party's and state's policy of attaching primary importance to the key industrial sectors and bringing about a rapid upswing in the overall economy by further fostering independence and modernizing them.

The metallurgical and chemical industrial sectors should accelerate the completion of the projects now underway and ensure that they are in normal

operation in a substantial way so as to further strengthen the pillars of the self-supporting economy, while consolidating the successes already achieved in the work of making them Juche-oriented and modern.

The power industrial sector is now striving to meet the country's demand for electricity despite difficulties, but decisive measures should be taken to increase production in keeping with the expansion of the economic scale and the progress of many construction projects.

If we make the most of the existing generating capacity and accelerate the construction of the Tanchon Power Station and several other power stations, and operate atomic and tidal power stations in the future, we can solve the problem of power shortage as we want.

The coal and mining industrial sectors should not slacken their high fighting spirit but carry out their production plans without delay so as to fully ensure the supply of raw materials and fuel necessary for the major production sectors, and also vigorously push ahead with the work of reinforcing and readjusting production processes and increasing their capacity.

The machine-building industrial sector should play a special role in economic work this year.

The machine-building industrial sector should vigorously push ahead with the work of turning the Ryongsong Machine Complex into a standard and model of modernization and, at the same time, produce and supply the machines and equipment needed at different sectors of the national economy in good time and qualitatively, thus actively supporting the upsurge and development of overall national economy.

The successes achieved by our Party and state in recent years by concentrating efforts on construction work are certainly laudable, but we can never rest on such laurels.

In particular, housing construction is an important affair directly related to the Party's authority and the people-oriented character of the government of the Republic. And it is the nature and duty of our Party and the government to unconditionally keep the promise made with the people, however harsh trials they may face.

Since the number of houses to be built in the remaining two years, including the completion of the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang Municipality, is enormous, we should make thorough

preparations and continue to make vigorous offensive so as to live up to the expectations of the people.

We should make more strenuous progress in rural construction to eliminate the centuries-old backwardness and thus make the whole country filled with joy of our agricultural workers moving into new houses this year, too.

In addition, the construction sector should make full preparations from now for the planned gigantic operations such as the renovation of provincial capitals and the construction of a large canal connecting the east and west seas.

In order to step up the construction of houses, public buildings and industrial establishments on a nationwide scale, the building-materials industrial sector should continue to bring about a surge in production.

It is necessary to increase cement production by revitalizing the newly built or expanded building materials production bases and to massively produce and supply tiles, building stones, glass, vinyl wallpaper and various other building fixtures so as to prevent any practices of interrupting the schedule of construction.

The upward tendency of the overall economy inevitably results in an increase in the volume of freight transport and this requires further enhancement of the role of the railways, the main transport means of the country.

The railway sector should improve the organization and command of transport and direct efforts to maintaining the current state of railways to meet the demands of the national economy for transport without fail and successfully carry out the work for cementing the material and technical foundations of the railway industrial establishments.

Provinces, cities and counties adjacent to railways should always pay attention to the maintenance of railways and ensure the timely supply of necessary manpower and materials, thus contributing to increasing the stability of railway operation.

And the sectors of the IT industry, land and environment protection and urban management should also steadily push ahead with the fulfilment of the immediate tasks and long-term plans for continuously improving the conditions and environment necessary for state administration, economic growth and the people's civilized life, as required by the

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overall development of socialism.

In order for the socialist economy to give full play to its advantages and might, it is essential to thoroughly ensure the unity in the guidance and management of the economy and establish strict discipline and order that all sectors unconditionally obey the decisions and instructions of the Cabinet of the Republic.

Gone are the days when economic sectors fomented with impunity imbalance and disorder in the state economic affairs through their pursuance of self-centeredness and improper implementation of the administrative orders by the government.

The Cabinet should exercise all the authority granted by the Party and the state in a responsible manner and take revolutionary measures to set right the administrative and economic work system and order.

The Cabinet should proactively and dynamically conduct all the work by putting the overall economy of the country under its firm control and continuously improve the phase of the overall development by displaying strong leadership, controlling ability and executive power.

The Cabinet should make sure that no unit is out of its control, and intensify the struggle against the practices of unit specialization and egoism so as to make the climate of giving priority to the interests of the state and the whole society definitely prevail throughout the country.

Moreover, it should correctly predict the important factors of economic development such as economic infrastructure, population and manpower management, take necessary measures and establish a system for developing the work of the state economic organs in a far-sighted way so as to promote the stable and sustainable development of the overall national economy.

Comrades Deputies!

The supreme task, to which the DPRK

government should attach utmost importance and pay great efforts at present, is to stabilize and improve the people's living as early as possible.

Our people always and invariably support the Party and the government and accept any policy as their own and uphold it with absolute and unconditional executive ability. This is because they firmly trust in the Party and the government of the Republic, which have put forward the promotion of the people's well-being as the supreme principle of state activities.

It is reality that the Party and the government yet fail to meet even the simple demand of the people in life although they are said to be striving to live up to the people's deep trust without fail.

The foremost important task in improving the people's living standard is to do farming well.

Kim Jong Un said that confidence and enthusiasm has been increased in the agricultural sector through the attainment of the grain production goal last year and only when such a victory is sustained for several years, can the people's living be put on a normal track and the people's trust in the Party and government be consolidated. He continued:

As they did last year, the Cabinet and economic guidance organs should give priority to the supply of fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, fuel and other farming materials so as to provide the farms with adequate conditions for doing farming with ease. And the whole country should raise a hot wind of supporting the countryside from the beginning of the year so as to encourage the agricultural sector ideologically, morally, materially and technically.

The agricultural sector should further arouse patriotic enthusiasm and collective spirit of the agricultural workers, raise a strong wind of scientific farming on the basis of advanced agricultural science and technology and push ahead with improving soil fertility and perfecting irrigation systems so as to unconditionally make this year a year of rich harvest again

in any climatic conditions.

At the same time, it is needed to change the structure of grain production by expanding the fields under wheat cultivation, push ahead with the construction of wheat processing bases, the mechanization of agriculture and the reclamation of tideland on a full scale and develop vegetable farming, stockbreeding, fruit farming and industrial crops farming simultaneously.

In particular, we are going to provide our people with more eggs and meat by building another modern poultry farm in Pyongyang Municipality within this year and others in every province in the future.

It is necessary to develop the fisheries, too, in order to diversify fishing in keeping with the ever-changing fishing conditions, conduct fish farming and aquaculture on a large scale and thus increase the output of marine products. And practical measures should be taken properly to ensure an even distribution of seafood to the people.

An important issue arising in improving the people's living standards at present is to tackle the differences between the capital city and the provinces and the imbalance between regions.

It is the immutable principle of our Party and government that there may be differences between regions in their geographical setting, resources, economic potentials and living environment, but there should be no backward region in the aspect of the people's living in the territory of our Republic.

At present, there is a great disparity of living standards between the capital city and provinces and between towns and the countryside. Such a gap also exists in every province, city and county according to their conditions.

We can never ignore such phenomena that run counter to the idea of the comprehensive development of socialist construction, and we should take strong state support measures to improve the overall regional economy.

It is true that we, of course, built the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm and the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, gave

complete face-lifts to the regional industrial factories in Kimhwa County in recent years, push ahead with the construction of rural dwelling houses across the country, focus on helping Kaesong City live on its own efforts and carry on other projects for the people in provinces, but this is still too insufficient.

The implementation of important policies adopted at the central level during the seventh- and eighth-term Party Central Committees has been successfully pushed ahead with without a moment's delay to bring about many changes, but the work for developing the regional economy was not so.

The recent plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee included it in its decision to put the regional industrial factories in only the urban districts of Kaesong City and Jaeryong, Yonhan and Usi counties on the level of those in Kimhwa County and step up preparations for future construction in the remaining cities and counties. I think we can never develop the regional economy and bring about a marked change in the people's standard of living with such passive attitude.

Referring to the successes Kimhwa County achieved by concentrating on the work to supply by itself raw materials needed for the normal operation of modern regional industrial factories after their inauguration, Kim Jong Un said that cities and counties would face not a few problems that should be immediately resolved in the course of building modern regional industrial factories and normalizing production at them with locally available raw materials. But if they are determined to push ahead with the construction of regional industry factories and the establishment of raw materials production bases at the same time like Kimhwa County, they can improve their regional economy as much as they want and bring about a substantial change in the living of regional people, he added.

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In general conclusion, we have no ground or reason to view and approach the present backwardness of provinces from an onlooker's viewpoint and fail to take important measures for the development of regional industry under the pretext of economic conditions, he noted, adding all cities and counties are similar in their conditions and situations and the point is to secure the possible way of building regional industrial factories and ensuring their successful operation.

He continued:

If we do not work hard, waiting only for improved situation and conditions, when will we remodel the regional industry factories and who will bring about the possibility of raw materials supply?

We have to candidly ask ourselves in agony about when we will develop the overall regional industry, if we fail to take revolutionary measures, merely paying lip-service to building new factories and improving their capacity in the future as we have done so for decades.

As for the Changsong Joint Conference, how many years have passed since then?

In the 1970s and 1980s, too, many policy issues on the development of regional industry directly related to the people's living standards were discussed, but no revolutionary measures were taken on a nationwide scale, and due to the wrong viewpoint and attitude of our officials, many people-oriented policies and Party policies remained merely as paragraphs of decisions or policy documents, and no fundamental change was witnessed in the actual standard of living of the regional people.

It is easy to reflect ideals and ideas in writing but they don't come true naturally with supernatural power or the lapse of time.

They can be realized only when we have correct fighting policy and proper methodology, make a revolutionary decision and put it into bold practice.

There is no iconic regional factory meeting the requirements of the times in provinces.

We should no longer ignore this fact but face up to it.

The Party and the government, being aware that the regional economy directly related to the life of regional people is in such a bad state as having no elementary conditions, have neither justification nor right to approach the matter later.

The 80th founding anniversary of our Party is close at hand and 75 years have passed since the establishment of the power of our Republic.

To our Party and government, which are obliged to be concerned with the life of regional people and prioritize the policy of regional development more than any other countries in the light of the idea of the Party founding, the main objective of its struggle and the nature of our power, it is a very serious problem that they have not yet eliminated the century-old backwardness of regions but taken a hands-off approach toward it.

I think that to create and proactively use locally available economic resources and raw materials of cities and counties and provide elementary living convenience and conditions to the people by always supplying citizens in

every province with quality condiments, foodstuff and consumer goods is an urgent task, the fulfilment of which brooks no further delay, for our Party and government are obliged to open up a period of comprehensive development of socialism.

It is an immediate task facing our government and a long-cherished desire of our Party to liquidate the century-old backwardness, narrow the gap between the capital city and provinces, develop the regional economy in a comprehensive and balanced manner, while accelerating the economic development peculiar to each province and making a competitive trend of development.

The recent plenary meeting discussing the implementation of immediate national economic plan failed to focus on making the fulfilment of such urgent tasks related to the people's living a policy. So feeling deeply responsible for having not lived up to the great expectations of the people, I am determined to propose this crucial issue to the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and make it a policy.

We have accumulated such excellent experience as building modern regional industry factories as examples in Kimhwa County and making it operate them by itself. This is actually essential for improving the people's living standards in the county and other cities and counties can develop such capabilities and this is an issue which should be resolved without fail any time in the future, I think.

Of course, it would be right to determine the order of construction in the light of the capabilities of cities and counties and start it in those counties capable of operating such factories first. We can set an order of construction but we should not prioritize someone or discriminate against others by documenting or setting such order in taking care of the living of the citizens in this country and in implementing the decision of our Party and the policy of the government of our Republic for the settlement of this problem.

I am going to make our Party keep hold on the construction of modern regional industry factories in 20 counties every year as an unerring policy task, carry it out successfully on such level as Kimhwa County and thus raise a level higher the basic material and cultural living standards of the people in all cities and counties and, in another word, across the country within ten years.

In addition to the line for rural prosperity, I am going to call this policy of our Party to develop onto a higher stage the basic material and cultural living standards of regional people across the country at the earliest date possible by pushing forward with the regional industrial development "regional development 20x10 policy", and push ahead with its implementation.

This is another gigantic change and revolution, not just empty words, to eliminate the century-old backwardness of regions, realize the long-cherished desire of regional people and bring about a turn in the realm of our people's understanding.

Kim Jong Un said that the Party would continue to provide funds, labour force and materials annually and compulsorily to each county on the basis of the experience

gained in the course of building regional industrial factories in Kimhwa County as an example, and referred to the measures for establishing a state guidance work system.

He went on:

And I think of setting up a section for guiding regional industry construction in the Organizational Leadership Department of the Party Central Committee and reviewing its work on my own responsibility and pressing ahead with it.

To this end, I am going to convene an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee soon and discuss and decide on the "regional development 20x10 policy".

We should take big substantial measure to achieve our centuries-old desire so as to push ahead with our Party's far-reaching plan for building a socialist power.

We should take this heavy responsibility by ourselves and fulfil our own responsibilities with confidence and certainly live up to the expectations of the people by bringing about such a substantial change.

Is this possible? It's quite possible.

We have enough ability, possibility and will to implement this plan.

I think that if we adopt the issue of building all the regional industry factories in cities and counties on the level of those in Kimhwa County as an important state policy and push ahead with this project, the regional people will be pleased and confident.

Noting that regional industry factories should push ahead with the work to increase the production of consumer goods and improve their quality as intended by the Party Central Committee, Kim Jong Un stressed that what should be specially improved in implementing this year's socialist policies is to decisively raise the quality of school uniforms, bags and shoes as the Party Central Committee strongly reviewed and assigned at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

We took a measure to newly build the factories specializing in the production of school uniforms and shoes to meet the needs in provinces as factories for producing school bags were built in all the provinces, he said, adding that the deputies and the officials of the government bodies should render a special sincerity to the work of providing skilled workers and equipment to those factories and improving the quality so that the policies of the Party and the state can reach any region, town or mountainous area, on an equal footing.

He stressed the need to take state measures to reduce regional lopsidedness in the people's living and foster the independence of relevant regions so that they can live by themselves.

The Party has already stressed the need for provinces, cities and counties to secure funds for the people's living by making rational use of the characteristics and resources of their regions, but the economic, practical and legal follow-up measures needed to guarantee this have not been taken in time, the procedures and processes of approval are intricate, many restrictions have been placed and other different factors made the regions not benefit from it clearly, he said, and

went on:

After eliminating such evil practices on a nationwide scale, we should take practical measures to make the people in the coastal areas turn the sea to good account and those in the mountainous areas make the good use of mountains while encouraging them to offer tourist services and effectively exploit and mobilize resources, so as to contribute to improving their living conditions.

In this way we should bring about substantial improvement in our people's clothing, food and housing.

On behalf of the Party Central Committee, I have already defined the happy laughter of our people and the younger generation as a symbol of the socialist system, the mightiness of Korean-style socialism and a criterion deciding the position of a powerful country.

We should bring about changes and innovations in the overall space of socialist construction and the improvement of the people's livelihood in a multi-stage, three-dimensional and offensive way by further hastening the struggle and conducting continuous struggle for greater successes.

Comrades Deputies!

The present reality, in which every field of socialist construction is aspiring to an overall development, requires the might of science and technology and vehement activities of talents as never before.

In order to make the sci-tech sector which plays a great role in our revolutionary work for national prosperity fulfil its responsibility, we should further strengthen the state's integrated control over the development of science and technology.

When adopting the state strategy for the development of science and technology and setting the important tasks and research goals of the state, we should properly establish the political standard, correctly determine the order of priority for investment and make the most rational and effective use of the existing scientific and technological forces in the economic development and the improvement of the people's livelihood.

We should continue to take additional state measures to provide the scientists and technicians with conditions for their research work and to generalize their sci-tech achievements.

For the state's prosperity and development, it is ideal to make the climate in which everyone is willing to learn science and is most proud of contributing to the prosperity of the country by dint of science and technology prevail throughout the country.

We need to reexamine the existing laws of the state, system of talent management and all sorts of regulations and renew them if necessary such as strengthening the political and material assessment system to make all the people take active part in the sci-tech researches and technological innovations for the progress of the state and society.

In order to build a highly civilized and powerful country which is developed in a comprehensive way, education and public health should be duly put on the advanced world level.

In recent years our Party and the

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government of the Republic have made great efforts to correct the educational structure of the country, improve the contents and methods of education and modernize the educational conditions and environment, but the educational revolution in the new century has only taken the first step.

In particular, the educational level and environment in the local areas are still in poor conditions.

The educational sector should conduct the work for raising the quality of primary and secondary education and higher education to a higher level in a planned and long-term way as required by the Party's educational policy and step up the on-going construction of the comprehensive educational equipment and materials factory to increase the capacities for supplying teaching tools and equipment for experiment and practice.

Importantly, central educational institutions should direct efforts to training talents with the world competitive edge and, at the same time, should develop rural schools and other regional educational institutions under the state assistance, and thus decisively reduce the difference between urban and rural educational levels.

The public health sector, too, should improve the quality of medical services for the people.

If the Pyongyang General Hospital is completed and start its operation and a modern general hospital is built in Kangwon Province at the same time this year, models of health facilities suited to the new era will be provided.

Modern general hospitals should be built in other provinces every year and good hospitals be built in cities and counties in the future in order to make all the people receive advanced medical service everywhere.

At the same time, we should improve the material and technical foundation of the public health sector by modernizing pharmaceutical factories and medical appliances factories and pushing ahead with the work to build a central Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factory, and direct attention to properly carrying out the medical care system based on the health insurance fund which is expanding on a nationwide scale.

Comrades Deputies!

Our Republic is a peace-loving socialist state and remains unchanged in its desire for taking the road of independent development in a peaceful and stable environment free from aggression and interference and we have paid dearly for it.

But our country's security environment has been steadily deteriorated, far from being eased, and today it has become the world's most dangerous zone with the risk of the outbreak of a war.

The frequent remarks made by the US authorities about the "end of our government", vast nuclear strategic assets stationed in the peripheral area of the DPRK nearly all around the year, ceaseless war exercises with its followers staged on the largest scale, the military nexus between Japan and the Republic of Korea boosted at the instigation of the US and others are seriously threatening

the security of our state moment by moment.

The policy of confrontation with the DPRK pursued by the US century after century and the suicidal acts of such servile states as the ROK unconditionally submitting to the US inflame the enmity of our Republic and at the same time offer reasonable and full justification for strengthening the military capability and more rapidly improving the overwhelming nuclear war deterrent.

The US and its stooges are now buoyed with war fever.

We should invariably cover the road of bolstering up our military capability for self-defence to ensure wellbeing of the country, the people and the posterity.

The deputies present here should not regard the indiscriminate war holocaust in the Middle East as a matter of other's but do their best to bolster up our military capability for self-defence to the maximum, cherishing the firm belief that military strength is the security, dignity and prestige of the state and people.

Once again, I emphasize that our army should keep a sharp watch on even the enemy's slight military move and maintain confident and full preparedness to thoroughly and mercilessly control and frustrate provocative acts of any type through overwhelming counteraction, fully aware of its noble mission which is to devotedly defend the security of the country and the wellbeing of the people.

As preparations for a great event have become an urgent reality and our army has been entrusted with the important mission of ensuring it through a powerful military action, every level of the entire army should sincerely study and implement the spirit of the plenary meetings of the Eighth Party Central Committee and the Central Military Commission of the Party, intensify training under the simulated conditions of an actual war and, at the same time, direct great efforts to the political and ideological education as usual so as to prepare itself enough to surely win in the confrontation with the enemies by dint of political, ideological, military and technological superiority.

Kim Jong Un said that the People's Army's preparations for war are unthinkable without modernization of its military hardware.

He set forth the strategic tasks to be maintained and carried out by the munitions industry in its responsible struggle for bolstering up the DPRK's nuclear war deterrent and augmenting the national defence capacity this year as required by the prevailing situation and the developing revolution and referred to other issues.

He went on:

All citizens living on this land should regard national defence as the greatest patriotic work and turn out in it voluntarily.

It is our Party's strategic plan to defend the country and greet a great revolutionary event through all-people resistance.

The civilian defence sector should draw a serious lesson from the fact that it had conducted the work for perfecting the preparedness for war in a formalistic and blindfolded way in the past, taking it as routine in the past, and make strenuous

efforts in a revolutionary way with the viewpoint and attitude that it makes a new start.

As the work for strengthening the country's defence capabilities and military muscle is a nationwide undertaking both in name and reality, all institutions, enterprises, organizations and citizens in the territory of the Republic should have a correct view of military affairs and regard it as an immutable iron rule to provide everything needed for strengthening the military capability on the top-priority basis and in the highest quality.

The people's power organs at all levels should take thoroughgoing measures to immediately switch over to the wartime system in case of emergency and make full material preparations for all-people resistance.

The deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly should regard it as their due duty to play a key role in strengthening the country's defence capability, and carry out the military tasks entrusted to their sectors and units without fail and promptly make an issue of practices of neglecting the military affairs to thoroughly overcome them.

Comrades Deputies!

Today the Supreme People's Assembly newly legalized the policy of our Republic toward the south on the basis of putting an end to the nearly 80-year-long history of inter-Korean relations and recognizing the two states both existing in the Korean peninsula.

As solemnly clarified at the 2023 December Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee, our Party, government and people had shown great magnanimity and tireless patience and made sincere efforts always with the view that those of the ROK are still the fellow countrymen and compatriots in the long period of history and even discussed with them the great cause of national reunification in a candid manner.

But it is the final conclusion drawn from the bitter history of the inter-Korean relations that we cannot go along the road of national restoration and reunification together with the ROK clan that adopted as its state policy the all-out confrontation with our Republic, dreaming of the "collapse of our government" and "unification by absorption," and lost compatriotic consciousness, getting more vicious and arrogant in the madcap confrontational racket.

The north-south relations have been completely fixed into the relations between two states hostile to each other and the relations between two belligerent states, not the consanguineous or homogeneous ones any more. This is the present situation of the relations between the north and the south caused by the heinous and self-destructive confrontational manoeuvres of the ROK, a group of outsiders' top-class stooges, and the true picture of the Korean peninsula just unveiled before the world.

We have formulated a new stand on the north-south relations and the policy of reunification and dismantled all the organizations we established as solidarity bodies for peaceful reunification at the current session of the Supreme People's Assembly for discussing the laws of the DPRK. This can be said to be an

indispensable process that should take place without fail.

As the southern border of our country has been clearly drawn, the illegal "northern limit line" and any other boundary can never be tolerated, and if the ROK violates even 0.001mm of our territorial land, air and waters, it will be considered a war provocation.

In this regard, I think it is necessary to revise some contents of the Constitution of the DPRK.

I have already recalled at the recent plenary meeting that the so-called constitution of the ROK openly stipulates that "the territory of the ROK covers the Korean peninsula and its attached islands".

Recently I studied the constitutions of some other countries and found that they clearly stipulate the political and geographical definition of the territorial parts in which state sovereignty is exercised, the territorial land, territorial waters and territorial airspace in other words.

There is no provision specifying such definition in the existing constitution of our country. Since our Republic definitely defined the ROK as a foreign country and the most hostile state after completely eliminating the original concept contradictory to reality that the ROK is the partner for reconciliation and reunification and the fellow countrymen, it is necessary to take legal steps to legitimately and correctly define the territorial sphere where the sovereignty of the DPRK as an independent socialist nation is exercised.

In my opinion, we can specify in our constitution the issue of completely occupying, subjugating and reclaiming the ROK and annex it as a part of the territory of our Republic in case a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula.

And I think it is right to specify in the relevant paragraph of our constitution that such linguistic remnants misinterpreting the north and the south as fellow countrymen as "3 000-ri tapestry-like land" and "80 million compatriots" are not used in the political, ideological, mental and cultural life of our people, and that education should be intensified to instil into them the firm idea that ROK is their primary foe and invariable principal enemy.

Besides, in my view, it is necessary to delete such expressions in the constitution as "northern half" and "independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity".

I think the constitution of the Republic should be revised in consideration of such matters and the issue should be discussed at the next session of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The constitutional revision should be followed by timely practical measures to get rid of the remnants of the past era which may be seen as symbols of "north and south Korea with consanguineous and homogeneous relations", "By Our Nation Itself" and "peaceful reunification".

For the present, we should take strict stepwise measures to thoroughly block all the channels of north-south communication along the border,

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including the one of physically and completely cutting off the railway tracks in our side of the Seoul-Sinuiju railway line, which existed as a symbol of north-south exchange and cooperation, to an irretrievable level.

We should also completely remove the eye-sore “Monument to the Three Charters for National Reunification” standing at the southern gateway to the capital city of Pyongyang and take other measures so as to completely eliminate such concepts as “reunification”, “reconciliation” and “fellow countrymen” from the national history of our Republic.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to make clear once again the revolutionary character of the work for strengthening the self-reliant military capabilities, which our Republic firmly preserves as its own life, unfazed by any changes of situation.

I reaffirm that the strongest absolute strength we are cultivating is not a means of preemptive attack for realizing unilateral “reunification by force of arms” but the capabilities for legitimate self-defence pertaining to our right to self-defence, which should be bolstered up without fail definitely to defend ourselves.

In the present world where jungle law prevails, and to our country located in the hot spot where the danger of war have lingered for decades, the possession of powerful military muscle is an inevitable process of struggle to be indispensably chosen to defend the destiny of our country and nation and a historic task to be accepted as a fate.

Despite the worst difficulties accompanied by the enemy’s persistent pressure and sanctions, we have remarkably bolstered up our self-reliant military capabilities and nuclear war deterrent to be strongest without any slightest vacillation. As a result, any aggressor forces on the earth have long dared not push the situation to such worst phase as the outbreak of a war.

Explicitly speaking, we will never unilaterally unleash a war if the enemies do not provoke us.

The enemies should never misjudge this as our weakness.

Then, will we confine our national self-defensive capabilities to serving the purpose of only defending ourselves and preventing war?

Absolutely not.

I have already clearly mentioned the second mission of our nuclear force, in addition to its basic duty of deterring war.

A level-headed judgment of the special environment, in which the most hostile

state, the Republic of Korea, exists in our nearest neighbourhood, and of the situation, in which instability of the regional situation is soaring due to the US-led escalation of military tensions, has found that the danger of the outbreak of a war to be caused by a physical clash has considerably aggravated and reached a red line.

We do not want war, but we also have no intention of avoiding it.

There is no reason to opt for war, and therefore, there is no intention of unilaterally going to war, but once a war becomes a reality facing us, we will never try to avoid it, and we will take perfect and prompt action we thoroughly prepared in order to defend our sovereignty, security of the people and right to existence.

The war will terribly destroy the entity called the Republic of Korea and put an end to its existence.

And it will inflict an unimaginably crushing defeat upon the US.

Our military capabilities, already in readiness to do so, are being rapidly updated.

If the enemies ignite a war, our Republic will resolutely punish the enemies by mobilizing all its military forces including nuclear weapons.

Comrades Deputies!

Anti-imperialist independence is justice and truth, and dignity and sovereignty, peace and security can be firmly defended only in this way.

It is the foreign policy stand of our Party and state to safeguard justice and peace, aspire toward progress and development and promote friendship and solidarity.

The DPRK will never tolerate the heinous infringement on its sovereignty by the US which is wantonly trampling down and plundering world peace and stability with illegal double standards, regarding anti-imperialist independence as its immutable and consistent first national policy, but will strive to realize international justice based on respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and establish a new international order.

The external affairs sector should strategically and positively conduct the work to cope with the rapid change in the international political structure and security environment on the initiatives, so as to create conditions and circumstances favorable for our revolution and prevent any deviation or concession on the principle of defending national rights and interests.

It should set the development of relations with socialist countries as its primary task, further strengthen bilateral

and multilateral cooperation, launch a courageous anti-imperialist joint action and joint struggle on an international scale, and achieve new progress in the work for further expanding the sphere of external relations of the country, uniting and cooperating with all countries and nations aspiring after independence and justice, irrespective of ideology and social system.

The above-said tasks are the immediate major policy to be maintained and carried out by the government of the Republic without fail.

The result of the sacred tasks to be carried out for the dignity of the state, the well-being of the people and the victorious advance of socialist construction depends largely on the role of the people’s power organs.

Our people’s power is a powerful political weapon for socialist construction and an executor of the Party’s lines and policies.

All the people’s power organs should establish a steel-like work system and order of unconditionally remaining faithful to the idea and leadership of the WPK, completely eliminate the passive and indifferent attitude and implement the Party’s policies set forth before their regions and units with a high sense of responsibility and with due care.

In conformity with their original mission of existing for the people and serving the interests of the people, they should display boundless sense of responsibility so that the people-oriented policies of the Party and the state can reach our children and every citizen correctly and turn the work for solving problems in improving the people’s standard of living into the one for giving people real benefits, not for being in one’s favour.

They should shoulder the urgent tasks of solving the economic problem of the country, including the work for boosting the regional economy, by themselves and carry them out to the last and thus make a tangible contribution to the development of the state.

The people’s power organs should play a due role in defending, maintaining, consolidating and developing the socialist system.

In the course of organizing and guiding the activities of all units and inhabitants, they should always pay attention to strengthening the single-hearted unity and encouraging and developing the people’s patriotic spirit and strictly preserve the socialist character of our society and thoroughly guarantee the smooth function of the state through principled control and management.

The mission and responsibility of the deputies are important in the new

year’s advance for further advancing and developing socialist construction and promoting the people’s well-being as they were before.

The deputies to the Supreme People’s Assembly and other people’s assemblies at all levels are political activists who are elected by the support of the people, participate directly in state affairs, reflect the will and demands of the people in the government’s policies, lead their correct implementation and propose to take timely measures for correcting the deviations that appear.

Only when they are properly aware of their position and authority as representatives of the people and fulfil their duty, can the Party, the government and the people form an organic body, the overall state and social life become active and the lines and policies for the people be carried out thoroughly.

They have no right to be in a state of self-protection or idleness and indolence even for a moment but should ensure the execution of state affairs through active and substantial practice.

Comrades Deputies!

I emphasize again that our state now has the bright prospect of overall prosperity under a sure guarantee with the prestige and authority reckoned by the world thanks to the precious blood, sweat and devotion of the great people who have devoted their all to the victory of the socialist cause firmly believing in only the Party and the government of the Republic even in difficult times.

In comparison with the expectations of the people who have absolutely supported and wholeheartedly upheld the policies of our Party and the government of the Republic, the successes achieved so far are too small and we have no right to spoil the devotion and efforts of the people made despite extreme difficulties.

The stronger our national power and our confidence grow, the further we should redouble our efforts, not forgetting even a moment the journey of hard ordeals our people have traveled, and bring without fail the rich and civilized era in the near future which we have promised to the people.

There are still many difficulties and trials to be faced, but our ideals and cause are truth and science and we are full of courage and spirit to win victory.

Let us all unite firmly on the strength of patriotism and fight vigorously for the eternal prosperity of our dignified state, for the happiness and glory of our great people and for the overall development of our style of socialism.

Long live the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, our great state!



On fulfilment of DPRK state budget for 2023 and on state budget for 2024

Report on state budget delivered at 10th Session of 14th SPA of DPRK

KCNA

Deputy Ko Jong Bom, minister of Finance, made a report on the fulfilment of the state budget for 2023 and on the state budget for 2024, which were examined at the Budget Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly before the full-dress session.

The reporter noted that the state budget for 2023 was successfully implemented.

According to him, the state budgetary revenue was carried out at 100.5 percent last year, a 1.5 percent increase over the previous year.

Many industrial establishments in the economic sector carried out the plan for central budgetary revenue at 100.6 percent and the plan for regional budgetary revenue at 100.3 percent.

Last year the state budget expenditure was made at 99.8 percent.

All sectors and units of socialist economic construction provided the funds amounting to 100.8 percent as compared with 2022 for a new upsurge while consolidating the growth level.

Funds amounting to 15.9 percent of the total state budget expenditure were preferentially allocated to the increase of the country's defence capabilities.

The capital investment holding a large proportion of the state budget expenditure was increased by 0.1 percent as compared with the previous year to build the second-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area, Jonwi Street in the Sopho area, the Kangdong Greenhouse Farm, the Kangdong Cement Factory and many other precious edifices.

Funds amounting to 24.4 percent of the total budget expenditure



Deputy Ko Jong Bom, minister of Finance, delivers a report on state budget at the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

were directed to consolidating the self-supporting economy while concentrating efforts on the readjustment and reinforcement of major industrial sectors, including metal, chemical, electric power, coal and machine-building industries, and the expansion of their production capacity.

Funds amounting to 100.9 percent as compared with the previous year were allocated to the field of science and technology.

The agricultural sector was provided with a large sum of funds equivalent to 115 percent of the previous year before other sectors.

Last year, too, funds amounting to 113.2 percent as compared with the previous year were earmarked for developing the anti-epidemic capability.

And 36.8 percent of the total expenditure was used for the social and cultural field to contribute to implementing the Workers' Party of Korea's childcare policy and achieving progress in the fields of

education, public health, sports and culture.

Last year, warship fund, childcare fund, helping one another fund, socialist patriotic fund and other fund donation movements were conducted all across the society amid the fierce flames of the socialist patriotic and revolutionary mass movements, thus contributing to the prosperity and development of the country.

The state budget for this year has been organized to provide financial guarantee for the struggle to promote stable and sustained development, bring about substantial changes in the people's living standards and develop all fields including science, education, public health and culture in a comprehensive way by concentrating investment on the major sectors of the national economy constituting the backbone of the self-supporting economy, while steadily updating the military potential of the armed forces of the DPRK.

The state budgetary revenue is expected to grow by 2.7 percent over last year, of which the transaction tax, a major item of the budgetary revenue, will increase by 0.5 percent and the income from the profits gained by state enterprises by 3.2 percent, thereby accounting for 84 percent of the total income.

As to other budget income items, the income from the profits gained by cooperative organizations is expected to grow by 0.2 percent as compared with last year, depreciation by 1.5 percent, real estate rent by 2 percent, social insurance by 2 percent, income from property sales and price deviation by 0.3 percent, income from money collection by 0.4 percent, other incomes by 0.1 percent and income from the special economic zones by 0.6 percent.

The central budgetary revenue is to account for 73.7 percent of the state budgetary revenue, with the income from the central economy taking an overwhelming proportion, and provinces, cities and counties will raise a lot of funds for the central budget while ensuring expenditure with their own incomes.

The state budget expenditure for this year will increase by 3.4 percent over last year.

Investment in socialist economic construction will grow by 2.4 percent over last year so that 44.5 percent of the total budget expenditure for this year can be spent on developing the country's economy and improving the people's standard of living.

As defence expenditure, 15.9 percent of the total state budget expenditure is expected to be spent.

In 2024 capital investment will increase by 0.5 percent over last year to financially guarantee the major construction projects, including

the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang Municipality, the rural housing construction and the project for expanding the domestic water capacity in Pyongyang.

The expenses for the development of the national economy will be increased by 0.4 percent as compared with last year.

From this year on, the expenses for the development of science and technology are separated from those for the development of the national economy and set up as an independent item of the state budget expenditure. They include the expenses for the development of space science and technology and the maintenance of space scientific research institutes and will increase by 9.5 percent as against last year.

Funds amounting to 100.1 percent of last year's will be allocated for the agricultural work.

The expenditure for anti-epidemic work for 2024 is estimated to be the same level of last year.

In 2024, funds amounting to 106 percent of last year's will be spent on the education sector, 105.5 percent on the public health sector, 105 percent on the cultural sector and 105 percent on the sports sector.

This year, too, the state will send a large amount of educational aid fund and stipends to the children of Koreans in Japan.

The reporter called on all the officials to make the state budget a realistic and effective one for promoting the overall development of Korean-style socialist construction and improving the people's living standards and fully provide funds needed for carrying out the tasks for 2024 of the five-year plan for national economic development.

Decision of DPRK Supreme People's Assembly on abolishing some organizations

KCNA

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on January 15 issued a decision on abolishing the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, the National Economic Cooperation Bureau and the Kumgangsan International Tourism Administration.

The two most hostile states, which are at war, are now in acute confrontation on the Korean peninsula, the decision said, and went on:

Reunification of Korea can never be achieved with the Republic of Korea, which set it as its state policy to achieve "unification by absorption" and "unification of systems" that runs counter to the line of national

reunification based on one nation, one state and two systems, which we have adhered to for nearly 80 years.

It is a seriously anachronistic mistake to regard the ROK as a partner for reconciliation and reunification any longer as it declared the DPRK as a "principal enemy" and is seeking only an opportunity for "bringing down the regime" and achieving "unification

by absorption" while keeping the uncontrollable crisis on the Korean peninsula in collusion with outside forces.

Recognizing the stark historical reality and branding the ROK as the state most hostile to the DPRK, the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK decides as follows:

1. The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the

Country, the National Economic Cooperation Bureau and the Kumgangsan International Tourism Administration, organizations which existed for north-south dialogue, negotiations and cooperation, shall be abolished.

2. The Cabinet and relevant organs of the DPRK shall take practical measures to implement this decision.

Tradition of patriotism assures brighter future

By Pang Un Ju PT

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea proudly reviewed the victory of 2023 achieved by the Korean people through their united struggle and put forward the orientation of struggle in 2024.

The main idea and spirit of the plenary meeting is to more dynamically struggle for attaining the goals set forth by the Eighth Party Congress, united on the strength of patriotism.

It is a proud tradition of the Korean people that they have waged the socialist patriotic movements and the revolutionary mass movements to support their country with passionate love for the country.

A patriotic rice donation movement was launched on a

nationwide scale after Kim Je Won, a peasant in Jaeryong County, donated to the country in December 1946, the year after Korea's liberation, 30 straw bags of rice out of the crops he gathered in the first year after the land reform. And working people waged an emulation drive for increased production as a mass movement in order to bring about a continuous upsurge in production with creative zeal and activeness.

During the Fatherland Liberation War, the soldiers of the Korean People's Army vigorously conducted the my height movement, while people in the rear carried on the military fund donation movement, the plowwoman movement, the movement of sending rice to the front and other all-people patriotic movements, making a great contribution to winning victory in

the war.

The DPRK ushered in the great Chollima era through many such mass movements as the Chollima movement, Chollima workteam movement and the let-one-machine-tool-make-another movement which were executed during the periods of laying the foundations of socialism and building socialism on a full scale.

It was also the socialist patriotic movements and revolutionary mass movements conducted by pooling patriotic minds that enabled the DPRK to make 2023 a year of victory in the face of all trials and difficulties.

The munitions industry workers presented 30 powerful Juche weapons they manufactured through an increased production drive as gifts of loyalty to the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party

Central Committee. Well over 90 000 young people volunteered for a construction site in January alone true to the WPK's plan to form a new street in the capital city, hundreds of others for schools on remote islands and in mountainous and rural villages as teachers and many others from across the country for socialist rural communities to increase grain production.

The coal mine for supplying coal to Jagang Province under the Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex, which had made the coal industry sector buzz with production activity by initiating the socialist patriotic drive for increased coal production in 1977, lighted the torch of the drive again, which served as a catalyst for increased production in all the economic sectors, thereby bringing about noteworthy results in succession. Meanwhile, agricultural

workers across the country donated to the country the grains they produced with sincerity out of patriotism.

In addition, the socialist patriotic movements and revolutionary mass movements of 2023 which developed into mainstream drives of the times, including the devoted service movement in the public health sector, the patriotic rice donation movement and the movement for donating fund for building warships, proved a source of great strength for opening the route of advance toward a powerful country.

It is the unanimous will of the Korean people to achieve greater victories by notching up victories and successes this year like last year on the strength of patriotism and by inheriting the tradition of patriotism.

Steel producer boosts production growth by dint of technical innovation

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is making innovations in production by relying on science and technology.

It strengthens technical guidance as it focuses on solving technical problems arising in the operation of energy-saving oxygen blast and induction furnaces in close cooperation with researchers and technicians of scientific research institutes and relevant sectors.

It constantly builds up its own technical forces by improving the technical knowledge and skills of employees in a methodological way.

All employees are encouraged to present problems they want to know every month. The complex inspires technical study lecturers to make teaching

plans extensively and in depth in close combination with advanced science and technology and make increasingly exact demands on them to make every lesson for employees a course of acquiring useful knowledge and experience.

It also ensures that the technical study time becomes a forum to enable employees to consolidate what they learned and an occasion to raise their competitive zeal for bringing out better technical plans.

Technicians and smelters of the blast furnace workshop have introduced the rational mixing ratio of materials and melting methods and remarkably increased the utilization rate of oxygen converter, thereby fulfilling their daily plan without fail.

Workers of the steel workshop keep increasing the output of molten iron per

charge by applying technical innovation plans for reducing the melting time of UHP electric arc furnace.

Technicians of the engineering technical preparation section invented a gas exhaust device with sloping flat wings and a plan for establishing the melting process of electric furnace based on iron cooling box.

The exhaust device collects dust by injecting water and does not have any special dust collector. Free from previous irrational shortcomings, it collects all the waste gas from the melting process of electric furnace and therefore makes a great contribution to production growth while saving production costs.

According to the plan for establishing the melting process of electric furnace based on iron cooling box, the graphite electrode

contact plate for supplying power to electric furnace has been remodelled as a sheet metal product to meet the actual conditions of the complex, thereby reducing the time to repair equipment and saving lots of labour and materials.

In addition, the complex devised and introduced technical innovation plans to solve scientific and technological problems urgently needed for increasing the existing production capacity including those for a PLC-based pulverized coal production process control system and for refashioning the conveyor system of the refractory production process.

It also introduced a rapid slag analyzer into the oxygen-blast furnace while introducing several sci-tech achievements and technical findings.

'We will bring about greater innovations in iron, steel production'

Upon receiving the news on the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the hearts of the employees of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex are filled with enthusiasm for making greater innovations in iron and steel production this year.

In his historic report at the plenary meeting, General Secretary Kim Jong Un referred to the fact that several projects including the one for building induction furnaces at the complex were completed and went into operation last year and described it as a year in which the metal industrial sector made big strides in putting the sector on a Juche and modern basis.

Last year, our complex solved many problems including those related to the construction of several industrial buildings covering a large area, the making and installation of huge equipment and devices and the building of a rational power system and built medium-frequency induction furnaces, thus further perfecting Juche-based iron- and steel-making technologies and laying another reliable foundation for increasing output.

It also put spurs to the fulfilment of technical innovation plans to make considerable achievements.

Amid a brisk campaign to introduce advanced technologies, the accuracy

of the quantity of materials fed into a blast furnace was further improved and time for analyzing slag remarkably reduced, largely contributing to the production of pig iron.

In collaboration with the researchers of Kim Il Sung University and the State Academy of Sciences, our workers and technicians developed a quantitative material supply system and contrived a device for measuring the moisture of concentrated ores while lowering the consumption of materials per unit, thereby overfulfilling its plan for the production of pig iron last year.

This year, our complex faces many tasks for implementing the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

It is not easy to carry out all these tasks without fail, while fulfilling its national economic plan.

However, our Hwangchol workers never yield to such difficulties.

As in the past, no one can take the place of our complex taking the lion's share of the development of the metallurgical industry and the production of iron and steel in the country.

That's why all the officials and workers of our complex say the pulse of Hwangchol is the strength of the vibrant country.

Jong Pok Nam, deputy chief engineer in charge of technological development of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex



Smelters conduct tapping at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Korean youth movement over seven decades on

By Pang Un Ju PT

January 17 2024 marked the 78th anniversary of the founding of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, a revolutionary mass political organization of the Korean youth.

The 70-odd-year history of the SPYL is shining with unusual pride and glory.

General Kim Il Sung, who had pioneered the Korean youth movement in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, gained a deep insight into the significance and importance of the youth issue and made sure that the Democratic Youth League of North Korea was formed on January 17 1946, the year after Korea's liberation from Japanese military occupation.

The Korean youth, rallied under

the banner of the Democratic Youth League, devoted their wisdom and passion to the building of a new Korea, loudly singing the song March of Democratic Youth. During the fierce Fatherland Liberation War, they bravely fought to defend every inch of the national territory, including a young man who blocked the enemy's gun muzzle with his chest and a nurse who unhesitatingly rushed towards an enemy tank with a bundle of hand grenades.

The DYL members volunteered to undertake the most difficult and labour-consuming jobs during the periods of the postwar rehabilitation and the great Chollima upsurge, and creditably played the role of vanguard and shock brigade in the periods of the socialist revolution and socialist construction.

In 1954 alone, 113 youth shock brigades were deployed at hundreds

of rehabilitation sites in Pyongyang and other parts of the country. That year young people restored 915 coal and other mines and enterprises, 317 irrigation structures and over 10 000 hectares of land.

With the victory of the socialist revolution and the development of socialist construction in the DPRK, President Kim Il Sung reorganized the Democratic Youth League into the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea in May 1964 to turn the youth organization into a more powerful group.

The Korean youth movement pioneered by the President advanced more victoriously under the wise guidance of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Putting forward the slogan "Love young people!" the Chairman set August 28 as Youth Day and handed over the torchlight of revolution to the young people in the hope that

they would become the undying flames of revolution. Reading the desire of all the young people to glorify the President's idea of the youth movement and exploits, the Chairman saw to it that the LSWYK was renamed Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League.

In those days the indomitable fighting spirit of the Korean youth was fully displayed in the building of the Youth Hero Motorway.

Today the Korean youth movement is in its heyday under the wise guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The youth league, which developed into Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League on August 28 2016 along with the new era when the period of a leap forward in carrying out the revolutionary cause of Juche began, was renamed Socialist Patriotic Youth League in

conformity with the character and tasks of the current youth movement at the 10th congress of the youth league held in April 2021.

Thanks to the leadership of Kim Jong Un who always places great trust on and shows warm love to young people, saying that the prosperous future will be accelerated thanks to their dynamic efforts and encouraging them to always march straight forward, following the Party, the DPRK has witnessed monumental structures they built in succession and other precious fruits of their search, enthusiasm and efforts.

The Korean youth are more dynamically stepping up the grand march in the new century of the Juche era for the building of a prosperous country as they are led by Kim Jong Un who is administering new politics of attaching importance to and loving the youth.

To live up to honour of being patriotic youth



Young people volunteer to work at difficult and labour-consuming sectors. RODONG SINMUN

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

Today it is an excellent tradition of the Korean youth to steadily carry on the patriotic spirit created by young people of the preceding generations.

Young people of the first generation of the Korean revolution carried out the historic cause of national liberation by fighting bloody battles against the Japanese imperialists and braving endless blizzards with arms in hands under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung.

Following in their footsteps, the youth of the wartime generation made breakthroughs for the advance of their units by blocking enemy gun muzzles with their chests and, after the war, worked many miracles by unsparingly devoting their sweat and passion.

The Korean youth were always at the forefront of the struggle to defend the socialist country at the risk of their lives and lay a solid foundation for building a powerful country

by upholding the Songun revolutionary leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il during the Arduous March and forced march when the country was undergoing hardships.

Cherishing this noble spirit and tradition, the Korean young men and women are now responding to the call of the Party with ardent patriotism and volunteering to work at difficult and labour-consuming sectors.

"Don't say that you love your country before you devote your heart to the country," this is the heartfelt sentiment shared by all the Korean youth in the present era.

Among them are those who volunteered to work at the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes and in deep coal faces and at forestry stations.

Many university graduates volunteered to work in the field of rail transport and at branch schools on islands and schools in remote mountain areas.

The news about young

people of Pyongyang changing their certificates of citizenship of the capital city for those of volunteering and going to work in farms, coal mines and fishery stations is touching the hearts of all people day by day.

The patriotic enthusiasm of the Korean youth is also reflected in Jonwi (vanguard) Street which is taking its majestic shape in the capital city.

Last year, when the news that the Party assigned the construction of a new street in the Sopho area to the youth, more than 100 000 young people volunteered to work at the construction site and built the monumental street.

Their hearts are filled with the ardent patriotic enthusiasm to live their youth like their fathers and mothers who went to work at mountains, the sea and development areas in response to the call of the Party.

Therefore, the words "patriotism" and "youth" are inseparable in the DPRK as in the name of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

Good deeds by young people commonplace in DPRK

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Noble virtues and traits of helping and leading one another forward are commonly practised and displayed in the DPRK, and among such persons of virtue are many young people.

They get married to honoured disabled soldiers and become "girl mothers" and "bachelor fathers" of parentless children, touching the heartstrings of others.

And there are those who donate their skin and blood to bring patients back to life and devote their affection and care for handicapped students.

A girl teacher in her 20s at Songuja Primary School in Mangyongdae District of Pyongyang took care of a schoolgirl with disabilities with the love greater than kindred affection, although her parents had felt hopeless, and enabled her to finish the school with honours.

Their deeds are not just an expression of generosity or sympathy which can be often seen in human life.

They are just the outcome of the reality of the DPRK where it has become one of the national traits to care for and help each other and everyone finds their happiness and worth of life in working for society and the collective as the collectivist slogan "One for all and all for one!" is embodied in everyday life.

Artistic motivational team of youth league central committee gives celebratory performance

KCNA

The artistic motivational team of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League gave a performance "Always march straight forward, following the Party!" at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on January 17 to mark the 78th birthday of the youth league.

The performance began with the song "March of Korean Youth". Put on the stage were colourful numbers showing the proud history of the Juche-oriented youth movement and the noble mentality of the patriotic youth who have pushed forward with the advance of the country in the annals of the revolution.

The performers well represented the pride and honour of the young vanguard of the new generation leading a worthwhile life as the

successors to the revolution and masters of the times under the care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Among the audience were Han Kwang Ho, deputy

Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials of the youth league, youth and students in Pyongyang and members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade.



The artistic motivational team of the youth league central committee gives a performance at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on January 17.

Japan's crime of poisoning of Korean emperor

By Choe Yong Nam PT

On January 22 1919, the Japanese imperialists brutally killed Korean Emperor Kojong with poison.

The poisoning of the Korean emperor was a heinous crime they committed to establish colonial domination over Korea more thoroughly.

As Japan got more undisguised in its aggressive moves to reduce Korea to its colony with each passing day, Kojong was strongly opposed to them and tried in every way to thwart its scheme.

When Japan forced the government of the feudal Joseon dynasty to conclude the Ulsa five-point treaty with an eye to establishing its colonial domination over Korea, he did neither approve the conclusion of it from the beginning nor put his signature and the state seal to the treaty. And when the treaty was finally cooked up by them, he struggled to inform the international community of its invalidity.

In particular, he sent personal

letters bearing his signature and the state seal to such big powers as the US, Russia, the UK, France and Germany to affirm that he as the emperor of the feudal Joseon dynasty had never entrusted the government officials with the conclusion of the Ulsa five-point treaty and that the Japanese side invented the treaty.

He dispatched three emissaries to the Second International Peace Conference which was held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1907 to disclose its illegality and invalidity to the world.

Afterwards, when Japan forced him to sign the Jongmi seven-point treaty in 1907, he did neither give his prior approval for it nor put his signature and the state seal to it.

His striving to defend sovereign rights became a big obstacle for Japan attempting to achieve complete colonial domination over Korea. Much upset by that, the Japanese imperialists forcibly dethroned him and even poisoned him.

Later, fearful that their crime might be known to the world, the

Japanese made vicious moves to cover up the incident. A typical example is that they assassinated two ladies-in-waiting who witnessed the death of the emperor.

Truth cannot be concealed like a gimlet in a sack.

Truth was out by the "second declaration of independence" made and issued by the Korean provisional government in Shanghai in 1921, two years after the emperor was killed, and a personal letter of his son Prince Uichin. According to them, immediately after Kojong died, a lot of red spots appeared on his whole body and when Min Yong Gi and Hong Kung Sop, who discovered his body was inflamed with red spots during examination, asserted he was killed by poison, the Japanese took them into custody. Another piece of data showed that the emperor writhed and died after taking the food which the treacherous subject Han Sang Hak poisoned at the instigation of the Japanese imperialists and

saying which food he ate made him so painful. At that time, it said, his eyes were bloodshot and his whole body was covered with spots.

Some years ago, the diary of Kuratomi Yuzaburo, who had been head of the audit department of the agency of imperial household of Japan in 1919, was put on view at an international academic conference, in which he wrote that he heard Terauchi, the first governor-general of Korea, give an order to Hasegawa, commander of the Japanese forces stationed in Korea, to poison the emperor as he did not recognize the Ulsa five-point treaty.

All the data prove that the Japanese imperialists were the mastermind behind the poisoning of Emperor Kojong and that they did not hesitate to do any crime in order to realize their colonial domination over Korea.

The heinous crimes committed by them are the state-sponsored organized crimes and therefore Japan must make reparations for them.

Anti-popular behaviour of Japanese authorities steeped in big power worship and subservience

By Song Jong Ho PT

The Japanese government has recently schemed to forcibly relocate the Futenma air base to Henoko in disregard of the will of residents of Okinawa.

On December 28 last year, the land and traffic minister forcibly approved the modification of the design for the foundation improvement project the defense ministry applied in place of the Okinawa governor.

Mainichi Shimbun reported that this is the first time for the government to subrogate the office work of a self-governing body based on the law on local autonomy.

In 2020, the project for foundation improvement arose as a public discussion since a weak foundation section was discovered in the removal area. The Okinawa defence bureau applied the modification of the design for foundation improvement to the prefecture in April 2020. When the prefecture refused to approve it, the government ordered the land and traffic ministry to approve it. Though the prefecture brought a lawsuit against the government's instruction, asserting it is a violation of law, the Supreme Court dismissed the suit in September 2023. The prefecture appealed to the Supreme Court again on December 27, a day before the land and traffic minister approved it by proxy.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese government enforced the modification of the design in disregard of local residents' demand.

This is a continuation of the anti-popular policy of the Japanese authorities who are steeped in worship of and subservience to the US in disregard of sufferings of their citizens.

The government agreed with the US to relocate the air base to Henoko in Nago City in the same prefecture, and enforced the project in disregard of the

demand of the residents.

The question is whether Japan's security is actually guaranteed by the US forces in Japan.

To state the conclusion first, the US forces in Japan are the root cause of all misfortunes and disasters for the locals.

Due to the successive plane accidents, lots of Japanese lost their lives or got injuries and, worse still, some of them went missing. Owing to sharp noises made when planes take off and land, residents are suffering from various diseases including nerve disturbance.

Not only residents in the vicinity of the US military base but also schools are compelled to conduct an evacuation drill frequently in simulation of the falling of objects from the air. Even children who are playing outside habitually find shelters when they hear the sound of aircraft.

And the Japanese are groaning under constant anxiety and horror due to the US forces who commit all sorts of crimes including rape, robbery and violence.

Though 50 000-strong US armed forces are stationed in Japan on the pretext of defending "Japan's security", the American military bases actually serve as military strongholds for containing potential rivals of the US in the Asia-Pacific region. If a military conflict occurs between the US and relevant countries, it is as clear as day that the military bases in Japan will be the first target and that Japan will inevitably get a by-blow.

Japan will only get instability, rather than security, due to the US forces.

Therefore, the voices of wrath and discontent against the US bases are heard among the Japanese people.

The Japanese government which is enforcing the relocation of the base against the public sentiment will have to pay dearly for its anti-popular behaviour.

Murder-ridden nations 'advanced' in human rights

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

Horrific murders are rampant in Western countries that are called "rich societies with a high level of economic development and vast material wealth."

Gun crimes are committed nearly every day in the US where the culture of gun violence prevails.

According to information available, 650 cases of "massive shooting" claiming more than four lives were reported and the number of deaths caused by gun violence reached over 42 370 in the country last year.

Americans are spending each day in fear of being shot in any moment, and parents are even buying bulletproof satchels for their children's safety.

In the UK, many people are suffering from widespread knife attacks.

The number of knife-related crimes has been increasing year by year since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis in the country. In particular, over 13 000 cases of knife attack happened in London from July 2022 to June 2023 alone.

Meanwhile, cold-blooded murders between children and parents and husbands and wives are becoming more commonplace in Japan.

Besides, Italy, Australia and Norway are also rife with murders.

All the above-mentioned countries are dubbed "the most developed and civilized" in the world and they are "advanced states in human rights" who are always slandering the human rights situations of other countries. It is the height of double standards to turn a blind eye to the poor human rights

record in themselves and point an accusing finger at others.

It is inevitable that violence and horrible murders against innocent people spread like wildfire in the capitalist society where extreme misanthropy is widespread.

Many westerners believe that capitalism is suffering from a serious illness and is moving step by step towards ruin.

The corruption and destruction of a social system begins with mental collapse of man.

Mental and moral corruption is the main contributory factor of the destruction of man and society. The fierce competition for existence in the capitalist society produces inhuman relations of antagonizing, exploiting and oppressing each other and makes people do anything unhesitatingly for their own interests.

Consequently, the decadent trend of killing anyone, parents or children, if they go against the selfish, personal desire of "me", has already become an everyday occurrence in the capitalist society.

Western countries should try to deal with their own poor human rights situation before finding fault with others'.

Briefly

Russia

US, UK censured for aggravating situation in Red Sea

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova asserted in a news briefing on January 12 that the US and the UK are aggravating the Red Sea situation.

In connection with the fact that the US and the UK carried out military attacks on different cities of Yemen, she said that Russia resolutely decries such an irresponsible action.

The stand the US takes with regard to the Red Sea situation is nothing but a pretext for aggravating the regional situation and heightening tension in the future, she said, warning that this may cause an unstable situation in the whole of the Middle East.

China

FM decries US interference in Taiwan issue

A spokeswoman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a press conference on January 11 denounced the interference of the US in the Taiwan issue.

She said that the Chinese government resolutely opposes any form of government-level exchange of visits of the US with Taiwan.

The Taiwan issue falls within the internal affairs of China and election in Taiwan is a local issue of China, so no foreign interference is tolerable, she said, criticizing the US for openly intervening in election in Taiwan.

She warned that China will take a resolute and powerful measure to defend its national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

Lebanon

Hezbollah conducts 690 retaliatory operations against Israel

Hezbollah, an organization of Lebanese patriotic forces, on January 12 announced that it conducted 690 rounds of retaliatory operations against Israel in the last three months.

It claimed that it has carried out retaliatory strikes on 60 spots and 50 military facilities in Israel since early October last year in response to its intensifying armed attack.

Israel's attack left 217 dead in the southern part of Lebanon.

Hezbollah noted that it will attack Israel with all its might if the latter scales up military offensive against Lebanon, adding it is never afraid of a war.

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2023 DPRK's top 10 players, coaches chosen

KCNA

Sportspersons, who fully demonstrated the dignity and honour of the country in last year's international and national tournaments and contributed to the development of the country's sports technique, have been chosen as top ten players and coaches for 2023 in the DPRK.

Top 10 players

1. An Chang Ok, artistic gymnast of the April 25 Sports Team
2. Kang Hyon Gyong, weightlifter of the Amnokgang Sports Club
3. Ri Song Gum, weightlifter of the April 25 Heavy Sports Team
4. Pang Chol Mi, boxer of the Kumgangsan Sports Team
5. Mun Hyon Gyong,

wrestler of the April 25 Heavy Sports Team

6. Kim Il Gyong, weightlifter of the April 25 Heavy Sports Team

7. Kim Yu Sim, Taekwon-Do player of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do Team

8. Ri Chong Song, weightlifter of the April 25 Heavy Sports Team

9. Ri Ji Ye, shooting player of the Defence Sports Club of the Ministry of National Defence

10. Han Il Ryong, athlete (marathon) of the Amnokgang Sports Club

Top 10 coaches

1. Kim Chun Phil, artistic gymnastics coach of the Pyongyang Sports Club

2. Jong Song Hui, teacher of the weightlifting department of Central Sports School

3. Kye Song Il,

weightlifting coach of the April 25 Heavy Sports Team

4. Pak Chol Jun, boxing coach of the Kumgangsan Sports Team

5. Kim Myong Chol, wrestling coach of the April 25 Heavy Sports Team

6. Ri Chol Rim, Taekwon-Do coach of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do Team

7. Ri Chol Nam, weightlifting coach of the April 25 Heavy Sports Team

8. Choe Hyong Chol, athletics (marathon) coach of the Amnokgang Sports Club

9. Sim Chong Rim, shooting coach of the Defence Sports Club of the Ministry of National Defence

10. Han Chol Hak, football coach of the April 25 Sports Team

First day of sports of the new year observed

KCNA

All the people in the Democratic People's Republic

of Korea conducted diverse mass sports activities on the first sports day of the new year 2024.

There took place group

running and Taekwon-Do demonstration of officials of commissions, ministries and national agencies at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang.

Colourful sports games took place at different units in the capital city.

Universities and schools at all levels held various sports events, folk games and amusement games.

Working people across the country also held diverse sports games on the occasion of the first sports day in the new year.

The mass sports activities conducted in different parts of the country on the occasion of the first sports day this year fully demonstrated the validity and vitality of the Workers' Party of Korea's policy on sports and encouraged the Korean people full of the enthusiasm to confidently usher in a new era of the overall development of Korean-style socialism and national prosperity.



Different sports games are played on the first sports day of the year 2024. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Historical remains, relics dating back to neolithic, bronze ages unearthed in Ryanggang Province

KCNA

Remains and relics dating back to the Neolithic Age and the Bronze Age were recently unearthed in Kanggu-dong, Hyesan City, Ryanggang Province.

The Archaeology Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences and the Korean Agency for National Heritage Conservation under the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NAPCH) conducted a comprehensive survey and unearthing of the Kanggu-dong area in Hyesan City.

In the course of it, 263 relics of 17 kinds were excavated at two Neolithic Age house sites and four Bronze Age house sites.

The house sites in the shape

of a dugout cellar with wooden pillars are mostly about 6.5 metres long, 5 metres wide and 0.25 metre deep.

Unearthed there were earthenware pieces including those with patterns peculiar to the Neolithic and Bronze ages and stone and bone tools including axe, adz, plane blade, scimitar, spearhead, arrowhead and awl.

Belonging to the period of the Late Neolithic Age (6 000 years ago) and the Bronze Age (4 000 years ago) of Korea, those unearthed remains and relics are precious data for the academic world to renew the view that the Korean nation had pioneered the area of Mt Paektu and settled down there 3 000 years ago, the early Iron Age.

The Archaeology Society of the DPRK examined the

researches on the newly-discovered remains and relics and unanimously recognized the house sites as those belonging to the late Neolithic and Bronze Ages. And it estimated the remains and relics to be the first successes of excavation with archaeological significance which proves scientifically that our ancestors had already lived in the area of Mt Paektu 6 000 years ago.

The remains and relics dating back to the Late Neolithic Age and the Bronze Age clearly prove that our ancestors pioneered and lived in the area of Mt Paektu long ago and, accordingly, Mt Paektu is the ancestral mountain of Korea and the cradle of the Korean nation which boasts a time-honoured history and culture.



Stone spear

Stone knife

Pieces of a hole-striped bowl

Stone drill

Stone netting balance weight

Pieces of the bottom of earthenware

Stone arrowhead

Stone ax

Piece of a fretted bowl

Piece of a parallel line-pattern bowl

Stone plane edge

Stone scimitar

Piece of dot line-pattern bowl

Piece of fir leaf-pattern bowl

