

## General Secretary Kim Jong Un inspects major munitions factories



**General Secretary stressed need to make 2024 a year of radical turn in boosting country's preparations for war**

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea, inspected major munitions factories on January 8-9 to learn about the production of weapons

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and combat equipment.

He was accompanied by Jo Chun Ryong, Kim Jae Ryong, O Su Yong, Kang Sun Nam, Kim Jong Sik, Kim Yo Jong, Jang Chang Ha and other senior officials of the Party Central Committee and armed forces organs.

With boundless trust and gratitude, leading officials and workers of the major munitions factories greeted the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visiting the factories to encourage them out in the struggle for attaining the huge production goal for the new year.

Making the rounds of the factories, Kim Jong Un learned in detail about the production of weapons and combat equipment.

He highly appreciated the factories for having turned out in the patriotic struggle for the successful attainment of the munitions production goal set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the Seventh Enlarged Meeting of the Eighth Central Military Commission of the WPK, and for the sustained development of the country's munitions industry to step up the production of major weapon systems on a full scale and actively introduce new technologies into production.

He expressed great satisfaction over the fact that the factories have successfully carried out the plans for deploying new-type weapons and equipment to the first-line large combined units and major missile units.

Saying with high appreciation that the fierce flames of struggle for implementing the Party's policies and innovations in

production created at the core munitions factories of the country are the clear fruition of the remarkably high spiritual strength, wisdom and enthusiasm of our officials and workers defending the munitions industry front, he called upon the major munitions factories to bring about greater leaping progress in the struggle for bolstering up the defence capabilities in 2024, too, by further keeping up the mounting spirit, being fully conscious of their important mission and duty of taking charge of the main front of modernizing the Korean People's Army and bolstering up the self-reliant military capabilities.

He stressed that the munitions industry should permanently hold fast to and positively hasten the attainment of the goal for the establishment of advanced production processes, constant expansion of production capacity and innovative modernization to produce more weapons and combat equipment in conformity with the development-oriented demand of the steadily changing and developing national defence science and industry in the new century and the objective and demand for modernization of our army.

Pointing out some shortcomings recently revealed in the organization of munitions production, he indicated the task for rationally and effectively readjusting the main production indices of munitions factories in a long-term view and on the principle of specialization, independence, consideration of factory capacity and priority to project for implementing the immediate policy.

Reiterating that it is necessary to have

a correct understanding of the strategic importance of the production of major weapons and equipment prioritized by the Party, he underscored the need to carry on the economic organization and production guidance in a militant and revolutionary way so as to make this year a year of radical turn in boosting the country's preparations for war.

He made an appraisal of the security environment of the DPRK and the regional situation, stating the necessity and validity of the sustained storing of incomparably overwhelming strength.

Saying that the historic time has come at last when we should define as a state most hostile toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the entity called the Republic of Korea which has pursued a history of vicious confrontation with bloodshot eyes in an attempt to overthrow our government and social system for nearly 80 years, he stressed that our state should recognize this unavoidable and irrevocable reality as it is and properly settle the historic problem of actively coping with the new phase of change and thoroughly countering everything.

Predicating that the ROK clan is our principal enemy, he said that what the DPRK should prioritize in the relations with the hostile state, which is hell-bent on arms buildup while inciting the confrontation posture against the DPRK, is to bolster up the military capabilities for self-defence and the nuclear war deterrent first of all.

He said that we would by no means unilaterally bring a great event on the overwhelming strength in the Korean peninsula but we have no intention of

avoiding a war either. If the ROK dares to attempt to use armed forces against the DPRK or threaten its sovereignty and security and if such opportunity comes, we will without hesitation annihilate the ROK by mobilizing all means and forces in our hands, he said, affirming that we have such will, forces and capabilities and will continue to expand and strengthen them without delay in the future, too.

He noted that the DPRK will invariably take the definite action based on the principle of righteous struggle, unless the gangster-like ruling forces of the ROK realizes the mistake of the self-destructive anti-DPRK confrontation policy, which runs counter to the desire of mankind for peace and brings misfortune on itself, and completely gives it up. And he set forth the revolutionary policies to be permanently held fast to and carried out by the munitions industry sector in more strictly perfecting the country's war preparedness.

All the workers in the munitions industry, who have realized the steadfast will of Kim Jong Un reflecting the principle of resolute counteraction against the enemies and the revolutionary stand of the WPK and the DPRK government, are filled with ardent enthusiasm for firmly defending the sacred revolutionary cause of Juche by surely attaining the fighting goals set by the Party Central Committee with absolute loyalty and the spirit of devoted implementation, being fully aware again of the sense of momentous mission that the increased production of military hardware precisely means the safeguarding of dignity and sovereignty of the country.



# General Secretary inspects newly-built Kwangchon Chicken Farm



## Need to bring about great turn in development of poultry farming by modernizing production bases underscored

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, gave field guidance at the newly-built Kwangchon Chicken Farm on January 7.

He was accompanied by his respected daughter.

Accompanying him were also Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Cabinet, and senior officials of the Party Central Committee Ri Il Hwan, Jon Hyon Chol, O Su Yong, Ju Chol Gyu, Kim Yong Su, Kim Yo Jong and Hyon Song Wol.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un

was greeted by leading officials of the farm on the spot.

Making the rounds of the general control room and production blocks at the farm, he learned in detail about its modernity, production capacity and actual state.

Kim Jong Un, who regards the prosperity of the country and the promotion of the people's well-being as his lifelong mission and has devoted his all to its realization, personally initiated the construction of the modern Kwangchon Chicken Farm which would greatly contribute to the improvement of the Korean people's diet and the development of the country's

poultry industry, took strong measures for its construction and solved the problems arising in the construction including the design and the supply of materials and funds. He also paid close attention to the construction of fodder farm and dwelling houses and energetically guided it.

Thanks to his meticulous care and energetic guidance, the Kwangchon area has successfully turned into a model of the poultry industry like a textbook epitomizing the far-reaching ideal of the WPK and the rapid development of the DPRK.

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The Kwangchon Chicken Farm has perfectly put the production of chickens and eggs on an intensive and scientific basis so that it can be proudly said to be a model and standard of poultry farming in the country. It has full sets of modern equipment which automatically controls all processes ranging from temperature and humidity to lighting, feed supply and excrement disposal in the breeding houses. And the veterinary and anti-epizootic work and experimental analysis system has been established on a high level and the work, study and living environments for its employees are on a high level.

Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction over the fact that the Kwangchon Chicken Farm was successfully built as a new criterion and model in the development of the country's poultry industry as planned by the WPK.

He highly praised the loyalty and patriotism of all the officials and builders who successfully built such a smart and standard farm perfectly with do-or-die determination to correctly carry into practice the plan and decision of the Party Central

Committee, which set forth the construction of the farm as an important undertaking for the improvement of the people's living.

He was very pleased with the fact that the new concept, mode and high level which cannot be compared to before were developed in the production and management of the farm, saying that the farm, which has put production on an automatic and scientific basis at the highest level, is a proud model of the times desired and demanded by the WPK from A to Z and serves as a good standard clearly indicating the goal to be attained by all units aspiring after modernization.

He said that he is very happy to see the streams of chickens and eggs flowing from the modern production process and that the WPK is planning to build another farm like the Kwangchon Chicken Farm in Pyongyang Municipality within this year.

He set forth important tasks for the farm to steadily put itself on a more modern and scientific footing as befitting a model unit leading the development of the country's poultry farming and an advanced sci-tech disseminating base and continue to bring about a leap forward in the growth of

production.

Saying that it is an important principle and requirement of the WPK to lower production cost and improve the quality of products by optimizing and standardizing the technical control and equipment, breeding and feed management, he discussed with senior officials accompanying him the ways for updating the poultry farming bases across the country.

He stressed the need to hold fast to the normalization of production as an important policy-oriented task, meticulously organize the production and management activities and constantly increase the production capacity so as to provide the people with much more meat and eggs.

Saying that the Kwangchon Chicken Farm, which successfully created the standard and model of development for the present era, should hold high the banner in the van of the struggle for the development of the country's poultry farming and regional industry and the improvement of the people's living standards in the future, too, he called for bringing about a great turn in the development of poultry farming by modernizing the poultry farming bases across the country with the

farm as a standard and a substantial change in the people's living by generalizing the experience gained in the construction and modernization of the farm on a nationwide scale and expanding the successes.

He gave an instruction on making the officials and scientists of the Poultry Institute, scientific research and educational institutions at all levels, the machine-building sector and other relevant units visit the farm and study its experience, saying that it is important for all sectors and units to have a correct understanding of the standard of modernization required by the Party at present and of the technical target to be attained.

All the officials and employees of the farm were filled with a firm determination to uphold the honour of the farm as a model of the times conducive to improving the people's living standards by clearly demonstrating the validity and vitality of the Party's policies with steady development and rapid production results, true to the noble intention of Kim Jong Un, who spares nothing for the people, saying that the people's happy laughter represents the foremost national power.



# Premier Kim inspects agricultural sector of South Hwanghae



Premier Kim Tok Hun (second from left) inspects the Samjigang Farm in Jaeryong County.

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, made a field survey of the agricultural sector in South Hwanghae Province.

Going round several farms in Jaeryong and Sinwon counties and other areas, he encouraged the agricultural workers out in the new year's advance true to the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central

Committee.

South Hwanghae Province, the biggest agricultural province and the main granary of the country, should take the lead in attaining the grain production goal for 2024 set by the Party, he said, urging the agricultural officials and workers in the province to make substantial preparations for farming on the basis of the successes and experience of last year.

He stressed that the agricultural guidance organs at all levels should regard the scientific farming as their lifeline to provide a sure guarantee for increasing grain production,

continue to encourage the agricultural workers to actively tap and mobilize organic fertilizer sources and concentrate manpower on increasing manure production.

He learned in detail about the growth of winter wheat and barley and underlined the importance of bringing about substantial successes in the earlier crop farming by manuring and cultivating the crops in a scientific and technological way in conformity with the climatic conditions.

The premier said that the machine-building units across the country should produce more high-performance farm machines and send them to the countryside and the farms should properly overhaul farming equipment and decisively raise the proportion of mechanization in farming.

A field consultative meeting discussed the issues arising in raising good crops this year, including the issue of consistently pushing ahead with the work for perfecting the irrigation system and the issue of fully securing various farming materials.

# SPA Standing Committee chairman inspects various sectors in Pyongyang

KCNA

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, inspected various sectors in Pyongyang Municipality.

He visited the Pyongyang Schoolchildren's Footwear Factory, which was successfully built thanks to the noble outlook of the great Party Central Committee on the rising generation. He called on all its officials and employees to produce many quality shoes with parental affection, being fully conscious that it is the consistent and eternal policy of the Party and the state to provide schoolchildren with essential commodities in a responsible manner.

Making the rounds of the general analysis room, the milk workshop and other places of the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, he stressed the importance



Choe Ryong Hae (third from right) gives field guidance at the Pyongyang Condiments Factory.

to produce delicious and nutritious dairy products with high hygienic safety by inspecting products in a responsible way and thus add lustre to the undying leadership exploits of the peerlessly great persons associated with the factory.

Learning in detail about the production at the Pyongyang Condiments Factory, he referred to the importance of its duty in improving the people's diet and noted that the factory should steadily update the processing technology by strengthening its own technical force and decisively raise the quality of wheat paste and other

products.

He urged the relevant units to more dynamically conduct mass movements and called upon deputies to fulfil their responsibility and duty as representatives and servants of the people in implementing the policies of the Party and the state.

Meanwhile, he visited the units for the supply of domestic water in the Chongnyu area of Taedonggang District, stressing the need to manage equipment and machines in a more responsible manner so as to provide citizens in the capital city with every convenience.

# Regional meetings vow to implement decisions of Party plenum



Public processions follow provincial rallies to pledge to implement the decisions made at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

KCNA

Meetings took place in all provinces to vow to thoroughly implement the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Present there were officials of local Party and power organs, working people's organizations, industrial establishments, farms and universities and working people and youth

and students.

Conveyed at the meetings were warm thanks from the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to all the Party members and people and servicepersons across the country who contributed to filling 2023 with successes of loyalty and patriotism.

Reports and speeches were made there.

Speakers said that significant 2023 was glorified as a year of great turn and great change in which a great footprint was

left in the glorious course of development of the DPRK under the wise leadership of the Party.

They stressed that every sector and unit should steadily concentrate efforts on the 12 major goals of key importance in developing the economy and improving the people's living standards by further boosting the offensive spirit on all fronts of socialist construction and provide a clear practical guarantee for the fulfilment of the

five-year plan.

They ardently called upon all the officials and working people, who hardened it as their bounden duty and nature to respond to the call of the Party with life-and-death practice, to make redoubled efforts and fully demonstrate once again the courageous fighting spirit and stamina in the new year's advance.

Letters of pledge to Kim Jong Un were adopted at the meetings before the start of public processions.

# Meeting and torchlight procession of young vanguard held

KCNA

A meeting of the young vanguard took place at the plaza of the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang on January 10 to vow to carry through the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Present there were Ri Tu Song, department director of the WPK Central Committee, officials of the youth league, youth and students in Pyongyang and members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade.

At the meeting Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, made a report, followed by other speeches.

A letter of pledge to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was adopted.

Then followed a torchlight procession of the young vanguard.

At the end of the procession, the artistic motivational team of the youth league central committee gave a performance at the Pyongyang Municipal Youth Park Open-air Theatre.



Young people hold a torchlight procession in Pyongyang on January 10.

# The year 2024 in DPRK

By Ri Sung Ik PT

For the DPRK, the year 2024 is a decisive year of confirming the victory in attaining the fighting goal set by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea by heightening the offensive spirit on all fronts of socialist construction.

This year every sector and unit should secure an obvious practical guarantee for the fulfillment of the five-year plan.

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea reviewed the year 2023 as a year of great turn and change both in name and reality when the DPRK left a great footprint in the glorious course of

its development in the efforts to improve the national power and to enhance the prestige of the country and set it as the general orientation of the future struggle to further expand and actively apply the favourable situation and phase which it has won through a stubborn struggle, thus successfully implementing the fighting programme of the Eighth Party Congress and laying a springboard for a new advance in the future.

The Korean people are faced with an important duty of making the remaining two years an effective process of preparing for a new development of the next stage, while steadily concluding the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress sincerely,

on the basis of the successes and experience of the past three years.

In particular, they should direct main efforts into solving the problems that are incomplete or a stumbling block in implementing the decisions of the Party Congress, from 2024 so as to further expand the successes achieved till now and prove their worth, and bring all the planned tasks into brilliant fruition.

By doing so, they must prove that the policy of struggle decided by the Eighth Party Congress and the advance they have made so far were perfectly correct.

The plenary meeting specified tasks and ways for the development of the national economy and improvement of the people's living standard, including those for further

strengthening the administrative and economic work system and order of the state and putting spurs to the growth of production and finishing the work for readjustment and reinforcement in all sectors of the national economy.

With confidence with which they braved the most difficult and severe trials, the Korean people should glorify 2024 with new and significant successes through a more mounting and strenuous struggle.

When all the Party organizations and officials faithfully fulfil the sacred mission and duty they have assumed before the state and people, rallied close around the Party Central Committee, the manifold ordeals and difficulties will be overcome and the cause of

the Korean people dynamically advancing to realize the grand ideal and goal will be further accelerated.

The Korean people have been convinced that they can certainly fulfil the five-year plan aimed at laying the foundations for the development of the national economy and advancing towards the sustained development through the past three-year struggle.

The indefatigable fighting spirit and efforts of millions of WPK members, all other people across the country and officers and men of the Korean People's Army who are infinitely faithful to the Party and revolutionary cause will bring about great changes again in the overall Party and state affairs and in socialist construction in 2024, too.

## Enlarged plenary meeting of Cabinet Party committee held

KCNA

An enlarged plenary meeting of the Cabinet Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place from January 8 to 10 to implement the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee.

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-

president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, guided the meeting.

Present there were members and alternate members of the Cabinet Party Committee, and officials concerned were on hand as observers.

The meeting reviewed last year's work for implementing the decisions of the sixth, seventh and eighth plenary meetings of the Eighth Party Central Committee and discussed measures for strictly

carrying out the policy tasks for this year on the basis of the important guidelines for struggle clarified at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

Ri Yong Sik, chief secretary of the Cabinet Committee of the WPK, made a report.

He stressed that the tasks set forth at the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee are guidelines indicating the scientific and concrete orientation

and ways for making the overall development period of Korean-style socialism have a firm aspiration and achieving greater success by bringing about a dynamic upsurge in the revolution and an inspiring banner powerfully arousing all the people.

The meeting strictly analyzed and reviewed the shortcomings and lessons drawn in the course of implementing the Party decisions last year.

The issue of further intensifying the Party's guidance and control for decisively stabilizing and improving the people's living was brought up for discussion at the meeting.

The meeting discussed in depth the issues arising in establishing the revolutionary discipline and order at the Party organizations at all levels and enhancing their activity and fighting efficiency and directing and subordinating the

Party work to the thorough implementation of the Party's policies.

There were consultative meetings of panels for confirming the guarantee for the implementation of the policy-oriented tasks facing the Cabinet and economic organs in accordance with the advance orientation and fighting strategy clarified at the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee and for working out thorough plans for their execution.

## Production plans overfulfilled in major industrial sectors from the outset of the new year

By Song Jong Ho PT

Officials and workers in the key industrial sector of the DPRK are setting new standards and records every day through collective innovations.

The workers of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the Chollima Steel Complex produce Juche iron 1.3 times more than the same period of last year.

Those at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex

and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex operate equipment at full capacity to keep the production on a higher rate as compared with the same period of last year.

The workers of thermal power plants and hydro-power stations across the country produced millions of kWh of more electricity than scheduled within a few days from the beginning of the new year.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, the Suncheon Area Youth

Coal-mining Complex, the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex and other coal-mining complexes have introduced rational mining methods and concentrated efforts on increasing the coal transport capacity. They are sending a lot of coal to the socialist economic construction sites while conducting a high-speed tunnelling campaign.

Workers and technicians of the Ryongsong Machine Complex are concentrating all efforts on the production

of mining equipment for coal mines, and workers of various units including the Taean Heavy Machine Complex and the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Factory are speeding up the processing of parts and accessories.

Officials and working people in the mining industry have achieved successes in the production of minerals from the first day of the new year.

They produced twice more minerals than planned on January 3 alone.

The Musan Mining Complex succeeded in blasting 500 000 cubic metres of earth on January 8.

The successful blasting made a breakthrough in producing much more concentrated iron ore for iron and steel works in the field of metal industry.

Mines and smelters in the sector of mining industry, in cooperation with scientific research institutions, are ensuring the stability of stopes and actively introducing advanced

technology conducive to raising both extraction rate and actual concentration rate.

The Suncheon Limestone Mine conducted a 200 000 cubic-metre blasting successfully on January 5.

It provided a guarantee for the mine to ensure the proper supply of the main raw material for the production of cement to be sent to major construction projects.

Officials and workers in the forestry sector, too, are bringing about good results in timber production every day.



Smelters just finish the first cooperative steel casting in the New Year 2024 at the Ryongsong Machine Complex (far left). A snapshot shows a 200 000-cubic-metre blasting carried out at the Suncheon Limestone Mine. RODONG SINMUN

# With a rifle in one hand, a hammer, sickle or writing brush in the other

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

January 14 this year marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, a Juche-based paramilitary force.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, General Kim Il Sung clarified the immutable truth that the people constitute the state, the rear and the regular army, set up various forms of paramilitary organizations such as the Anti-Japanese Self-Defence Corps, Young Volunteers' Corps and Children's Vanguard and achieved the historic cause of Korea's liberation by relying on the strengthened Korean revolutionary forces.

On the basis of his rich experience

gained in building paramilitary forces in the days of the anti-Japanese war, Kim Il Sung provided a guarantee for expanding and strengthening the national defence forces in the period of building a new Korea and made sure that the political and military might of paramilitary forces was fully displayed in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Scientifically seeing through the requirements of the developing revolution and the change in the situation after the war, he mapped out a plan to arm all the people and founded the more elite Worker-Peasant Red Guards on January 14 1959 by reorganizing the former People's Self-Defence Corps.

As a result, an all-people, nationwide defence system with the Korean People's Army as the core was established in the country.

True to the Workers' Party of Korea's policy on arming all the people and turning the whole country into a fortress, the WPRG has fulfilled its mission and role in frustrating at every step the ceaseless manoeuvres of the aggressors to unleash a new war, together with the KPA.

Whenever the Korean peninsula faced a crisis in which a new war might break out owing to the spy plane EC-121 incident, the Panmunjom Incident and others caused by the US imperialists in the 1960s, the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards across the country turned out in death-defying resistance against the aggressors, fully ready for action.

Under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the

WPRG fully prepared itself politically and ideologically and in military technique as an invincible armed force. When a semi-war state was declared in the DPRK in the 1990s, its members all across the country reliably defended the positions for safeguarding the country and defending hometowns.

The might of the WPRG is now growing stronger under the guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

At major meetings and in his important letters for the development of the WPRG, he indicated the tasks and policies for firmly safeguarding the gains of the revolution achieved at the cost of blood by bolstering up its self-defence capabilities in every way.

He also ensured that the WPRG

was more fully prepared politically and in military technique and the policy of arming all the people and fortifying the whole country was thoroughly implemented in line with the characteristics of modern warfare and the actual conditions of the country which is exposed to constant war threat so as to turn the whole country into an impregnable fortress.

The paramilitary parade held in September last year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK demonstrated again to the world the development of its paramilitary forces.

The 65-year course followed by the WPRG as a Juche-oriented paramilitary force is the glorious history in which it has developed under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea.

## DPRK makes full preparations for all-people resistance



The paramilitary parade to mark the 75th birthday of the DPRK in September 2023 demonstrates to the world the development and modernity of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards.

By To Kyong Chol PT

A paramilitary parade, which was held with splendour at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang in September last year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the DPRK, demonstrated the development aspect and modernity of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards which has developed into a strong self-reliant militia.

Paraders were overflowing with unyielding will to make achievements in every workplace of creation and construction in peacetime and to hold arms in contingency to mercilessly punish and annihilate the enemies.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un appeared on the platform, all the paraders broke into thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!" simultaneously, which gave full play to the aspect of the WPRG as a force strong in ideology and faith and loyal to the cause of the Party.

Preceded by the column of the division of the capital city Party members, the powerful hard core and the special detachment of the Workers' Party of Korea, each column of provincial WPRG demonstrated the spirit of invincibility of the WPRG which has fully discharged their sacred mission and duty on the two fronts of socialist construction and national defence, while firmly holding arms in one hand and hammer, sickle or writing brush in the other.

The mechanized columns of the WPRG reminding viewers of a regular armed force showed off the ability to independently undertake any military operations and wage any battles in modern warfare.

The columns of motorcycles with high mobility, anti-tank missile launchers, anti-aircraft artillery defending the sky above every village and workplace, and the multiple rocket launchers in camouflage clearly displayed the might of the WPRG which would deal merciless blows to the aggressors.

The Korean people are firmly grasping the arms for national defence and all-people resistance as they can never allow aggressors to bring the ravages of war to this land again.

## Paramilitary forces the reliable wing of KPA

By Pang Un Ju PT

Paramilitary forces constitute a powerful force in national defence in the DPRK.

In the country where all the people have been armed and the whole country fortified, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards make up the revolutionary armed forces of the Workers' Party of Korea and are the reliable wing of the Korean People's Army.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, Commander Kim Il Sung set forth the unique idea of building paramilitary forces with broad revolutionary masses along with the standing revolutionary armed forces, thus establishing the tradition of building revolutionary militias.

He organized various forms of paramilitary forces in the days of building a new Korea after liberation from Japanese military rule. With a keen insight into the requirements of the developing revolution and the changing situation after the Fatherland Liberation War, he founded the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, a powerful militia, on January 14 1959.

The founding of the WPRG was an event of great historic significance in building the paramilitary forces of the Workers' Party of Korea and arming all the people and marked a significant occasion of epochal significance in firmly establishing the all-people and nationwide defence system and increasing its strength in every way.

President Kim Il Sung put forward the policy of simultaneously promoting economic construction and defence building at the historic Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the WPK to cope with the prevailing situation, and wisely led the efforts to implement the Party's policy on arming all the people and turning the whole country into an impregnable fortress, while strengthening the KPA, the core

force of the defence capabilities, into invincible revolutionary armed forces.

Chairman Kim Jong Il ensured that a unified system of command over all the paramilitary forces including the WPRG was established thoroughly and that the ranks of cadres of the WPRG were built up politically and ideologically and in military technique.

He constantly developed and enriched the President's Juche-oriented idea and theory on the building of paramilitary forces as required by the times and the developing revolution, ensured that the WPRG members reliably defended the socialist country and the gains of the revolution and organized a parade of the WPRG with splendour to demonstrate the might of the militia of the DPRK to the whole world.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un saw to it that a parade of the WPRG was staged with splendour to mark the 65th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK and a meeting of active commanding officers of the WPRG was held in the year of its 55th anniversary in order to add eternal brilliance to the Juche-oriented ideas of building paramilitary forces of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and their leadership exploits and bring about a fresh turn in the civil defence work.

The paramilitary parade which was held last year to celebrate the 75th birthday of the DPRK, in particular, showed off the proud looks of the WPRG which increased its military and technical strength to a high level in conformity with the characteristics of modern warfare and the actual conditions of the country and the revolutionary spirit and indomitable fighting stamina of the Korean people who were performing fresh miracles and achieving new victories in socialist construction and the boosting of national defence capabilities by rallying closely around Kim Jong Un.

The DPRK is impregnable as it has the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, the reliable wing of the Korean People's Army.

# Trust and return

By Jong Hwa Sun *PT*

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea set forth important goals and ways to accelerate social progress and overall national rejuvenation with the steady increase of the scientific and technological capabilities and practical vitality of attaching importance to science and technology.

It is the determination and will of the Workers' Party of Korea to rapidly develop all sectors by dint of science and technology and build a people's paradise as soon as possible.

The State Academy of Sciences has a substantial role to play in this regard.

January this year marks the tenth anniversary of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's first field guidance tour of the State Academy of Sciences.

On January 14 2014, Kim Jong Un visited the Unjong Science Park. He made the rounds of various places for a long time and said that scientific research is like making a way through virgin snow and that no matter how difficult the country's situation may be, prominence should be given to science and technology and constant efforts should be directed to the development of them. The Party has decided to build modern houses for the scientists of the State

Academy of Sciences this time and he has come to the academy that day mainly to solve the problem of dwelling houses for scientists, he added.

That day he had a photo session with scientists and left it at around midday. And he continued the long journey for scientists to provide them with a wonderful holiday camp.

He spent the whole day from early morning to late evening for the scientists of the State Academy of Sciences.

Shortly after, construction projects were launched for scientists in the Unjong Science Park and on the shore of Lake Yonphung.

He visited the construction sites several times later to solve the problems arising in the projects. In October that year, he visited the completed Wisong Scientists Residential District and the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp

**Researchers are engrossed in their work at Manufacturing Centre 111 of the State Academy of Sciences.**



and was very satisfied that wonderful structures for scientists were built.

In January 2018, he visited the State Academy of Sciences again as his first field guidance in the new year. He looked round the research findings presented by its scientists one by one, saying that they have done a great deal of work, the academy is a home of self-reliance and self-development and the WPK is strong as the great army of reliable scientists fervently support its policies and turn out in the struggle to implement them.

His repeated loving care and trust greatly encouraged its scientists to redouble their efforts in scientific research.

Thanks to their painstaking efforts, significant progress was made in expanding the production capacity of key industries including metal, chemical and electric power, the pillars of the self-supporting economy, and pushing forward with their

modernization, and many edifices were built across the country to contribute to improving the people's standard of living.

They also conducted untiring research into basic sciences to come up with surprising research findings, attracting the attention of the world scientific circles and developed and applied lots of pieces of advanced equipment and new technologies, rendering a contribution to putting the national economy on a Juche, modern and IT basis.

Scientists of the State Academy of Sciences are now eager to make great strides in bringing about fresh innovations and development by dint of science and technology this year, too, a decisive year of confirming the victory in attaining the fighting goal set by the Eighth Party Congress by heightening the offensive spirit on all fronts of socialist construction.

## Research findings conducive to economic development

By Yun Kyong Il *PT*

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea set forth important goals and ways for accelerating social progress and the overall national rejuvenation by dint of the steady development of the sci-tech capability and practical vitality of the line of attaching importance to science and technology, including the establishment of a system for purposefully setting the pivotal and magnetic up-to-date sci-tech development plan and concentrating scientific research forces on implementing it and the integrated control over the country's development of science and technology.

True to the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee, scientists and researchers of the State Academy of Sciences are striving to present valuable sci-tech research hits that will substantially contribute to the economic development of the country.

Those of the paper

engineering institute brought out a technology for producing paper to be used in making containers for storing milk powder badly needed for implementing the childcare policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

They reasonably chose basic raw material and other auxiliary materials for ensuring water resistance, on the basis of confirming the technical indices of paper to be used for the sacks of storing milk powder in line with an advanced level. They also established a technical process for producing quality paper for packaging sacks by coating the surface of paper. The paper is said to meet different technical and economic indices including mass and water absorption degree per one square metre on a high level.

Scientists of the Central Mining Research Institute solved scientific and technological problems arising in industrializing metal manganese production by using locally-available low-grade wad.

They manufactured new

equipment to ensure several industrialization indices including cost reduction, improvement of actual yield of products and stability, and found out a way of remarkably reducing the reagent consumption standards as against previously and solving and completing many other problems including the one of newly establishing a method of operating filter by conducting research to form the processes in a reasonable way.

Researchers of the high-tech exchange centre under the nonferrous metal institute ensured the domestic production of materials to be used in copper plating for a brand printing process and established a new production process of materials for plating printing rollers.

Various institutes under the Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences came up with valuable research findings conducive to improving the people's living standards.

The analytical chemistry institute solved a problem for newly establishing a method of analyzing, extracting and separating a metallic material

badly needed in economic development from minerals or concentrated ores.

The inorganic chemistry institute and some others researched and introduced a technology capable of making salt irrespective of seasons by an industrial method.

The Chemical Materials Institute developed a technology of restoring non-excavating pipelines of great practical significance, contributing to solving the problem of domestic water for the citizens in the capital city, while the inorganic chemistry institute set up a slow effective urea fertilizer production process in a vegetable farm and proved its economic effectiveness in a scientific way by conducting sufficient application tests of products on paddy rice and maize.

The coating material research institute is now working to more widely introduce good achievements after establishing a method for turning out a functional paint whose technical specifications have markedly improved as against ordinary paints into the fishing sector.

### Revolutionary anecdotes

## District for scientists tells stories of love

Wisong Scientists Residential District is a home for scientists, without parallel in the world, built under the loving care of General Secretary Kim Jong Un, who always concerns himself for the scientists and technicians and takes warm care of them.

Every part of the residential district is associated with stories about his warm love for scientists.

### Two-time visit to same apartment

In apartment house No. 5 of the residential district, whose exterior is decorated in a cool and neat style, there is an apartment which was visited by Kim Jong Un twice. It is the home of an ordinary researcher of the State Academy of Sciences and his family.

When he visited the completed Wisong Scientists Residential District on October 13 2014, the General Secretary looked at the entrances to apartment houses and said with satisfaction that the entrance halls look very nice with the circular windows added to them as instructed by him and that the appearance of the apartment houses changed completely.

Then he entered apartment No. 1 on the first floor of the first entrance. It was the very apartment he had visited when he came to the residential district under construction on June 19 a few months ago.

At that time he said that all apartments should be equipped with TV sets and that since large TV tables were put in the living rooms, he would send large-screen LED TVs that would suit the size of the tables.

When he visited the apartment for the second time, he had the TV set he had brought with him installed in the living room. Then he said that he was going to give LED TVs, quilts and household utensils as gifts to the families of scientists who would move into the residential district.

### For health of scientists

On his visit to Wisong Scientists Residential District on October 13 2014, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un looked round the Wisong Pharmacy and the Wisong Polyclinic.

At the pharmacy, he approached a medicine showcase to learn about the supply of medicines. Then, he stressed the need for taking measures to ensure a regular supply of medicines in the future.

After making meticulous requests at the pharmacy, he went to the polyclinic.

There he said that the polyclinic was well designed and the building work was also done in a qualitative way.

Looking round different parts of the residential quarter for scientists that day, he said that the construction of the district was not aimed at demonstrating the country's architecture but at encouraging scientists to put their heart and soul to scientific research without any inconvenience and that the Korean scientists are patriots who devote their lives to building a prosperous country with the faith that there is no border in science but they have the socialist motherland and the motherly Party.

### Love shown at primary school

When the General Secretary visited the completed Wisong Scientists Residential District, his first stop was at Wisong Primary School where the children of the scientists would study.

There, he said that as it is the school where the children of scientists of the State Academy of Sciences would study, it can be called a place for training reserve scientists. He added that as the revolution is carried on through generations, scientific research work should also be carried on generation after generation.

As he entered a classroom, he said that the green board was good and asked what they write letters on the board with.

After looking carefully at the top of a desk and feeling it with his hand, he pointed out its shortcomings, and instructed not to let the students study in a cold classroom. Then he showed paternal affections as he went round the barber's, treatment room, indoor swimming pool and other places of the school.

# A year of improving people's living standards

## -Looking back on exhibitions of last year-

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea defined 2023 as a year of attaining key goals in improving the people's living standards and specified the task of revitalizing the production of the overall sectors and units.

Among them, it set the production of consumer goods as one of the most important economic tasks for last year.

Exhibitions related to people's life continued to take place one after another last year, making a great contribution to raising the quality of consumer goods and increasing their quantity.

### More exhibitions held on a larger scale than ever before

The exhibitions held last year were characterized by a larger number and scale than any other previous years.

They included the national footwear exhibitions in spring and autumn, the spring women's clothes show-2023, autumn clothes show-2023, spring national commodity exhibition-2023, national August 3 consumer goods exhibition-2023, international commodity exhibition-2023, national processed seafood products exhibition-2023, the 14th goods exhibition of Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, the light industrial goods exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" and provincial consumer goods exhibitions.

The spring national

commodity exhibition-2023, in particular, was held at five shopping centres simultaneously in the capital, unlike the previous exhibitions held at a shopping centre in downtown Pyongyang. As a result, the participating units nearly doubled the number in the past and over 3 660 kinds of goods were on show including manufactured goods, foodstuffs, household articles and electronic products.

The sequence of these events climaxed with the light industrial goods exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" held between October 25 and November 21 at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House in Pyongyang.

Many people still remember that it was a distinctive exhibition, which was splendid and gorgeous in scale, form and content, highlighting a new aspect of the development of light industry expanding day by day.

An official of the Ministry of Light Industry said that the exhibitions were filled with all kinds of products needed for everyday life of the people down to the details and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who works heart and soul to bring earlier the happy future of the people, showed particular interest in them.

### A glimpse of development of garment processing techniques

After the women's clothes show-2022 which was popular the year before last, public interest in and

expectations about the clothes show grew a level higher.

The spring women's clothes show-2023 and the autumn clothes show-2023 showed well the developing garment processing techniques.

On display at the autumn clothes show-2023, in particular, which was held on the theme of "Resplendently like our era, beautifully like our ideal", were more than 80 000 articles of women's, men's, children's and national clothing for autumn and winter in 27 kinds presented by over 320 units.

The exhibition, which livened up with products of new categories and new kinds, was also an arena of competition between garment makers who tried to produce more products welcomed and awaited by the people by rapidly developing the garment processing techniques.

A crowd-puller was the booth of clothes made from genuine and synthetic leather and fur including suits, coats, overcoats and fur garments.

Lots of visitors bought or ordered clothes of various styles and colours suiting their likings and aesthetic tastes.

Officials of the preparatory committee of the exhibition said that it shows that the people always want something new and their cultural and civilization level goes up with each passing day.

### A full house

The Pyongyang Yokjon Department Store was crowded with visitors every day when the national spring and autumn footwear exhibitions-2023 ran.

On display at the autumn exhibition held on the theme of "Convenience, aesthetic beauty and solidity of footwear" were more than 188 000 pairs of shoes in 930 kinds including men's, women's and children's leather, canvas and fur shoes, trainers and massaging slippers.

Every booth was packed with visitors selecting shoes of new shapes and attractive colours.

The booth of the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory was eye-catching, with well over a hundred kinds of leather shoes on display.

Visitors were seen choosing several pairs as its products were varied in form, light and very comfortable.

The proportion of trainers to leather shoes increased sharply.

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory well-known for trainers exhibited dozens of kinds of trainers, drawing public interest.

The trainers in the shape of leather shoes, whose outer rims were made with domestically produced rayon yarns, were also popular as they were novel in shape and comfortable for activities.

### Leading people to cultured and healthy diet

National exhibitions of products in various sectors had so far been held in the DPRK. Last year an exhibition specializing in processed seafood products was also held.

The exhibition showed well the development of the fishing industry, one of the three main thrusts for improving the people's

dietary life.

Over 100 units across the country presented more than 780 articles of processed seafood products in 370 kinds including frozen, pickled, fermented, dried, canned and smoked fish and fish cakes they produced.

The participants in and visitors to the exhibition said in unison that it was really convenient to see and taste fishes and seafood in the East and West Seas and their processed products in one place.

The Kalma Foodstuff Factory exhibited over 30 kinds of products including dried pollack, pickled pollack roes, pickled squids, slices of squid flesh and seafood sauce. The Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory presented to this exhibition various pickled products like salted anchovies and pickled shrimps.

Also popular were other processed marine products made from seafood raised at the breeding bases in different parts of the country.

The Pyongyang Daesong Laver Processing Factory displayed over 50 kinds of products made from laver and kelp cultivated in the West Sea of Korea and the Kim Chaek Fishery Station presented tasty and highly nutritious sweet jelly, sugar-coated beans and others made from kelp which is good for health.

The exhibition was a good occasion for enriching the people's dietary life.

### Experience sharing platform for improving quality of products

The exhibitions held to a full house in succession last year served as a useful forum for the sharing of experience and technical exchange between production units and a test ground in which an honest appraisal of them was given by the visitors.

During the exhibitions, technicians and producers of the participating units exchanged their successes and experience gained in improving the quality of products, reducing production costs, developing new products and domestically producing raw materials and recycling waste materials to make their products famous ones favoured by the people.

They received favourable feedback from the participants and visitors as well. They said that the events were really helpful as they provided a platform for widely promoting products that suit the trend of their development and aesthetic tastes of the Korean people and sharing and exchanging advanced designs and processing techniques.

"Only when we lend an ear to the aspirations and demands of the people and make strenuous efforts to create new things, can we keep pace with the developing times," said an official of the Ministry of Commerce. "Under the warm care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who wants to provide the people with better and wonderful things so that they can enjoy the advanced civilization, such exhibitions are held every year and the people's life is enriched along with them."



Scenes of the light industrial goods exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" (left), the Pyongyang Underground Store autumn commodity exhibition-2023 (top right), the national processed seafood products exhibition-2023 (below right).

# DPRK-China friendship enters new historic stage

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the People's Republic of China between January 7 and 10 in 2019.

The Chinese Party and government warmly welcomed him as the top state guest, who embarked on a historic tour of their country as the first political programme of the New Year 2019, and offered him lavish hospitality during his tour.

At the talks, top leaders of the two Parties and the two countries came to have a deep and candid understanding of international and regional issues of mutual concern for bolstering up friendship, solidarity, exchange and cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries as required by the times and expressed mutual understanding, support and solidarity on the independent stands both the Parties and governments of the two countries maintained in the fields of foreign relations.

The China visit made by

Kim Jong Un at the outset of 2019 was another event to be specially etched in the history of friendship and unity between the two Parties and the two countries.

The intimacy and genuine comradely friendship of the top leaders of the two Parties and the two countries showed that bilateral friendship serves as the motive power spurring its development despite any change of situation and challenges. Bilateral ties have developed into particular relations that are unprecedented in history and special relations of friendship that cannot be wrecked.

Under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the two countries have strived to oppose the aggression of the imperialists and defend the common cause of socialism, while fostering close strategic and tactical collaboration in the complicated international

situation.

The two Parties have strengthened their understanding and cemented friendship between the peoples of the two countries. While enhancing mutual support and cooperation in line with common interest, they have developed bilateral ties comprehensively in different fields including politics, the economy and culture and vigorously conducted travel, contact and exchange between the two countries.

The two countries have kept step with each other in resolving major international issues and worked hard to ensure peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world and establish a fair international order.

Their socialist construction has entered a new historic stage.

To attain the goals set forth at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people are pushing ahead with the building of a modern socialist country in a comprehensive way as they maintain and develop socialism with their own

characteristics. And they are also striving to thwart the frantic anti-China confrontation schemes of hostile forces and defend the country's rights to independence and development and territorial integrity.

Under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the Korean people are on a grand march for implementing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress and plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee and ushering in a new era of overall national rejuvenation.

It fully conforms to the aspirations of the two Parties and peoples of the two countries to steadily strengthen and develop bilateral ties which have taken deep roots in the hearts of the peoples by overcoming all hardships of history.

The Korean people wish the Chinese counterpart remarkable successes in the efforts to implement socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics in the new era under the leadership of the CPC headed by Xi Jinping.

## 'Hansong treaty' forced by Japanese imperialists

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

In the mid-1880s, the Japanese imperialists forced Korea to accept the "Hansong treaty" by resorting to all kinds of plots and threats.

Like all other "treaties" fabricated by the Japanese imperialists during their invasion of Korea, the "Hansong treaty" also reveals Japan's shamelessness, craftiness and viciousness.

From the latter half of the 19th century, Japan's moves for aggression against Korea became more persistent.

As big powers had their eyes on Korea which is situated in a geopolitically important position and has abundant resources, Japan got desperately anxious and made a breakthrough for invasion into the country before others.

In the meantime, a bourgeois reformist movement was maturing in Korea thanks to the enlightenment group including Kim Ok Gyun.

The enlightenment group was aiming to realize modernization of Korea through the movement.

Japan pretended to support the bourgeois reform in Korea in public, but covertly took advantage of the reformists' activities to create a favourable environment for its invasion of Korea, and finally drove the reformist movement to ruin.

Enraged by this, Seoul citizens surrounded the Japanese legation in Korea and launched a protest. The legation fled to Inchon after setting fire to their office building.

And they urged their government to send aggression forces to Korea and take "retaliatory measures", claiming that the Koreans "attacked and set fire to the legation" and "Japanese residents were killed".

The Japanese authorities, who had long sought a chance for invasion, hurled seven warships and two battalions of aggression troops into Korea and forced the Korean feudal government to accept the aggressive and predatory "Hansong treaty" capitalizing on the complicated situation in the wake of the "Kapsin coup".

In the "treaty", the Japanese aggressors stipulated that Korea must issue a statement to apologize to Japan and investigate and arrest the Koreans who killed Japanese and impose heavy penalties. They also made a gangster-like demand that the Korean feudal government should pay them more than 100 000 won under the pretext of making up for the "damage" suffered by Japanese merchants and for rebuilding the legation which had been burnt down.

After the forced conclusion of the "Hansong treaty", Japan made more frantic moves for aggression and finally turned Korea into its complete colony and inflicted untold misfortunes and pains on the Korean people for decades.

Thus, Japan's history of aggression against Korea in the first half of the last century is peppered with illegal, unjust and gangster-like acts.

This notwithstanding, Japan has never apologized honestly for its past crimes for more than 70 years since its defeat in the Second World War, but rather persisted in its reckless hostile moves against the DPRK.

Today, the Korean people's hatred against Japan has reached an extreme and it will have to pay dearly if it does not settle its wrongdoings.

## New era of agricultural mechanization ushered in



**So Song Chol**  
Deputy director of the Vehicle Industry Bureau

In recent years, a new scene of the socialist countryside, sea of farm machines, has unfolded in the DPRK.

It is the firm decision of General Secretary Kim Jong Un to cover all farms of the country with modern farm machines made by our own efforts and technology and enable all agricultural workers to do farming merrily with machines, thereby providing a new scene in the socialist countryside.

He set forth the task of completely transforming the farm machine industry of the country by concentrating investment in major farm machine factories and farm

machine research sector and took special crucial measures to this end at the plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

There is something that he specially stresses in producing farm machines.

It is to make even a single machine to practically contribute to agricultural production, suit the constitution and characteristics of our farmers and be used by our people.

True to his request, production units across the country made thoroughgoing preparations.

On the basis of comprehensively analysing

capacities of different developed farm machines they creatively supplemented them with excellent functions, designed farm machines by reflecting the opinions of farmers who would handle them and took trial products to farms to complete them by operating them on the spot.

As a result, a kind of parade of 5 500 farm machines made by the workers in the munitions industry took place in South Hwanghae Province, an agricultural province of the country, in September 2022 and last year famous machine production units of the country produced and sent many farm

machines to socialist rural communities.

Also, the Kumsong Tractor Factory is turning into a core factory in comprehensively mechanizing the rural economy and the Junghung Farm in the City of Samjiyon is developing into a model unit of comprehensive mechanization.

Looking at the highly efficient farm machines provided under the care of the Party, people are confident about the bright future of the socialist countryside vigorously advancing towards a new era of rural development, a new horizon of rapid development.

To bring earlier the future, the Vehicle Industry Bureau, too, set practical long-term goals to produce and supply highly efficient tractors and farm machines as it needed and is vigorously pushing forward with the work to that end.

### BYWORD

## Iron horse in campaign for defending socialism

General Secretary Kim Jong Un visited the exhibition of machinery and equipment which the workers of the machine-building industry sector had made as presents of loyalty to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in May 2016.

Seeing a new model of 80hp tractor, Kim Jong Un learned about the proportion of its use of domestic materials. Then he said it was great and praised it as precious creation born by self-reliance. We made great

progress in advancing under the banner of self-reliance by making the new-type tractor with our own strength and technology and in our style, he said, and referred to the tractor as an iron horse in the campaign

for defending socialism.

With the rural development in the new era, not only such iron horses but various kinds of farm machines, including rice-seedling transplanter and thresher, work on farm fields.

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# Establishment of new international financial order, growing trend of the times

By Song Jong Ho PT

With multipolarization being promoted in the international political structure, there is a growing international trend toward boycotting the US dollar and encouraging the use of national currencies.

In the past the US made a puppet of international financial organizations by wielding the dollar and plundered the world by indulging in arbitrariness and dictatorship.

But as many countries reject the dollar today, its hegemonic position is collapsing rapidly in the international financial circles.

In recent years, commodity prices have jumped continuously and consumer spending has fallen drastically in the US due to reckless armament, sanctions and trade war. The national debt reportedly reached an all-time high of US\$ 34 trillion for the first time recently.

Analyzing that the US' economic arbitrariness and serious debt crisis

made many countries no longer trust the US dollar, international economic experts argue that it "may accelerate the end of the dollar's dominance".

Actually, many countries opt to establish the national currency settlement system in order to escape from the threat of the dollar's hegemony.

Moves are growing to exclude the US dollar which has been mainly used for payment in oil transactions for decades.

Russia, China, Iran and other countries have dealt in oil with national currencies, considerably weakening the position of the US dollar.

Only two of the world major oil contracts were concluded in national currencies, not with the US dollar, between 2015 and 2021, but 12 contracts were signed to pay the Chinese yuan and other national currencies in 2023 alone.

Reportedly, the national policy analysis association of Nigeria recently said that it is beneficial to make all oil and gas transactions at home in national currency, not

the US dollar, and demanded that the government make oil and gas dealers do business in national currency.

The boycott of the US dollar has emerged not only in oil transaction but also in other fields of international trade.

According to the IMF, many countries pay international trade in national currencies and exclude the US dollar in cross-border trade.

BRICS, ASEAN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other international organizations widely encourage the use of national currencies in trade.

The 15th BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August last year discussed the issues on the expansion of its membership and use of national currencies in economic cooperation, especially in trade and financial deals, as its important agenda items.

China has already made trade contracts with many countries including Russia, Brazil, France and Argentina with the yuan as payment currency.

Russia also conducts many trade activities including the export of oil and gas products with ruble to counter the frantic sanctions of the US and the West, and India employs the Indian rupee in trade settlement with neighbouring countries.

Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil producer, conducts trade with China in national currency, following the road of boycotting the US dollar.

Such moves of BRICS member nations, making up 41% of world population, 24% of the world total industrial output value and 16% of the world trade volume, deal a heavy blow to the current financial settlement system in which the US dollar is the axis currency.

The public are of the opinion that the stronger regional tendencies towards boycotting the US dollar and encouraging national currencies grow, the graver difficulties the US will encounter.

It is an unstoppable trend of the times to reject the US-led international financial system and establish a new international financial order.

## BRICS enhances international status, influence

By Pak Song Min PT

The membership of BRICS has doubled in the beginning of the new year.

As is known, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Ethiopia became full members of BRICS on January 1 2024 according to an agreement reached at the 15th BRICS summit held in late August last year.

Accordingly, BRICS, which stood for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and embraced a quarter of the world economy, one fifth of the global exports and 40 percent of the world population, has emerged as a more powerful force comprising 10 members this year.

Referring to the fact that BRICS is enhancing and extending its international status and influence after emerging as a major force representing the interests of developing countries, analysts asserted that the higher its status is, the further the world landscape will change and the more rapidly its multipolarization process will unfold and that it is irreversible that the West will perform less role in international issues.

Many countries are expressing positive support and sympathy to the full membership of the five countries.

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the cohesive power of the BRICS cooperative system is growing day by day and its influence also keeps growing and the expansion of its members into ten

conforms to the common desire of developing countries and the historic trend toward a multipolar world.

A spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry said that the expansion of BRICS means that the West's nightmare has become reality. Although the West committed mean acts against BRICS, the organization has not only remained alive but made progress and demonstrated its effectiveness, she added.

And as to the expansion moves of the organization, economists of the US and other Western countries lamented that America is now facing greater challenges from BRICS member nations.

According to their analysis, the organization will exert greater influence on the international economy as it admitted Egypt and Ethiopia occupying major global trade routes and such leading oil exporters as Saudi Arabia, Iran and the UAE.

Noting that BRICS has already started to weaken the position of the US dollar in world trade although it has not yet its own single currency for trade, they forecasted that the economy of BRICS with increased membership will make up half of the world economy by 2040.

With BRICS gaining greater influence and status, the international community is raising the voice that people are witnessing the process of creation of a multipolar world and the unipolar world is becoming a bygone.

## Deadly shooting rampant in 'beacon of human rights'

By Choe Song Jun PT

Gun-related crimes were rampant in the US styling itself the "prototype of human rights" last year and therefore it can be claimed to be a bloody year with numerous casualties.

According to information available, the country witnessed 650 large-scale shooting cases throughout 2023 as of December 27. It means that over one shooting case happened per day.

An organization defined an incident with over four casualties except the criminal as a large-scale shooting case and described last year as the peak year after 2021 in the number of shooting crimes.

The US Gun Violence Archive said that tragic shooting cases which produced more than four casualties as of October 26 last year numbered 565. A little over two months later, the number increased by 85, which testified to the prevalence of gun-related crimes in America.

Reportedly, the number of casualties caused by firearms including the deaths in large-scale shooting cases adds up to 42 370.

Before and after Independence Day in July last year, more than 20 large-scale shooting cases happened and the White House expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives on that day, saying they would pray for the day of extrication of their communities from gun violence on the occasion of Independence Day.

The US ranks first in the number of rifles possessed by civilians, which means that the number of firearms is larger than that of its population.

According to the recent opinion

poll conducted by the Pew Research Centre, 61 percent of Americans assert that legal procedure for purchasing guns is too loose.

The US, which was born of and has fattened itself with colonial plunder, has deep-rooted gun-related culture and each state has different gun-related restrictions.

Maine, which produced the largest number of deaths from shooting incidents last year, is one of the loosest states in the light of gun-related restrictions and there is no other restrictions related to the purchase and possession of firearms.

The rampant gun-related crime is an inevitable outcome of the social system of the US where such extreme social contradictions as the gap between the rich and the poor and racial discrimination are dominant.

The political system which restrains each other, ever-polarizing political environment, strong interest groups and the aggravation of social contradiction have made the gun-related violence a chronic disease and ceaseless nightmare of American society.

In the US, the coloured are killed by small arms more than the white and the rate of the coloured and ethnic minorities possessing firearms due to racial discrimination is increasing.

Although the firearm culture causes such a fatal consequence, the US fails to take positive measures to resolve the problem.

It is really preposterous for the country, which fails to defend the most elementary human right to existence, to pretend to be the "beacon of human rights" in the international arena.

## Briefly

### China

#### Sanctions imposed on US

The Chinese government decided to take retaliatory measures against the US on January 7 as they have seriously infringed upon its sovereignty.

A spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared that China decided to impose sanctions against five US munitions enterprises pursuant to the law of the People's Republic of China on anti-foreign sanctions in connection with the fact that the US recently announced a new plan for selling military supplies to Taiwan and is applying sanctions against Chinese enterprises and individuals under various pretexts.

The sanctions include the freezing of movables, immovables and other property of American enterprises in the Chinese territory and the banning of Chinese organs and individuals from dealing and cooperating with the US enterprises.

### Iran

#### Commander-in-chief vows to defend national interests

The commander-in-chief of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps expressed the will to protect the national interests from the insidious manoeuvres of hostile forces in a ceremony held in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on January 6.

Iran is now faced with an all-out war with enemies and we should defend our national interests, he said, stressing that if enemies are detected in the surrounding waters, the consequence will be bad and that they should withdraw from the waters.

He noted that the navy of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has made a signal leap in its offensive and defensive power.

### Iraq

#### PM clarifies stand to drive out foreign troops

The Iraqi prime minister announced the stand to drive out foreign troops in a ceremony held in Bagdad on January 5.

In the event held in memory of Iranian and Iraqi high-ranking officers who were killed by a missile attack by the US forces four years ago, he said that the US-led combined forces attacked the headquarters of the Iraqi paramilitary forces on January 4 to repeat the criminal act of four years ago.

### Lebanon

#### Patriotic organization retaliates Israeli attack

Hezbollah, an organization of the Lebanese patriotic forces, recently mounted a missile attack on the northern area of Israel.

On January 6, Hezbollah released a statement announcing that it launched over 60 projectiles against Israeli military installations.

It emphasized that the recent attack was carried out in retaliation for Israel's attack committed in the southern area of Lebanon on January 2.



Rimyongsu Falls forms an iconic scene in the Mt Paektu area. Its real beauty is seen in winter, decorated with hoar frost. The falls against the backdrop of white frost forming on surrounding trees in the moonlight offers an enchanting view.

## DPRK PLAYERS STEAL THE SHOW AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Last year DPRK sportspersons were successful in several international sports events, bringing honour to the country with gold medals.

The 22nd Taekwon-Do World Championships took place in Astana, Kazakhstan, between August 18 and 26.

The championships brought together more than 860 excellent men and women Taekwon-Do players from over 60 countries and regions including the DPRK, Russia, Mongolia, Greece, Argentina and South Africa.

The championships attracted special interest of the world Taekwon-Do players as they were held four years after the previous ones due to the rapid spread of the world pandemic, though they had been a biennial event.

DPRK players won 64 gold medals and the championship and 31 other trophies and obtained five of ten individual technical prizes to top the total country rankings, bringing honour to the country, the homeland of Taekwon-Do.

The Korean players also achieved good results in the 19th Asian Games.

The women's football team defeated opponents by overwhelming margins and advanced to the final match in the 19th Asian Games.

Female shooters won the 10-metre moving target shooting team event by scoring 1 655 points and An Chang Ok bagged two gold medals in the women's vaulting horse and uneven bars of artistic gymnastics with 14.049 and 14.266 points respectively.

The Korean weightlifters renewed world, Asian and Asian Games records.

Kang Hyon Gyong won the women's 55kg title by lifting 103kg in snatch, 130kg in jerk and 233kg in total, breaking the world, Asian and Asian Games records.

Ri Song Gum also took the first place in the women's 49kg category by snatching 92kg and jerking 124kg (new world, Asian and Asian Games records), 216kg in total (new world, Asian and Asian Games records).

Kim Il Gyong came first in the women's 59kg category weightlifting by snatching

111kg (new world, Asian, Asian Games, world youth and Asian youth records), jerking 135kg (new Asian Games, world youth and Asian youth records) and lifting 246kg in total (new Asian Games, world youth and Asian youth records).

Rim Un Sim came first in the women's 64kg category with 111kg in snatch and 140kg in jerk, 251kg in total, bettering the Asian Games records respectively.

Woman wrestler Mun Hyon Gyong beat the Japanese player in the 62kg freestyle final.

DPRK players earned silver and bronze medals in several events including the women's doubles of table tennis and women's basketball.

DPRK weightlifters also collected many gold medals in the 2023 IWF Grand Prix held in Doha, Qatar, between December 4 and 14.

The event drew more than 380 male and female weightlifting aces from over 90 countries and regions including the DPRK, China, Indonesia and France.

DPRK weightlifters won gold medals every day by displaying surprising power

and techniques. Ri Suk lifted 114kg in snatch and 146kg in jerk (a new world record) with explosive force to win the women's 64kg category and bring honour to the country with gold medals.

In the tournament they bagged 26 golds, 10 silvers and four bronzes, 40 medals in all, to top the country and regional medal tally and raise the men's and women's team trophies.

DPRK women footballers scored a brilliant victory in the preliminary matches of the EAFF E-1 Women's Football Championship 2024 to qualify for the finals, which took place in China recently.

In the preliminaries seven teams played round-robin matches, divided into two groups, and group winners competed in the final.

The Korean women footballers, winner of Group A, trounced China's Taipei, winner of Group B, by five points to nil in the final, booking a berth in the EAFF E-1 Women's Football Championship 2024 finals.

The achievements made by the Korean sportspeople last year gave pleasure to the local people.

## Natural monument Rojok Peak

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Rojok Peak stands near a road which runs from the seat of Pochon-ri of Myongchon County in North Hamgyong Province to Paktal Pass.

It is surrounded by rocks of fantastic shape.

The basaltic layer covering the granite of Tanchon complex which was formed in the Jurassic period of the Mesozoic age was washed out by two water courses and its middle part remains in the shape of a rice stack. It looks as if a

myriad of straw sacks have been piled up.

Its relative altitude is 50 metres and is in the shape of a cone.

Its regular cleats are developed.

In each cleat of the peak, pine and maple trees grow and the clear water of the Pochon Stream is meandering round it. An uncommon peak with singular shape, Rojok Peak is of great significance in research into the topography of the Mt Chilbo area and is a precious natural monument adding beauty to the celebrated mountain.

