



ESTABLISHED 1965

Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at Nampho Dockyard

Revolutionary policy of struggle to usher in a new era of the shipbuilding industry advanced

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, gave field guidance at the Nampho Dockyard.

Accompanying him were Jo Yong Won, Ri Il Hwan, Jo Chun Ryong, Pak Jong Chon, Jon Hyon Chol, O Su Yong and Kim Jong Sik, senior officials of the WPK Central Committee, and Admiral Kim Myong Sik, commander of the Navy of the Korean People's Army.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted by leading officials of the dockyard on the spot.

Making the rounds of various production processes and the shipbuilding site, he learned in detail about the overall situation of the dockyard and its technical equipment level.

The proud course of its development is deeply associated with the immortal leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, he said, noting that the dockyard has built many warships, large cargo ships, dredgers, fishing boats and other vessels in the past period, thus making a great contribution to defending the maritime sovereignty of the country and developing its maritime transport and

fishing industry.

He stressed that the precious history and tradition of the dockyard, which has grown into a leading shipbuilding base through the long practical struggle for implementing the Party's policies on munitions industry and shipbuilding industry, should be invariably carried forward.

Saying that the dockyard is charged with a very important task in developing the country's shipbuilding industry and strengthening its naval force, he set forth

the revolutionary policy of struggle for the dockyard to usher in a new era of the shipbuilding industry.

The strengthening of the naval force presents itself as the most important issue in reliably defending the maritime sovereignty of the country and stepping up the war preparations at present, he said, adding that this situation requires the shipbuilding industrial sector to achieve a fresh rapid development and consolidate its material and technical foundations. To modernize the shipbuilding industry of the

country as required by the new century is an important guarantee and precondition for implementing our Party's line on building the national defence and economy, he stressed.

He said that the Nampho Dockyard, which is a reliable large-scale military shipbuilding base of the country and boasts an admirable history of self-reliance, should naturally become a model and play the role as a traction locomotive in implementing the new policy of the Party for the epochal development of the shipbuilding industry.

He urged the dockyard to actively step up the modernization of the shipbuilding process, direct steady efforts to establishing cultured ways in production and life as required by the developing

reality and constantly improve the material and cultural living conditions of its employees.

He was reported in detail on the building of various warships and the preparations for a new huge plan decided and assigned by the Eighth WPK Congress.

Acquainting himself with the present situations such as the issues of building technology, design, capacity buildup and the supply of materials and products

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Kim Jong Un guides test-fire of submarine-launched strategic cruise missile



An occasion for demonstrating the rapid development of Juche-based naval force and convincing people of good prospects of the buildup of the naval force of the DPRK

KCNA

Thanks to the wise guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who set forth the original orientation for the development of the Juche-based naval force and is dynamically leading the drive for realizing it, a test of a strategic weapon was conducted, clearly demonstrating that a great new era of bolstering up the naval force is being ushered in.

The test-fire serves as an occasion for demonstrating the rapid development

of the Juche-based naval force and convincing people of the good prospects of the buildup of the naval force of the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un's line of building the strategic force calling for expanding and strengthening the sphere of operation of the state nuclear deterrent in a diversified way is being carried out in a planned and radical way, accelerating the arming of the Korean navy with nuclear weapons.

On the morning of January 28, Kim Jong Un guided the test-fire of the

newly-developed submarine-launched strategic cruise missile "Pulhwasal-3-31", together with secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the commander of the Navy and other leading officials.

The cruise missiles flew in the sky above the East Sea for 7 421s and 7 445s to hit an island target.

The test-fire had no impact on the security of neighbouring countries and had nothing to do with the regional situation.

Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction over the result of the test.

Saying that the prevailing situation and future threats urge the DPRK to put more spurs to the efforts for defending the maritime sovereignty, he stressed that the successes like today's one, which is of strategic significance in carrying out the

plan of the WPK for modernizing the army which aims to build a powerful naval force, should be achieved one after another.

Reiterating that the arming of the navy with nuclear weapons is an urgent task of the times and a core requirement for building the state nuclear strategic force, he set forth the important tasks to be tackled in arming the navy with nuclear weapons and expanding the sphere of operation of the state nuclear deterrent in a diversified way.

That day he learned in detail about the building of a nuclear submarine.

He discussed the issues related to the building of a nuclear-powered submarine and other new-type warships, indicated the immediate tasks to be carried out by relevant sectors and state measures to be taken, and made an important conclusion on the ways to implement them.



FROM PAGE 1

under contract and settling knotty problems, he gave an instruction on pushing ahead with the planned building of ships to unconditionally complete them within the period of the five-year plan.

He set forth the orientation for further strengthening the material and technical foundations of the dockyard in keeping with the important requirement for dynamically promoting the prospective

development of the shipbuilding industry, and took important measures.

He earnestly reiterated that the Party members and workers at the dockyard, who have a brilliant tradition of remaining true to the Party's defence and economic policies by fully displaying the steadfast spirit of devoted implementation and the fighting spirit of self-reliance in every annals of the revolution, should take the lead in successfully and thoroughly carrying into practice the plan of the Party which

is determined to usher in a new heyday in the buildup of the Juche-oriented naval force.

And he expressed expectation that the workers of the dockyard would successfully build on the world level the major warships, desired and decided by the WPK, by boosting still further their considerable ability and power of tenacious execution with boundless loyalty to the Party and the revolution and with patriotism.

All the Party members and other

workers of the dockyard were filled with the determination of loyalty to play the core and vanguard role in devotedly implementing the Party Central Committee's policy for the development of shipbuilding industry in the new era, cherishing deep in their mind the great trust of Kim Jong Un who put them forward in the van of the grand struggle for strengthening the country's shipbuilding industry and the Juche-oriented naval force and instilled fresh confidence and courage into them.

Workshop of officials in field of Party discipline inspection held

KCNA

The first workshop of officials in the field of Party discipline inspection took place from January 29 to 31.

The workshop was aimed at arming officials in the field of Party discipline inspection again with the line and policies of the Workers' Party of Korea in keeping with the requirements of the developing reality in which the five-point line of Party-building in the new era has proved its validity and vitality and at taking measures to effectively guarantee the political activities of the Party with a strong discipline system.

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



The first workshop of officials in the field of Party discipline inspection takes place from January 29 to 31.

Central Inspection Commission of the WPK, officials of the relevant department of the WPK Central Committee, leading officials of the provincial, city and county Party committees and Party committees that perform such function, officials in the Discipline Inspection Department, officials, lecturers and researchers of the Party cadre training institutions and officials of the relevant department of the State Inspection Commission.

Kim Chol Sam, director of the Discipline Inspection Department of the WPK Central Committee, made a report.

A practical short course was run there to bring about a radical change in the ideological viewpoint and work style of officials in the field of discipline inspection.

Premier Kim inspects Pyongyang General Hospital, major economic sectors

KCNA

Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, acquainted himself with the construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital and major sectors of the national economy.

Making the rounds of the construction site of the hospital, he referred to the need for all officials and builders to step up the construction project in hearty response to the noble intention of the Party Central Committee to give another gift to the people by building a modern medical service base.

He stressed the need to reinforce construction forces,

accelerate landscaping, ensure the timely supply of materials and equipment needed for successfully finishing the project by relevant units and carefully speed up the preparations for its operation.

At the Ministry of Electric Power Industry, he referred to the importance of power generation in carrying out the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee and discussed ways for stably maintaining the production of electricity on a high level and expanding generating capacities by pushing ahead with the regular management and technical remodelling of generating facilities and power transmission and supply systems.

He held a field consultative meeting with officials of the Ministry of Coal Industry.

Measures were taken to ensure the steady growth of coal production so as to increase the production of coal for thermal power stations, secure enough reserve coal and actively introduce highly-efficient mining facilities by kindling the fierce flames of a socialist patriotic movement for increased coal production.

As he got familiar with the result of the work in the first month for implementing the Party's decisions at the Ministry of Railways, he emphasized that officials and other employees in the sector of rail transport should have an awareness that they are defending the arteries of the country, the pilot of the national economy, and ensure the transport of freight on a preferential basis and stubbornly hit the goal for modernizing railways by making the effective use of existing transport capacities.

Kim Jong Un sends gifts to children who performed in New Year celebration

By Choe Yong Nam PT

A meeting was held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on January 22 to convey the gifts the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un sent to the children and students who had participated in the grand art performance in

celebration of the New Year 2024.

The juvenile chorus and dance "Our Home Full of Merry Laughter" performed by them added delight to the New Year celebrations with a good representation of the bright and cheerful looks of Korean children growing up happily with nothing to

envy in the world, leaving a strong impression on the audience.

Receiving the gifts along with the lists of gifts inscribed with the emblem of the Workers' Party of Korea, the children and students and their parents expressed deep gratitude to the fatherly Marshal.

Second People's Art Festival to be held to mark Day of Shining Star

KCNA

The Second People's Art Festival for Celebrating the Day of the Shining Star, the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il, will take place in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK.

The festival, to be held on the occasion of the 82nd anniversary of the birth of Kim Jong Il, is a

grand political art festival for praising the great man, which reflects the loyalty and noble moral obligation of all the people across the country who are determined to convey his revolutionary career and exploits and glorify the cause of the Sun forever.

The festival will be held, divided into the categories of art troupes, artistic

motivational squads, mobile artistic motivational teams and art groups, at theatres and halls in the capital city including the People's Palace of Culture from February 11 to 18. It will also include a magic festival.

It will bring together excellent organizations selected from different regions and units.

HOME NEWS

Birthday spread sent to centenarian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Jo In Suk, a centenarian living in neighbourhood unit No. 2 of Taehung-dong No. 2 in Huichon City, Jagang Province, on her 100th birthday.

Officials of the Huichon City Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and villagers visited the centenarian's house to congratulate her family.

She expressed her gratitude to Kim Jong Un.

She enjoys a happy life in good health in the era of the Workers' Party. She requested her descendants to do more

things for the country.

Triplets leave Pyongyang Maternity Hospital in good health



The 543rd triplets were released from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital on

January 29 for the first time this year amid blessings by many people.

The mother of the triplets is Yun Kyong Ok living in Kodae-ri, Kimhwa County of Kangwon Province, and their father Yun Myong Chol is an officer of the Korean People's Army.

Yun Kyong Ok was sent to the hospital as soon as she was diagnosed as pregnant with triplets. She gave an easy birth to her three daughters with the medical help of its

health workers.

The triplets and their parents were seen off by doctors and nurses.

2024 national schoolchildren's sports games open

The 2024 national schoolchildren's sports games opened with due ceremony at the Samjiyon City Hall of Culture on January 29.

The event will bring together more than 8 000

excellent sports group members of schools. They will compete in 18 sports.

Present at the opening ceremony were Kang Sin Chang, secretary of the Ryanggang Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials of the youth league and schoolchildren.

Paek Hak Ryong, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, made an opening address.

New era of regional growth begins

Milestone for regional development

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

General Secretary Kim Jong Un put forward the “regional development 20×10 policy”, apart from the line for rural development, in the historic policy speech he made at the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK, reflecting the plan of the Workers’ Party of Korea 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 regional industrial development.

The policy is aimed at building modern regional industry factories in 20 counties every year without fail so as to complete it in ten years.

The supreme task, to which the DPRK government should give top priority and direct great efforts at present, is to stabilize and improve the people’s livelihood as early as possible.

What is important here is to address the differences between the capital and the provinces and the imbalance between regions

It is the immutable principle of the WPK and the DPRK 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 national territory.

An example was already set in an area of the DPRK dozens of years ago.

The area is Changsong County in North Phyongan Province, a remote mountainous region, 95 percent of which is taken up by mountains.

In order to bring happiness to the county people, President Kim Il Sung made a history of “gold mountain” in the county while climbing up steep mountains and pushing his way through creepers in valleys and led it to develop its regional industry to suit its features as a mountainous county.

Thus the county underwent a great change and the song in praise of the era “Changsong Today” was created.

In order to generalize the experience of the county across the country, the President called the Changsong Joint Conference of local Party and economic officials in August 1962, in which he made an important speech constituting the guidelines for enhancing the role of counties as the regional centres of socialist construction, developing the regional economy and improving the people’s living standards.

After the conference, there mushroomed regional industry factories relying on local sources of raw materials in all parts of the country and all regions developed

their economy in accordance with their characteristics by making good use of the mountains in mountainous areas and the sea in coastal areas.

Chairman Kim Jong Il visited Changsong County more than 80 times to lead it to implement the instructions of the President.

Today, the spirit of the conference still displays its great viability.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the conference, General Secretary Kim Jong Un made public the work “Let Us Turn All Counties into a Place That Is Good to Live in by Applying the Spirit of the Historic Changsong Joint Conference” to provide guidelines to be followed in strengthening counties and enhancing their role as required by the new century. In June 2013, he visited the county to specify the tasks to be tackled in modernizing regional industry factories.

At the Eighth Congress of the WPK, he put forward the self-reliant and multifaceted development of cities and counties as a major task and set it as the general goal in building up cities and counties to turn every city and county into a strategic base of a highly civilized and prosperous socialist state, into a developed region retaining their inherent characteristics.

His leadership is bringing about substantial results.

The City of Samjiyon underwent a great change as an ideal city of people, a model socialist mountain city of culture, the Jungphyong and Ryonpho greenhouse farms were built in succession and regional industry factories of Kimhwa County were completely renovated. In addition, rural house construction has been pushed in earnest across the country.

This shows well the steadfast decision of the WPK to develop the regional economy and bring about a remarkable change in the people’s standard of living by decisively eliminating the difference between the capital and the provinces, and between urban and rural areas.

Local construction and regional development lead to the overall prosperity of the state and the happy laughter of the people and younger generation is a symbol of the socialist system and the mightiness of Korean-style socialism.

The policy of developing the regional industry newly clarified by the General Secretary serves as a motive force which enables the Party and the state to take responsibility for the development of the regional industry, bring about a radical change in the level of provincial people’s life and promote the comprehensive development of socialism faster and more vigorously. And its steady and thorough implementation is

firmly guaranteed.

In the aforementioned policy speech, he noted that the Party would responsibly provide funds, labour force and materials continuously, annually and compulsorily to each county and referred to the measures to establish a state guidance work system.

Until now, all policies of the WPK and the DPRK government have always been realized, regardless of the advantages and disadvantages of the condition, further strengthening the people’s trust in the Party and the state.

As they have keenly felt the benevolence of the Party and the state, gratitude to them and advantages of the socialist policies through their life experience, not in words or writing, the Korean people enthusiastically responded to the new regional industrial development policy mentioned in the policy speech of the General Secretary and turned out to implement it full of confidence in their life and optimism about their better future.

The “regional development 20×10 policy” will bring about excellent entities every year, as it reflects the aspirations of all the people and there are their concerted efforts to support the policies of the Party and the state by dint of thorough actions and a precious example and rich experience in developing the regional economy.

Second short course for chief secretaries of city and county Party committees held

KCNA

The second short course for chief secretaries of city and county committees of the Workers’ Party of Korea ran from January 25 to 28.

The short course focused on ensuring that city and county Party committees fulfil their responsibility and role as political staff for promoting the development of their regions and steering the trend of competitive development by giving a deep theoretical understanding of the principled and methodological issues and practical ways for thoroughly implementing the “Regional Development 20×10 Policy” and the programme for the rural revolution in the new era clarified by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.



The second short course for chief secretaries of city and county committees of the Workers’ Party of Korea runs from January 25 to 28.

Attending the short course were chief secretaries of city and county Party committees across the country and chief secretaries of the provincial Party committees, officials of relevant departments of the provincial Party committees and officials related to the regional Party work.

During the short course the participants watched the videos dealing with the measures for implementing the Party Central Committee’s idea of attaching importance to cities and counties and its line of strengthening cities and counties. They grasped the methodological issues for regional development while sharing excellent successes and experience and finding the keys to the future development from lessons.

New era of regional growth begins

Non-permanent central committee for promoting regional development 20×10 policy starts work

KCNA

The non-permanent central committee for promoting regional development 20×10 policy has officially started its work amid the vigorous organizational work for thoroughly and perfectly carrying out the innovative strategy for the development of regional industry which was confirmed and clarified at the historic 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the WPK Central Committee, bears responsibility for the work of the non-permanent central committee and guides it, according to the resolution of the enlarged meeting.

The committee is comprised of Pak Jong Gun, vice-premier of the Cabinet and chairman of the State Planning Commission, Jon Hyon Chol, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Ri Hi Yong, first deputy director of the Organizational Leadership Department of the WPK Central Committee, and other senior

officials of the WPK Central Committee, ministries and national agencies.

The committee will control and guide in a unified way the work for promoting the projects including designing and building of regional industry factories to be built according to the Party Central Committee's policy for regional development and the work for creating raw material bases.

Taking into consideration the population, natural and geographical conditions and other aspects of cities and counties, practical measures are being explored to rationally and effectively fix the scales and production capacities of factories and give precedence to the designing of factories to be built every year in a long-term and planned way on the principle of saving manpower, building site and energy and making factories technically intensive. And the ways are being found to organize construction force, supply materials and equipment and build factories in a development-oriented and modern way in keeping with the trend of development of the food and light industries.

New posters displayed across the DPRK

KCNA

New posters have been brought out in the DPRK to powerfully arouse all the Party members and other people including service personnel to the implementation of the important tasks advanced by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Posters titled "Regional development 20×10 policy for promoting the people's wellbeing!" and "Our Party's long-cherished desire, gigantic revolution!" represent the

steadfast determination and will of the Party Central Committee to radically improve the material and cultural life of regional people by translating into brilliant reality the brilliant change, called the simultaneous, balanced and rapid development of all regions, according to the strategy for developing regional industry.

The poster on the theme of "Let us all bring in a new era of local areas undergoing change!" mirrors the fighting zeal of all the people determined to bring about an unprecedented great change at all costs by faithfully upholding the immortal revolutionary programme put forward by the Party for the promotion of the people's

wellbeing.

Poster "Let the people's army be standard-bearers and masters in the struggle for developing regional industry!" clearly reflects the noble mental world of the service members who made up their mind to become standard-bearers and masters in the titanic struggle for developing the whole country into the people's ideal land after receiving the order of the Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Posters "Let's produce more quality goods favoured by the people by building modern regional industry factories!" and "Let's create and use most effectively the economic resources and sources of raw materials in cities and counties!" mirror the intention of the Party to substantially raise the standard of living of all the people a level higher and expedite the overall development of socialism through the powerful execution of the regional industrial revolution in a concentrated way.

Visual aids powerfully encouraging all the members of the Workers' Party of Korea and other people including service personnel to carry out the important tasks set forth by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at the historic 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK have been displayed in different parts of the country.



The poster calls on all the people to usher in a new era of regional change.

To advance new era of regional change

By Kim Hye Jong PT

All the people of the country are now very excited after receiving the action plan and scheme for the "regional development 20×10 policy" the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un announced at the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

A worker at the Tanchon City Foodstuff Factory said that Kim Jong Un is the father who cares more about faraway children, as he knows so well the living conditions of local people and carefully considers our heart's desire to fulfil it.

"We have so far received lots of benefits from the Party and the state, and thanks to our Marshal Kim Jong Un we could be rescued from the world-sweeping deadly disease and do farming properly last year," said a farmer at the Kilbong Farm in Sinhung County. Referring to the fact that the Marshal shouldered heavy burden again for the local people, he expressed his determination to discharge his duty as a citizen,

true to his leadership.

A farmer at the Ponggang Farm under the North Hamgyong Provincial Rural Economy Committee said: "I read and read the newspaper carrying the news about the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee day and night. We are still bubbling with excitement at the thought that our farmers will enjoy all blessings in the embrace of the Marshal in the near future."

A worker at the Anak County Garment Factory said that she has thought so far that the gap between Pyongyang and local areas is unavoidable, but our Marshal opened up bright prospects for eliminating it, adding that she can visualize the country totally changed under the leadership of our benevolent father after ten years.

A woman living in Hyejang-dong of Hyesan City said that Ryanggang Province is backward as compared to other provinces for unfavourable traffic conditions and lack of resources. That is why we have to carry necessary materials for life from other areas,

she said, adding everything seems to her like a dream that they would enjoy a life envied by everybody in the coming future though they have been envious of flat areas.

A farmer at the Chusang Farm in Hamju County said: "Our family moved into one of new modern houses the country provided us shortly ago by building them with a colossal sum of money. I thought that it is great to enjoy happiness in the new house as splendid as nice apartments in cities. But it makes me more confident that regional industry factories that are more modern than those in Kimhwa County are to be built from this year."

The desire to bring earlier a new era in which the difference between Pyongyang and local areas is removed has been fully manifested in all parts of the country.

An official of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee said: "General Secretary Kim Jong Un said so earnestly that he would live up to the expectations of the people even a bit by bringing about a practical change in the

development of regional industry without fail at the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee. I came to bear deeper in mind for whom and for what our officials are needed."

The chairman of the Koksan County People's Committee said: "I was inwardly envious of the new regional industry factories built in Kimhwa County a few years ago. But the General Secretary unveiled a bright blueprint. With a high consciousness that I am an administrator responsible for livelihood of the people in the county, I will discharge my duty and responsibility to make his affection reach them well."

A worker at the Kumya County Farm Machine Station expressed his determination to unsparingly devote everything for the innovative change of his native town, saying he would not stay idle with folded arms seeing such a great and gigantic revolution taking place. And a farmer at the Changhyo Farm in Hoeryong City said that a man can never be called a human if he only receives affection without repaying it and

vowed that he would harvest a bumper crop in all fields this year, too, as in last year.

A worker at the Sangchang Forestry Station under the Forestry Complex 121 said: "Many great changes happened on this land in the past ten-odd years thanks to the General Secretary's painstaking care and efforts. It is heart-rending to think of the pains he has taken for our people. He made a daring decision to achieve the gigantic cause that others can never think of in a matter of coming ten years and shouldered the heavy burden for the people. True to his noble intention, I will devote my blood, sweat and all to bringing earlier the future of a thriving country."

"I will not wait for a new era of change, but advance it. I will fulfil my duty and obligation as a citizen of the DPRK by devoting my effort and everything of my family to hastening an era when my home village changes and the day of happiness as soon as possible"—this is the sentiment and unshakeable faith of all the Korean people who received a new milestone for regional development.

A new criterion and model in developing poultry industry

Kwangchon Chicken Farm



By **Kim Il Jin** PT

The Kwangchon Chicken Farm has wonderfully sprung up breaking new ground in the development and modernization of the country's poultry industry.

Located in Kwangchon-ri, Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, it was built on the initiative and under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

During his visit to its construction site in July 2020, he said that the

construction of the farm was an undertaking which the Workers' Party of Korea had long planned and prepared by making so much effort and that he held high expectation that it would make a substantial contribution to the settlement of the people's dietary life for which the Party shows great concern. He emphasized the need to build it as a farm with a high automatic and scientific level and a high intensive level in the production of eggs and meat and as a model and standard of the

country's poultry industry.

He gave instructions related to the construction of the farm on scores of occasions.

At the modernly-built farm on January 7 this year, 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.

Covering a total area of dozens of hectares, the farm largely consists of the main production area, breeding chicken production area and auxiliary production area.

The main production area consists of several houses for chickens raised for meat, laying hens and reserve laying hens. The breeding chicken production area includes a hatching room and different breeding hen houses, and the auxiliary production

area has a fodder processing ground, fermented feed production ground, bean cake production ground, protein feed production ground, storehouse, etc.

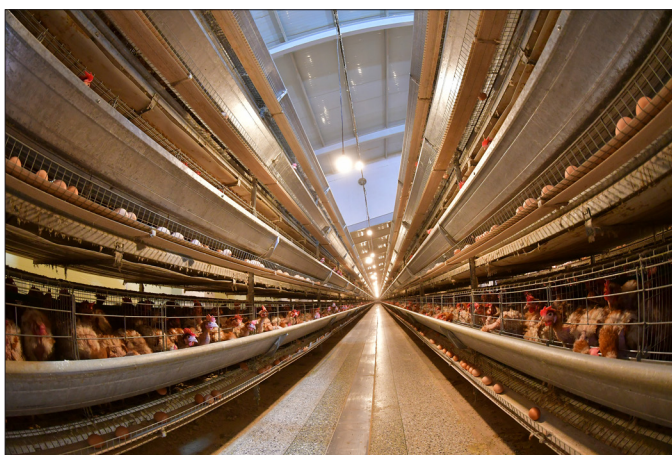
All the production processes are automated to say nothing of the farm's feed supply and excrement treating system, and each fattening house is equipped with up-to-date facilities capable of automatically controlling everything including the regulation of temperatures and humidity, lighting and the supply of feed.

For environmental

protection, in particular, the farm built a sewer and storm sewerage systems extending for thousands of metres respectively and local sewerage treatment plants in different areas. It treats waste water and air generated in the course of production at bio-filter ponds and bio-adsorption ponds.

It also established an anti-epizootic and experiment and analysis system on a high level and an effective integrated production system.

The farm turns out paper egg cases and quality organic fertilizer.



Production processes of the Kwangchon Chicken Farm in Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province. HWANG JONG HYOK / PICTORIAL KOREA

Leather processing base facelifted

By **Jong Hwa Sun** PT

The Pyongyang Tannery has spruced itself up by upgrading all the production processes ranging from raw material feeding to finishing and improving its environment.

According to officials of the Ministry of Light Industry, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un indicated the orientation and ways for renovating it and examined many blueprints to solve all the problems including the provision of materials and equipment on a priority basis.

The tannery turns out shoes, gloves, bags and other quality leather goods.

Nowadays, natural leather goods are becoming increasingly popular in the DPRK.

Typical examples are the light industrial goods

exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" and Autumn Clothes Show-2023 which were held successfully last year.

A crowd-puller at the shows was a leather goods booth filled with such articles made of natural leather as padded clothes, coats and caps.

"Our tannery takes the lion's share in the production of leather articles. It is furnished with all kinds of equipment needed for tanning and processing of leather including machines for separating leather layers and shaving muscles inside skins, vacuum drier, rotary drum and glue-making facility," said Manager Choe Kwang Nam.

In close collaboration with the State Academy of Sciences, Kim Chack University of Technology and other scientific research

units, it solved many technical problems arising in ensuring normal operation of hundreds of pieces of equipment.

In particular, it properly dealt with knotty problems to prevent heat denaturation of raw materials caused by high temperature and decay and hardening of processed goods caused by the influence of temperature and humidity.

It designed and developed some devices for making agents and turned out degreasing and oiling stuffing agents and others by relying on domestic materials and technology, thus increasing the rate of domestic production of scouring agents.

It also established recycling technology to make effective use of by-products from leather processing.

Taking into consideration its specific circumstances of using chemical agents in

large quantities, it established an automated control system and installed a bulk blower in the sewage treatment process,

thus making it possible to prevent environmental pollution as much as possible.

The tannery now channels

big efforts into the mass technical innovation drive to diversify products in terms of colour and kind.



A glimpse of the renovated Pyongyang Tannery.

Regular revolutionary armed forces great in formation and inheritance

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Korean People's Army, the regular revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK, was founded on February 8 1948.

It was a miracle unprecedented in history that the Korean people, who had no experience and foundation for regular army building, built the regular revolutionary armed forces in a matter of two and a half years after the liberation of their country.

What Korea had at that time was the backward economy wrecked by the Japanese imperialists' military occupation and empty coffers. Worse still, the US imperialists and the puppet ROK were bringing dark clouds of war to new Korea.

In "On Building the Party, State and Armed Forces in the Liberated Homeland", a speech he delivered to military and political cadres of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army on August 20 1945, General Kim Il Sung advanced the policy of building a regular revolutionary

army by the Koreans' own efforts.

The gist of his theory of building the regular revolutionary armed forces was to build a regular army with the sons and daughters of working people with the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters as the backbone, fight to defend the sovereignty of the country and nation and for the country and the people by inheriting the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle, make it a genuine people's army closely linked with them and develop it into revolutionary armed forces that are fully prepared politico-ideologically and in military technique and thereby capable of waging modern warfare.

There were not a few theoretical and practical problems arising in the building of regular armed forces, including the organizational principle, character, political and ideological traits and military and technical features of the army. Kim Il Sung clarified all those

problems in an original way in conformity with the tasks facing the Korean revolution and the characteristics of modern warfare and energetically led the work to resolve them.

In October 1945 he went to Phyongchon Plain to select the site for an ordnance factory and unveil a far-reaching plan for establishing the national defence industry. He also chose the site for the first military and political cadre training base in November that year and the site for Central Security Officers Training School in April 1946.

Military education is a key issue in training the backbone of regular armed forces.

Kim Il Sung refuted the sophism of big-power worshippers and dogmatists trying to mechanically apply the theories of those countries with rich experience in building regular armed forces and clearly explained that to give military knowledge to suit the actual

conditions of the country is the most important in military education. As a result, all the problems, ranging from military terminology to the form of military uniforms and the formation of services, arms and corps, including the flying corps and maritime security corps which would be the mainstay of the country's air and naval forces, the tankmen's corps, the artillery and the sappers', communications and automobile corps, were solved from the standpoint of Juche and thus the Korean People's Army, a steel-strong rank inheriting the traditions of the anti-Japanese war, was born.

The KPA compelled the US imperialists, who had boasted of being the "strongest" in the world, to take a downward turn in the Fatherland Liberation War by means of Juche-oriented military ideas and guerrilla-style military tactics.

It further flaunted its might as an invincible revolutionary army under the commandship of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

In the 1990s, a period of grim trials for the DPRK, he strengthened the KPA in every way with the faith that peace and socialism hinge on arms, thereby leading the struggle for defending socialism to victory.

The KPA, which has carried on the proud tradition of invincibility, is now in the greatest heyday in its development as it is commanded by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The unified command system has thoroughly been established in the whole army and all the service personnel of it have become a match-for-a-hundred combatants who are perfect politico-ideologically, in military technique and morally.

The Juche weapons, which showed off the tremendous power of the Juche-oriented defence industry and the aspects of its innovative development in the new century of the Juche era, are demonstrating to the whole world the might of the KPA along with the words "victory" and "invincibility".

KPA an invincible revolutionary army

By Pang Un Ju PT

February 8 this year marks the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

In the face of all manner of hardships and trials, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un has developed the KPA into an invincible revolutionary army by adding lustre to the army building exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

He put forward a great army-building programme for modelling the entire army on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism in the new century of the Juche era and led the KPA to fully implement the instructions of the President and the

Chairman and conduct all the military work and activities as the preceding leaders had done.

He set forth an idea of preparing all the officers and men into those with great spiritual strength by constantly pursuing the line of strengthening the KPA politically and ideologically and making it morally sound and organized the march of officers of the KPA combined units for the study tour of revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu in order to kindle the flames of education in the revolutionary traditions in the entire army and train the service personnel as those who are strong in idea and faith.

He clarified the issues arising in strengthening

the Korean revolutionary armed forces in the First Conference of Pilots of the KPA, the Fifth Conference of Training Officers of the KPA, the First Workshop of the KPA Commanders and Political Officers and other historic gatherings.

As he frequented military training fields and trenches clouded with powder smoke for boosting the combat capabilities of service personnel, he taught them the mission and duty of armed soldiers and the meaning of feats, set unexpected circumstances to any units and subunits at any time to acquaint himself with their preparedness for action and went to the sites of test fires of latest weapons day and night,

thus turning the armed forces of the country into an invincible army.

Under the guidance of the outstanding commander, the KPA has come to possess the military strategy and tactics of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the heroic fighting spirit, daring modes of attack and perfect combat ability and become proficient in modern warfare, thus developing into the first death-defying corps reliably defending the security of the socialist country and the people and a powerful army with remarkable attack and defence capabilities.

The KPA demonstrated its prestige as a powerful army once again through the military parades held with splendour last year.

On the road of consolidating invincible military power

There is no tomorrow in combat preparedness

One day in March 2016, the Korean People's Army Tankmen's Contest-2016 was held under the guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The contest was literally reminiscent of a battlefield. As it began, the armoured tanks rolled rocking heaven and earth, overcame all kinds of obstacles in an instant and fired shells at targets as if to destroy the enemies.

Looking at the rolling ironclad vehicles with satisfaction, he said that it was really worth seeing as the tanks seemed to fly over obstacles and that they were the spirit of the People's Army.

While giving precious instructions for perfecting the tankmen's combat preparations that day, he said there was no tomorrow in combat preparedness, and stressed the need for all officers and men of the People's Army to cherish the will to annihilate the enemy awake or asleep, without neglecting every drill, and put spurs to completing the combat preparations including the training of ordinary and special arms.

In an atmosphere of actual war

One day in November 2019, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un guided the airborne landing drill of snipers' units of the Air and Anti-Aircraft Force of the Korean People's Army.

Transport planes flew in covering the sky above the training ground and combatants were jumping down like hail.

Seeing their training, he expressed great satisfaction, saying that the snipers were very good at descent, that it was nice to see brigade commanders and political commissars performing skilful combat actions leading their combatants in an unfamiliar area after receiving a combat order unexpectedly, and that they were genuinely intrepid and trustworthy combatants.

Saying that battles are not confined to such space and environment as the training ground in case of emergency, he underscored the need to organize and guide training effectively with the main emphasis on preparing the combatants to successfully perform their combat missions no matter when and whatever circumstances may arise.



A military parade is held magnificently at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army on February 8 last year.

Orchestra a combination of Korean and Western instruments

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

In the DPRK, the National Symphony Orchestra is regarded as a prestigious art troupe of national treasure value.

It was founded in August 1946 as the central symphony orchestra and was renamed in 1947.

In its initial days, symphonies failed to win favour with the Korean people and they gradually disappeared from the stage.

At that juncture, Chairman Kim Jong Il said that the Korean people had enjoyed and loved music from olden times and the point was what kind of symphonic music they play, and put forward the Juche-oriented and original idea on developing the symphony on the principle of arranging folk songs favoured by Koreans and famous music pieces well-known to them and on subordinating Western musical instruments

to Korean music and combining traditional musical instruments with them. He said that in order to create arts that accord with the emotions and likings of the Korean nation and people, it was necessary to build national and Western orchestral bands and chorus in a Korean style, and saw to it that a new type of three-wind instrumentation was organized.

Thus, a new large-scale Korean-style orchestra of three-wind instrumentation was formed in January 1970.

Later, he even spent nights and early dawns with composers and instrumentalists and listened to same music pieces dozens of times to create symphonies embodying the soul and emotion of Korea and finally found the timbre, which the Western instruments could not make, by combining traditional Korean Instruments. Under his energetic guidance, such

monumental masterpieces as symphony "Sea of Blood", orchestral music pieces "The Dear Home in My Native Village", "The Girl on the Swing" and "Arirang" were produced in succession.

The orchestral music "A Bumper Harvest in the Chongsan Plain" is a typical work of the Juche-based mixed orchestral music, a world-class masterpiece which still arouses the admiration of all people.

Therefore, though the National Symphony Orchestra has a history of 70-odd years, it regards as the most valuable period the five-decade history in which it has achieved a proud development with a Korean-style three-wind instrumentation.

Under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the orchestra is pioneering a new level of the development of Juche-oriented national music in the new century of the Juche era.

Technique of making *tanchong* paints, national ICH element

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Among the cultural heritage the Koreans have created and developed since olden times is the technique of making *tanchong* paints.

The technique was put on the national intangible cultural heritage list in November 2023.

Tanchong consists in pictures and decorative designs of different colours which are painted on pillars, rafters, walls and ceilings of structures.

The painting of *tanchong* originated from painting mineral paints to prevent wooden buildings from being rotten by rain and wind or wormy.

As surface adhesive agents, the ancestors used animal fat, fish oil and oil drawn from such vegetables as perilla, hempseed, beans and castor.

Afterwards, as the level of consciousness gradually got higher and history developed, such adhesive agents evolved into a decorative element for structures. In the course of this, paints and adhesive

agents that suit the specific features of wooden structural parts came into being along with various decoration means and methods, hence the emergence of today's *tanchong*.

The technique of applying varied and developed *tanchong* with a long history can be seen from the tomb murals in the period of the Koguryo Kingdom (277 BC-AD 668). The Koguryo tomb murals, which have so far been excavated, are comparatively in good conditions, enabling viewers to have a general idea of contemporary gorgeous colouring.

Such colours as red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple were used mainly in Koguryo tomb murals, along with a variety of mixed colours including ochre, brown and other yellowish colours. And the red colour is subdivided into reddish pink and bright orange and other colours are varied in brightness and colour contrast. Through the comparison of diverse colour tones seen in Koguryo tomb murals, we can find the sense

of colour contemporary painters.

In the period of the Koryo Kingdom (918-1392), a systematic colour scheme was developed, free from primitive colouring form. According to history books, "The rails at the buildings of the royal palace are varnished in red and *tanchong* is solemn and gorgeous" and "The king saw to it that a pavilion was built in the northeast of the royal palace in 1156 and the plaque 'Chunghon Pavilion' was attached there and the yellowish green was vivid".

The Korean people's technique of making the paint, which has been handed down through a long historical course of changes, is successfully being inherited.

The *tanchong* paint manufacturer of the Korea National Heritage Preservation Agency makes excellent *tanchong* paint on the basis of traditional technique and methods, thereby contributing to preserving and managing buildings of historical relics in their original state.

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Open-air ice rink delights people

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

In winter when snow falls many people feel like going skating.

A new open-air ice rink opened near the Ice Rink located in downtown Pyongyang at the end of last year.

It is surrounded by a protective fence and furnished with chairs for convenience of children and people and all facilities for relevant service, like skates lending and repair rooms, a cloakroom and medical room.

It was full up during the New Year holidays.

There were not only youth and schoolchildren but also parents and old persons.

Young men and women

were absorbed in teaching and learning skating, little boys performed stunts fairly well and children kept laughing, flying balloons on sledges pushed by their fathers to the amusement of spectators.

Some people hold a sledge race.

The looks of fathers and mothers on the starting point revealed their mind to make their little children feel pleasure of victory and the children bending their bodies forward on sledges as if they were runners looked very serious.

Reaching the finish line, however, they all burst out laughing with joy of sledging with all their might regardless of victory or defeat.

The holidays went by but the open-air ice rink is still

crowded with visitors.

It is in operation mainly in the evening, so many people visit it on their way back home from work.

Among them on the rink shining in the gorgeous illumination are a young man whose skill will bring even a professional in the shade and some people who reel before falling down on the ice several times like a cow standing on the ice.

Instructors of the ice rink are very busy teaching many visitors how to skate.

“Today, too, hundreds of people visited the open-air ice rink. These days it is further crowded with schoolchildren and students as they are on winter vacation,” said an instructor.



The open-air ice rink opens near the Ice Rink located on the bank of the Pothong River in downtown Pyongyang. Many people visit it on their way back home from work. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Chinese vice-minister of Foreign Affairs visits Pyongyang

KCNA

Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, met Sun Weidong, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, on a visit to the DPRK on January 26.

During their talk, they expressed the stands of the two sides to significantly commemorate this year marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and China as the "year of DPRK-China friendship", true to the noble intentions of the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries and continue to strengthen tactical cooperation and keep pace with each other to defend the common core interests.

The talk proceeded in a comradely and friendly atmosphere.

Present there were Pak Myong Ho, vice-minister

of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, and Wang Yajun, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK.

Talks were held between Pak Myong Ho, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, and Sun Weidong, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, on a visit to the DPRK as head of the delegation of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on the same day.

At the talks both sides discussed the issues related to the running of the "year of DPRK-China friendship" and agreed to expand and develop friendly exchange and practical cooperation between the two countries in different fields. They reaffirmed the importance of cooperation between the diplomatic units of the two countries in various regional and international issues including the situation in Northeast Asia.

DPRK-China friendship spring art performance given by Chinese artistes

KCNA

A DPRK - China friendship spring art performance was given by Chinese artistes at the Ponghwa Art Theatre in Pyongyang on January 31 to mark lunar New Year's Day 2024.

Among the audience were Sung Jong Gyu, minister of Culture, Pak Myong Ho, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Pak Kyong Il, vice-chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries who doubles as chairman of the DPRK-China Friendship Association, officials of the association, officials concerned and creators and artistes in the field of culture and the arts.

The performance was also seen by Chinese ambassador Wang Yajun, major members of the cultural delegation of Liaoning Province of China, Chinese embassy staff members and Chinese residents in Pyongyang.

Present there at invitation were members of the diplomatic corps in Pyongyang.

Speeches were made before the performance.

Speakers said that the mutual friendship is further developing thanks to the deep comradely trust and friendly relations between the top leaders of the two countries.

Then the performance started.

Put on the stage were colourful numbers depicting the ardent patriotism, national sentiments and customs of the Chinese people.

Korean folk songs "Broad Bellflower" and "Arirang" were sung, revving up the performance atmosphere.

The performance that beautifully decorated the flower garden of the DPRK-China friendship deepened the friendly feelings of the peoples of the two countries.

Flower baskets were conveyed to the performers in congratulation of their successful performance.

DPRK-Vietnam friendship steadily develops with passage of time

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

January 31 was the 74th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two parties and governments and the peoples of the two countries have steadily consolidated and developed friendly relations through mutual support and cooperation.

The bond between the two countries is the deep-rooted ties of friendship and cooperation associated with the painstaking efforts of the preceding leaders.

The DPRK visit made by President Ho Chi Minh in 1957 and the visit to the then Democratic Republic of Vietnam by President Kim Il Sung in 1958 were important occasions when a firm foundation was laid for the development of friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries.

Kim Il Sung assisted both morally and materially the Vietnamese people in their anti-US resistance for national salvation and socialist construction. He visited Vietnam again in November 1964 when the country was undergoing ordeals and trials of the war.

The visit provided the most invigorating support and encouragement to the fighting Vietnamese people. They were deeply impressed by his genuine sense of internationalist obligation and noble virtues.

The DPRK-Vietnam friendly and cooperative relations based on a noble sense of comradely obligation of and close friendship between Kim Il Sung and Ho Chi Minh were further cemented in the course of their peoples' struggle for defending national sovereignty and advancing the cause of socialism while dedicating blood as they braved difficulties and trials shoulder to shoulder.

The land of Vietnam is permeated with the red blood of the martyrs of the Korean People's Army who sacrificed their youth and lives in the grim war for defending the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

That is why Ho Chi Minh referred to Kim Il Sung helping Vietnam wholeheartedly as his real brother and a true friend of the Vietnamese people.

The bilateral relations which have been inherited and developed from one century to the next and generation after generation have evolved into a special comradely and strategic relationship with the historic official goodwill visit to Vietnam paid by General Secretary Kim Jong Un in April 2019 as momentum.

The Vietnamese people are now striving to defend and advance socialism they chose under the guidance of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

They are waging a dynamic struggle to implement the decisions of the 13th Party Congress, rallying closely behind the CPV headed by Nguyen Phu Trong.

While consistently adhering to its foreign policy for independence, friendship, cooperation and development, the country promotes friendship and cooperation with different countries of the world.

The Korean people sincerely hope that the Vietnamese counterpart will make fresh success in their efforts to build a thriving and developed socialist country.

It is the steadfast stand of the Korean Party and government to invariably carry on and develop the friendly and cooperative relations forged and consolidated between the two countries in the joint struggle for accomplishing the socialist cause true to the desires of the preceding leaders and the top leaders of the two countries.

The bilateral ties of friendship, unity and cooperation will continue to develop in the future.

Anniversary of complete liberation of Leningrad commemorated

KCNA

A film show took place at the Taedongmun Cinema in Pyongyang on January 29 in the joint name of the DPRK-Russia Friendship Association and the Russian embassy in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the complete

liberation of Leningrad.

Present there were Ryu Kyong Il, vice-chairman of the DPRK-Russia Friendship Association, officials concerned, Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, and his embassy staff members.

Speeches were made there. Speakers said that during the Second World War the

Soviet army and Leningrad citizens defended the city by displaying mass heroism and matchless self-sacrificing spirit despite the harsh blockade by the fascist aggressors and dealt a heavy blow to the enemy, thus making a great contribution to achieving the final victory in the war.

They stressed that the

film show would be an occasion for strengthening the friendly ties between the peoples of the two countries and contributing to boosting the strategic and traditional relations of friendship and cooperation.

The participants watched the Soviet documentary film "Great Victory in Leningrad".

US an offender threatening outer space

KCNA

The US is hell-bent on misleading propaganda to frame the DPRK even in the field of space exploration.

In a written answer submitted to the hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Assistant Secretary of the US Defense Department disgustingly labelled at will the DPRK and other countries as the major doers conducting activities in space that pose threat to the US.

He absurdly said that the DPRK revealed its intention and ability to jam foreign satellite communication and if the space program is combined with a larger type of bad action, it may become an additional threat to the space asset of the US, whether it is intentional or not.

In the past, the US

revealed its sinister intention to stifle the DPRK using the hackneyed phrase of "violation of the UNSC resolution" as to the DPRK's peaceful activities for space development.

As the DPRK has made a big stride in attaining the goal of building a space industry like the possession of the reconnaissance satellite, the US is jealously and perversely resorting to such a vile and childish smear campaign like today.

Lurking behind this is the US' evil intention to exclude the DPRK from the field of space exploration, a global arena of competition, by branding even the country's regular outer space activities as "crimes".

There is a saying that goes "The thief cries, 'Stop thief!'"

As to the criminal acts of messing up space, it is quite right to demand that the

US should be the first to be censured.

It is just the US that set an "operational sphere" solely for its own good in outer space, developed and sited offensive weapons on its spaceport to conduct military exercises for attack and defence and technological experiments and created a "small enclosure" like the space alliance to inquisitively hinder the course of arms control in the field of outer space.

The US posed danger to space security and the strategic stability of the world through reckless moves for militarizing space, yet it talks about "crime" of someone. This is just like the thief crying "Stop thief!"

In particular, the DPRK's first reconnaissance satellite "Malligyong-1" is a result of an independent decision it made to defend its security

and safeguard the well-being of the people against the prolonged aggressive threats from the US and other hostile forces.

No matter what the US brands the DPRK, the building of its space industry will be pushed as planned according to the universal right based on international law and the lawful requirement of national development. It is a fait accompli that other versions of the reconnaissance satellite will soon appear one after another.

The US is attempting to weaken the Korean people's long-cherished desire for exploring infinite space while exercising the legitimate right of a sovereign state to space exploration. This is nothing but a frivolous trick aimed at continuously maintaining its monopoly position in space.

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Aggressors will be mercilessly punished

KCNA

The situation on the Korean peninsula is inching close to the brink of war, owing to the US-led hostile forces' moves to stifle the DPRK by force of arms.

The US and the gangsters of the puppet ROK conducted a so-called "cyber alliance training" from January 15 to 26.

This training, staged for the first time under the pretext of "beefing up the system for cyber cooperation", was aimed at getting familiar with cyber war. It is an extension of the war provocation moves of the US and its vassal forces which are escalating reckless military manoeuvres, publicly trumpeting about the "end of regime" in the DPRK.

The US and its minions staged a series of joint military exercises targeting the DPRK in the air, on the land and in the sea on and around the Korean peninsula by mobilizing all sorts of nuclear strategic assets in less than one month this year.

On January 4, the US staged the first joint combat firing drill in Phochon of Kyonggi Province with the puppet military rogues, touting "strengthened operation capability of alliance".

And it frantically staged a joint naval drill with warships of the Japanese Maritime "Self-Defense Force" and the puppet navy for three days from January 15, calling for "enhancing the capacity to cope with nuclear and missile threats" from the DPRK. Involved in the drill were the US nuclear carrier

Carl Vinson and Aegis cruiser Princeton.

On January 18, there took place a joint air drill in the sky above the East Sea of Korea under the signboard of "reinforced deterrent and responsive forces". Involved in it were two B-1B nuclear strategic bombers of the US air force and F-15 fighter jets of the Japanese Air "Self-Defense Force".

In parallel with this, different reconnaissance assets commit spying activities against the DPRK.

On January 22, an RC-135 reconnaissance plane of the US air force made a provocative spying flight in the sky above the east and west seas of Korea openly for a long time, and even the puppet group went so reckless as to mobilize

an E-737 AWACS to spy on the DPRK.

When the crow flies, her tail follows.

The current situation, in which frantic nuclear war drills are being staged against the DPRK from the outset of the new year, requires the DPRK to be fully prepared for a war and thoroughly deter the US and its stooges' invasion with overwhelming power.

We showed on various occasions that our advanced military hardware are not for "demonstration", and legalized the Korean-style nuclear doctrine on the use of nuclear forces long ago.

We once again warn the US and the puppet ROK that if a war breaks out, they will become the targets of our ruthless punishment.

Wetlands and human welfare



Ri Song Il

Department director of the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea

The benefits provided by wetlands help to sustain the livelihood of the people and play an important role in the welfare of humankind.

Humans built settlements and lived near wetlands for hundreds of thousands of years to catch fish and use other food sources and to obtain fresh water resources for crop cultivation and livestock breeding, and thus created their own culture.

A typical example is the Taedonggang Culture of Korea.

The Taedonggang Culture originated in the lower and middle reaches of the Taedong River, centring on Pyongyang. Ancient Joseon which was founded in the early 30th century BC as the first state in the East created ancient civilization in the area along the Taedong River in Pyongyang in the nascent period of human history. The ancient culture created in this area centring on Pyongyang was scientifically named "Taedonggang Culture" in early 1998 and became one of the five cultures of the world.

The world's five cultures were all created in and around wetlands, including the Yellow River culture created by Chinese living in the river basin, the Indus culture built by ancient Indians around the namesake river flowing in today's Pakistani territory, the Tigris-Euphrates culture of Sumerians in the basins of the rivers in Mesopotamia, and the ancient Egyptians' Nile River culture in the northeastern part of Africa.

People have long developed socio-cultural values around wetland ecosystems and, in the course of this, wetlands have become part of their cultural, mental and economic life.

It is well known that there are long

and rich traditions of songs, dances and stories that respect and worship wetlands in different parts of the world. For more than three million native people living with at least 5 000 different cultures, these songs, dances and stories are part of their daily life.

However, in many parts of the world today, excessive development has destroyed the wetland resources and accelerated their loss rate, making them the most threatened ecosystems on earth.

More than 80 percent of the world's wetlands have disappeared since the 1700s. Especially, at least 35 percent of them have been lost since 1970 at an accelerating pace. Wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests and the animal and plant species living in wetlands are on the brink of extinction, posing a threat to the well-being and livelihood of humans and the health of the earth.

On February 2 1971, the convention on wetlands of international special importance including water-bird habitats was adopted in Ramsar, Iran. The convention called on all countries and regions of the world to organize events on World Wetlands Day every year, make global wetland restoration a major priority in ensuring a sustainable future and take proactive actions for wetland protection without delay for human welfare.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2024 is "Wetland and human welfare".

We should be well aware of the effects of wetlands on the development of human culture, protection of ecosystems and human well-being and conduct positive activities for the protection of them.

Nations set on economic development and stabilization of people's life

By Song Jong Ho PT

Many countries set it as an important task for this year to develop the economy and stabilize people's life to suit their specific conditions and are pushing ahead with it.

South Africa is directing national efforts to solving housing shortage. President Ramaphosa attended the ground-breaking ceremony of the project for house construction in Northern Cape to declare the start of the project. When the project is completed, flats for more than 4 000 families will reportedly be provided to the citizens.

Vietnam is pushing ahead with the construction of an expressway according to a traffic infrastructure development plan. On January 1 the prime minister of the country participated in the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the expressway linking two provinces in a northern border area as the first work of the new year. The new expressway is 93.3 km long in total and the project is expected to take place for 36 months. According to the government's stand to concentrate everything on the project, the relevant province is to cancel 22 public investment projects and invest in the construction of the expressway.

When the expressway is completed, it will reportedly link Haiphong Port to China and Kazakhstan and make it possible to export goods to different countries.

Nigeria is planning to help more than one million medium-sized and small businesses across the country, including clinics,

take on proper appearances by discounting interests on the loan from banks.

Accordingly, a modern clinic will reportedly be opened on June 27, World Medium and Small Business Day, this year.

On January 12, the inaugural ceremony of a domestically largest marine bridge took place in Mumbai, India.

The 21.8km-long bridge is the 12th longest of all such bridges in the world. It weighs as much as 500 Boeing airplanes and is 17 times heavier than the Eiffel Tower. Over 177 900 tons of steel were used for the construction of it. The completion of the bridge brings huge economic benefits as it links different areas and enables travellers to spend less money for fuel consumption.

Mexico, which is experiencing difficulties owing to restricted navigation caused by the water shortage of the Panama Canal, mapped out a plan to build a large-scale railway to substitute for the canal and has started the project.

According to the plan, a railway line, which had not been in operation for a long time due to low demand for it, will be repaired and opened as a whole by September this year. The plan, which involves even service personnel, has been pushed forward and some sections of it were opened in December last year.

The Mexican government has an ambitious goal of breaking the monopoly on the Panama Canal and turning the country into a new strong player in the interoceanic freight market by means of the large-scale railway line. The government reportedly plans to transport about 1.4 million containers a year.

Briefly

Russia

President: Everything will be done to eradicate Nazism

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the stand to eradicate Nazism as he addressed an unveiling ceremony of a monument to peaceful Soviet victims of the massacres by Nazis during the Great Patriotic War in St Petersburg on January 27.

Saying that January 27 is the day when the Red Army completely broke the blockade around Leningrad, he described the policy of the Nazis, who had attempted to exterminate the entire population of Leningrad by blockading the city, as unprecedented in cruelty and barbarity.

He said that Russia will continue to investigate criminal acts committed by the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War and do everything to completely eradicate Nazism.

China

Defence Ministry urges Japan to atone for its history of aggression

A spokesman for the Chinese Defence Ministry in a press conference on January 25 condemned the visit to the Yasukuni Shrine by scores of officials of the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force.

Their behaviour is a revelation of their extremely wrong notion of history of aggression, he said, stressing that China expresses deep dissatisfaction at it and strongly opposes it.

He strongly demanded Tokyo have a correct understanding of its past history of aggression and seriously reflect on it.

Venezuela

Speaker of Congress makes a stand against US sanctions

The speaker of the Venezuelan Congress warned on January 29 that if the US imposes sanctions on his country once again, it will take powerful countermeasures.

The US made public a decision to reexamine its sanctions policy, finding fault with the internal affairs of Venezuela, he said, labelling and denouncing it as interference in his country's internal affairs.

He stressed that the US should now realize that his country is not going to tolerate any pressure and interference.

Iran

FM spokesman rejects ungrounded assertion of US

A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry rejected the US assertion that his country was involved in the drone attack against the US forces in Jordan as baseless and provocative in his statement on January 29.

Referring to the US' assertion that the forces supported by Iran in Syria and Iraq mounted an attack on the US forces stationed in the northeastern part of Jordan on January 28, he refuted that resistance forces in the region do not decide and act according to the directive of Iran.

Dragon-shaped cloud over Mt Paektu



Mass sports activities enliven factory

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Educational Books Printing Plant, which was modernly rebuilt in the Munsu area in Pyongyang three years ago, is well known as a unit making sports mass-based and part of everyday life.

Three years ago, the officials and employees of the factory wonderfully built a multifunctional gym in which they can play basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton, a table tennis room and an outdoor volleyball court while renovating it with no traces of the past found.

“The enthusiasm of employees for mass sports activities further grew as they are provided with modernized working places and sufficient conditions for

sports activities,” said Kim Sun Nam, chairman of the primary committee of the trade union at the factory.

On the recent sports day there were sports and amusement games between workshops in the gym amid their strong competitiveness.

The tug-of-war matches and such amusement games as a race with a hooked bottle, a leg-tied race and a race with a ball put between foreheads were very impressive as the players played with a high competitive spirit amid laughter.

All the players and spectators became one in mind, the former striving to contribute to their teams’ win and the latter enthusiastically cheering their teams.

After the amusement games

there took place the volleyball final between the printing workshop and the bookbinding workshop, revving up the atmosphere of the sports day.

The match was very fierce as players of both teams fully displayed their high techniques and endurance to take the first place.

The rooters saw the match as the players of the printing workshop kept exerting themselves without losing heart even after losing a point and those of the bookbinding workshop attacked successively without slackening their spirit.

Whenever their players scored a spectacular goal, the rooters boisterously shouted for joy, beating drums and gongs.

The seesaw battle ended in victory for the players of the

printing workshop and the victors and their rooters looked quite satisfied.

“Today we lost unfortunately. Next time, however, we will surely cover the loss,” said Pak Jong Hyok, a player of the bookbinding workshop.

Saying that the gym is crowded with employees who plays sports at lunchtime and after work in ordinary days, too, Kim Sun Nam added that the health of employees is improved and the factory enlivened amid the ever-growing enthusiasm for mass sports activities.

The employees say in unison that the collectivist spirit of helping and leading one another forward and their unity get strong during mass sports activities and it leads to good results in production.

Historical relic— Myogil statue

By Choe Song Jun PT

The Myogil statue is located in Mt Kumgang, a celebrated mountain of Korea, and is one of the biggest and best Buddhist images Korean ancestors carved on natural rocks.

To be more specific, the sculpture is carved on the 40-metre-high Grand Miruk Precipice on the upper part of Manphok Valley in Inner Kumgang of the mountain.

The statue represents a seated Amitabha and it began to be called Myogil statue in the closing years of the 18th century when the name of a nearby hermitage was inscribed beside the Buddha. It is also called the Mahayon Myogil statue after the temple it is affiliated to.

Korean ancestors adopted various carving techniques in portraying Buddhas on natural rock faces, including line and embossed carving. The statues vary in size, and in some of them the head and body were carved by different methods.

The Myogil statue is about 15 metres tall and 9.4 metres wide.

Each finger of the Buddha is thicker than a human body and the crossed legs are far taller than a man’s height.

The Buddha wears a slight smile on the soft and plump face with a characteristic poise and the patterns on the shoulders and chest of the dress feature Buddhist sculptures in the period of Koryo (918-1392).

This sculpture is designed to be seen upwards from below. Viewers feel comfortable to see it since the lower parts at a short distance were done in lower relief whereas the upper parts at a long distance in high relief.

The statue exhibits the fine artistic skills of the Koreans in the Koryo period and their audacious and bold mind as well.



Employees positively conduct mass sports activities at the Educational Books Printing Plant. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

