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# Start of regional-industry revolution to be specially recorded in history of overall development of Korean-style socialism

## Ground-breaking ceremony for construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County held with splendour

### Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un makes historic speech at ceremony

KCNA

Thanks to the historic choice and crucial decision of the great Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which has oriented and subordinated all the state affairs to ensuring and realizing the people's rights, interests and desire, the gigantic regional-industry revolution started to dynamically push forward with the Regional Development 20x10 Policy adopted as a revolutionary line of the Party and the state.



The nationwide construction of modern regional-industry factories to be conducted in line with the decision of the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth WPK Central Committee is an unprecedentedly grand campaign of creation to drastically improve the material and cultural life of all the people and inject great vitality into the comprehensive development of socialism by bringing about epochal changes

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# On the occasion of the first ground breaking for the implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy

## Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un makes speech at groundbreaking ceremony for regional-industry factories in Songchon County

February 28, Juche 113 (2024)

Comrades,  
How do you do, beloved people in Songchon County?  
Today a historic ceremony of breaking the ground with the greatest desire and ambition of our Party to implement the Regional Development 20×10 Policy is being held here in Songchon County, a typical intermediate, mountainous area in our country.

This signals the start of the great struggle for our Party's ten-year goal for bringing about comprehensive regional rejuvenation.

At this moment when we are making a vigorous step forward towards a grand transformation, a revolution in the regional industry, I picture in my mind's eye the future of regions that would be transformed year after year. As I do so, I feel the dignity and pride in the forthcoming struggle redoubled, and I am greatly moved by the thought that the people in all cities and counties in provinces, numbering more than ten million, will be provided with substantial benefits in their living. On the other hand, to be frank, I feel remorseful for the fact that we are starting this revolution only now.

But, though this is a gathering held on an empty place with only an artist's impression unfolded, it will proclaim



the beginning of an important revolutionary undertaking aimed at promoting the well-being of the regional people, and this amply proves the historic weight of the undertaking.

Officers and men of the 124th regiments under the services and corps at all levels of our army, who will play a vanguard role in implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy,

Members of the non-permanent central promotion committee, officials of ministries, national agencies

and other relevant units who are charged with the responsibility for leading and promoting transformation of regions,  
And officials and working people from Songchon and other counties in South Phyongan Province who have come here with absolute support to and trust in our Party's new policy,  
On behalf of the Party Central Committee and the government of the Republic, I extend hearty militant greetings to you.  
Comrades,  
It is indeed a revolution of great significance to build wonderful regional-industry factories with modern equipment and production lines in all cities and counties of the country in the coming ten years.

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Proceeding from this, the Eighth Central Committee of the Party set strengthening cities and counties and improving the rural living environment as an important line for the development of the state, and tried to find a way of opening a new era of comprehensive development, in which the capital city and regions would develop together.

And recently, it put forward the Regional Development 20×10 Policy that focuses on the comprehensive modernization of regional-industry factories which must be conducted without fail even by directing unprecedented efforts, and today the first groundbreaking ceremony for achieving a brilliant result of the policy has convened.

We are now pushing ahead with large-scale housing construction projects every year in the rural communities across the country as well as in the capital city, while ceaselessly raising the level of our self-defensive strength to protect the sovereignty of the state and independent life of the people and readjusting and developing all sectors of the national economy. Frankly speaking, in this situation it is easier said than done to decide on another ten-year campaign of creation, which is no less challenging than each of them, and open a new front.

But it is also a very pressing affair of the state to rebuild the regional economy on a completely new and advanced basis throughout the country and raise to a higher stage the basic material and cultural standards of living of the regional people, who make up the overwhelming majority of the population of the Republic.

We cannot keep our eyes away from this work any longer, nor can we delay it even a moment. We must press ahead with it unconditionally and persistently and bring about a definite result.

Anyone who is born on this land should lead an abundant and civilized life under the socialist policy of the state, whether they live in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and it is the core of the new policy of regional development to see to it that they do so without fail.

The success of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy has already been confirmed.

Above all else, Party members and other people actively approve and support the new policy of the Party and the government.

As the new policy reflects the urgent demands and interests of all the people and clearly indicates the ways of its implementation, everyone welcomes and hails it. In particular, all the regional people accept it as their own and are optimistic that it will surely come true.

This is the most precious and greatest power that defies comparison with any financial resources.

As our people are of the belief that all the policies of the Party and the government are for the promotion of their rights, interests and living and that any work the Party decides on and goes at turns into a happy reality, they unanimously and wholeheartedly support any struggle task it advances, however formidable and challenging it may be.

Thanks to this support, the political climate unique to our state is unusually solid, and all things designed by the Party and the government develop into proud realities with world-amazing, miraculous results.

It is our consistent manner of work to make a scientific and meticulous calculation and plan, and establish a powerful organizational and command system before we

launch into all projects for the good of the people.

At the outset of 2024, a year of great importance in developing our revolution and state, the Party Central Committee paid great attention to the historic task of implementing the policy of regional development, making serious studies and holding in-depth discussions repeatedly.

It decided that the state should supply all the funds, manpower, cement and steel needed for the construction of regional-industry factories in cities and counties, and took timely measures for different problems like transport of building materials.

And it found new problems in the course of reconsidering the experience and present situation of Kimhwa County, which can be said to have undergone the preparatory stage or the pilot stage in implementing the policy, and set forth measures for preventing possible deviations.

In order to push ahead with the implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy substantially and powerfully as an undertaking devolving on the Party Central Committee, officials of its Organizational Leadership Department visited the cities and counties, which are designated for construction this year, to learn about their specific situations, and correctly confirmed the orientation of construction after serious discussions with local officials and designers. Meanwhile, organs and a work system were set up so that the Party and the state can supervise and push ahead with this project, and they have begun to work.

Yesterday I went over and ratified a general report on the list of regional-industry factories to be built in 20 cities and counties this year as well as on their scales, sites and production lines.

Now we can say that we have calculated everything and made full preparations for building dozens of regional-industry factories in the 20 cities and counties within this year.

The point is how their construction, which has arisen as an urgent demand of the people and an important task of the Party and the government, will go ahead in reality and how effectively these factories will operate in the future.

Not only the officers and men of the People's Army and construction officials present here but also all the officials, Party members and other working people across the country should turn out in bringing about a revolution in the regional industry with a single mind and purpose; the capital city and regions, provinces and cities and counties should join their efforts; and the builders should actively cooperate with the sci-tech forces. In this way, I believe, they can achieve successful results in different parts of the country, which we have dreamed of.

Comrades,

The army of the people, the foremost guardian, creator and implementer in our socialist state, has shouldered this difficult, yet honourable revolutionary task. This constitutes another important factor that boosts our conviction in the sure victory of this task.

At this time, too, our Party has put our army at the forefront of the ten-year revolution for shoring up the regional economy.

I feel grateful and reassured to see the militant appearance and soaring spirit of the officers and men of the 124th regiments who went immediately to the areas assigned to them in hearty response to the appeal of the Party Central Committee and have launched into the revolutionary work which would accelerate

the new transformation of regions and comprehensive rejuvenation of our state.

Hoping that you will once again implant devoted service for the people into your hearts as your solemn duty, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize a few points for you who have advanced to the construction sites of regional-industry factories throughout the country.

As I said on February 8, when I visited the Ministry of National Defence on the anniversary of the founding of the army, the Party and the people place great trust in the People's Army whenever the revolution faces a task of grave importance and utmost urgency, and the latter lives up to their trust and expectation faithfully and without fail—this is a glorious tradition inherited from one century into the next.

There is no doubt in the least about the fighting spirit, matchless self-sacrificing spirit and perfect creating style of the People's Army.

Mindful of being the creators of transformations in the new era, the officers and men dispatched to the 20 cities and counties across the country should ensure the highest quality in building the regional-industry factories, with a determination that they will not let their parents, brothers and sisters in their home towns and villages experience difficulties in their living any longer.

You should never forget even for a moment that each passing day of your struggle should be adorned with proud feats performed for defending the policy of the Party and the state and achieving the people's happiness.

How substantial transformation the Party's and the government's regional development policy would bring to cities and counties, and how tangible changes it would make in every aspect of the people's living conditions depends on your style of work. Bearing this in mind, you should make every effort to ensure the speed and quality of construction to the full.

Also in implementing the Party's slogan, "Everything for the improvement of the people's standard of living!" our service personnel should always be standard-bearers and set excellent examples.

They should display to the full our army's traits of being thoroughgoing, accurate and perfect in whatever they do—pushing ahead with the projects on schedule, meeting the technical and engineering requirements and making maximum economies in the use of materials. By doing so, they will create symbols of our era, which will deserve praises of posterity, in this Songchon County and all other cities and counties in the country.

Your way of struggle should bring about a real improvement in all aspects by giving an influence on the ideological consciousness, work attitude and lifestyle of officials, working people and others in the relevant cities and counties, and turn into their revolutionary spirit, patriotism, creation and optimism as well as the culture of a new era. Only then can the intention of the Party Central Committee in putting you at the forefront of the revolution in the regional industry be implemented and your efforts be proved worthwhile.

I believe that the 20 flags to be awarded to the commanding officers of the 124th regiments today will be adorned with great feats and unparalleled patriotic exploits of our most revolutionary army of the people.

The chief secretary of the Party committee and chairman of the people's committee of Songchon County

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and all senior officials in other cities and counties across the country should make strenuous efforts.

They should keep it in mind that they are the direct performers of the great revolutionary undertaking for carrying out the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

Even though the Party provides all the conditions and the People's Army undertakes the construction of factories, it is the Party and administrative and economic officials of cities and counties who should take full responsibility for operating the completed factories and ensure that the people under their charge enjoy substantial benefits from them.

Kim Jong Un referred to the policy-oriented requirements set forth by the Party Central Committee in building the regional-industry factories in cities and counties.

Chief secretaries of city and county Party committees should attach importance to three-way consultation from the designing stage so that factories can be built to suit the specific conditions of their respective regions and to leave nothing to be desired even in the future. They should also promote effective cooperation with the People's Army and vigorously enlist the local people to implement the Party policy.

If the factories fail to run on a normal footing owing to shortage of raw and other materials or any other problems after their production buildings have been set up in a splendid way and equipped with modern facilities, it will be a crime before the Party and the state, the people and the soldier builders.

The chief secretaries should direct efforts from now on to creating raw-material bases and building up the technical forces of regional-industry factories, and definitely guarantee the long-term development of their

cities and counties on the principle of self-reliance and on the strength of science and technology.

What is most important is that they should turn the process of transforming regional-industry factories into an effective occasion whereby officials and residents in their counties foster a determination and confidence that they should and can create an affluent life and civilization by valuing all the things in their native places, taking care of them with sincerity and making full use of them.

In other words, they should turn the process of implementing the new regional development policy into a process of strengthening the functions and role of regional Party organizations and government organs and of remarkably stepping up the ideological, technological and cultural revolutions.

This is precisely the main purpose set by the Party in drawing up the plan for the revolution in the regional industry.

If one is firm in their resolve to make their life affluent by their own efforts, they can turn a stone into a treasure and there is nothing they cannot do. The chief secretaries of city and county Party committees should prove this first by transforming themselves and through their practice.

Another important point they should never neglect: They should pay particular attention and take thoroughgoing measures so that the work of improving the living standards of the local people bears no negative result of imposing burdens on them.

All the officials and builders who are to engage in building regional-industry factories, projects to be vigorously promoted in cities and counties across the country, should devote their wisdom and energy to the responsible work of successfully carrying out the Party's plan and improving the people's living standards, and present proud creations for the country, the revolution and the coming generations.

Comrades,  
At the end of this year, we will witness a new transformation

in the 20 cities and counties across the country, including here in Songchon County, where modern regional-industry factories, the first fruits of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, will have been built.

And ten years later solid foundations for regional rejuvenation, a long-cherished desire, will have been laid so that we can feel worthwhile to see the production bases running at full throttle and hear the people's happy laughter resounding across the country.

Herein lies the boundless pride and honour of our revolutionary work and struggle.

The sacred and great undertaking, which we conducted merely with words for decades and which we did not dare to go at, has really begun now.

For an era of great transformation, in which we will develop the regional economy rapidly in our own way while renovating rural communities,

Towards an era, in which we build the most wonderful factories for the people on our land by our own hands and in which we create the people's happiness to the full with our own resources and technology,

Let us all build and create with confidence and vigour.

Today commanding officers of the large combined units at all levels, under which 124th regiments have been organized, and commanders of all these regiments are present here.

I appeal to our army through you.  
Officers and men of the People's Army,  
Always fight bravely in the vanguard of the struggle to create and defend the people's happiness and to realize the cherished desire of our Party!

The Party, the country and the people believe in you!  
Officers and men, who have turned out in this gigantic struggle today, will be remembered for ever as the most steel-strong fighters representing a great era.

Let us make selfless and devoted efforts for the good of our great people!  
Forward for our sacred struggle!



FROM PAGE 1

in the regional economy in ten years from now.

A ground-breaking ceremony took place with splendour on February 28 for the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County as part of the project to implement the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

The venue for the ground-breaking ceremony was full of high enthusiasm of soldier-builders to surely realize the Party's long-cherished desire for the people with the revolutionary creation pattern and the stubborn practical ability peculiar to the People's Army and of deep emotion and joy of the working people in Songchon County who are convinced of a new life that will get affluent along with the entities of prosperity to be wonderfully built one year after.

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, was present at the ceremony.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants raised enthusiastic cheers, extending boundless gratitude to him, the peerlessly prominent leader and the people's tender-hearted father who puts forward the people's happy laughter as an absolute standard of assessing the national power and a symbol of the mightiness of Korean-style socialism and makes a new history

of great change for accomplishing the people's every ideal and desire in an all-round way.

Present at the ceremony were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the WPK Central Committee, Ri Il Hwan, Kim Jae Ryong and Jon Hyon Chol, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, Ri Hi Yong, first deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, Ri Kyong Chol, chief secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK, members of the non-permanent central committee for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, officials of ministries and national agencies, and officials and working people of South Phyongan Province and Songchon County.

Attending it were Kang Sun Nam, Jong Kyong Thack and other commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence, commanders of the large combined units of the Korean People's Army and servicepersons involved in the construction.

The national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un delivered a meaningful speech.

Referring to the historic significance of declaring the great struggle to bring a new era of regional changes, he extended warm militant greetings on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the DPRK government to the soldier-

builders, members of the non-permanent committee for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, officials of ministries, national agencies and other relevant units and to the working people of South Phyongan Province and Songchon County.

He clarified again the intention of the Party Central Committee that made the People's Army take the lead in the ten-year revolution for realizing the Party's long-cherished desire, and set forth the principled issues and tasks to be held fast to and carried out in the implementation of the regional-industry development policy.

He expressed belief that the service personnel would confidently create an era of great changes for radically developing regions, regarding devoted service for the people as their bounden duty.

Deeply moved by his speech carrying the strong will of devoted service to provide the beloved people with the highest civilization and the happiest life in the world as well as deep faith in the service personnel taking the lead in the gigantic revolution for regional industries, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers.

He personally handed over the regimental colours to the 124th regiments of the KPA, which were newly formed to implement the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

All the soldier-builders, who received the banner of advance associated with the deepest trust of the Party Central Committee which entrusted the grand construction project to the People's

Army, made a firm pledge to fully display the brave mettle of the KPA in the sacred struggle for glorifying the great era of Kim Jong Un replete with changes and thus preserve its noble name as creator and defender of the people's happiness.

Kim Jong Un took up the first spadeful of earth in commemoration of the ground breaking.

Amid the boundless reverence and excitement of the participants, he pressed the detonator button. Then the sound of explosion resounded to herald the start of the historic regional-industry revolution.

He had a significant photo session with the military and political commanding officers of the construction regiments who are filled with the firm determination to vigorously lead the responsible and honourable grand construction struggle for carrying into practice the Party's crucial decision, regarding it as the supreme order and absolute truth.

The ground breaking for the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County, which declared before the whole world the start of the grand ten-year revolution for realizing the century-old desire of regional people as soon as possible by accelerating the simultaneous and balanced development of the regional economy, will be brilliantly recorded in the history of the country as a significant occasion that gave the firm confidence in the rosy future to the ranks of the general march vigorously opening up a new phase of national rejuvenation on the strength of unity based on patriotism.

# Continued commitment to 12 major goals a key task

By To Kyong Chol PT

The year 2023 was a year of the most encouraging change in which the valuable successes achieved by the staunch and tireless efforts of the previous years were accumulated and their might began to be fully displayed.

Last year, the Korean people successfully hit all the 12 major goals for national economic development, which are of key importance in developing the economy and improving the people's living standards.

In particular, they overfulfilled the plan for grain production, the predominant goal, thus giving momentum to the overall national economy. The enthusiasm and confidence of the officials and

working people in the agricultural sector soared unprecedentedly and delightful meetings for year-end account settlement and income distribution were held one after another at farms across the country, marking an important occasion in bringing about a revolution in the spiritual state of the farmers, and this is a genuine change of great value for the sustainable development of agriculture in the future, which was brought about in the course of the struggle for attaining the goal of grain production in 2023.

The key industrial sectors witnessed a remarkable increase in production, and many readjustment and reinforcement projects were completed in succession and went into operation, including the construction of an energy-saving oxygen blast

furnace and the installation of oxygen separators with a capacity of 15 000 cubic metres per hour at the Kim Chack Iron and Steel Complex, the project for building an induction furnace at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the construction of a vertical furnace for oxidizing roasting pellet at the Chongjin Steel Works and the development of the Sohaeri branch mine under the Unnyul Mine.

The flames of joint innovations which spread in the coal industry triggered an upsurge in the drive for increased production in the overall national economy. Various sectors of the national economy put spurs to implementing the strategy for readjustment and reinforcement while carrying out the national economic plans without fail, thus making a

breakthrough for definitely increasing the ongoing and future production. In a word, the overall economy has been growing briskly and significant and precious successes have been made in improving the people's living standards.

This year, the Korean people are faced with tasks that are more difficult and colossal than those of last year and the obstacles and trials standing in the way of their advance are enormous.

But it is the firm determination of the Workers' Party of Korea to further expand the successes achieved till now and prove their worth, and turn all the planned tasks into brilliant fruition.

Therefore, the WPK set forth the task of concentrating efforts on the 12 major goals by setting them in front in the new year, too, at the

Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK. It is the intention of the WPK that only then can it maintain the stable growth trend of the economy as a whole, provide a sure guarantee for the fulfilment of the five-year plan and lay a springboard for a leap to the next stage.

The Korean people are filled with enthusiasm to push ahead with the comprehensive development of socialist construction on a full scale and at an accelerated pace this year, too, true to the decisions of the plenary meeting.

Measures are being taken to continue to put forward the 12 major goals of the national economy and concentrate efforts on them, while the offensive spirit is further rising on all fronts of socialist construction.

## Korean-style circular plate continuous casting successful

By Kim Hye Jong PT

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex has succeeded in the new circular plate continuous casting and started the operation of the process.

The introduction of continuous casting of sheet, one of the important links in improving the quality of rolled steel, is a remarkable success conducive to promoting independence of the metallurgical industry.

True to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on technically perfecting the Juche-based iron production system, expanding its capacity and drastically increasing the production of iron and steel, the complex introduced advanced technologies to consolidate its production foundations while pushing ahead with the projects for putting production lines on a Juche basis.

In particular, it stepped up the work to significantly reduce the production cost of

iron and steel by introducing circular plate continuous casting from last year in order to implement the strategy of the WPK for readjustment and reinforcement.

It was really an uphill battle to adopt a new perfect mode of operation as it had to introduce a new digital control technology quite different from the existing analog control mode.

Researchers at Kim Chack University of Technology set an ambitious goal to establish a new plate continuous casting process, not copying others.

They studied the literature on the global trend of plate continuous ingoting and on the basis of it calculated the technical characteristic values. They also established a rational system for fully realizing the automatic control of the overall ingoting process including the crystallizer, the core part of the continuous casting machine, and successfully pushed forward with the production of parts

according to systems and trial production.

The technical personnel and workers of the complex and lecturers of Songnim College of Metal Technology also contributed to perfecting the overall ingoting processes including molten metal pouring, operation, drawing, correcting, hydraulic and cutting systems.

The complex can earn considerable profits by succeeding in the new circular plate continuous casting.

First, it can use ferroalloy, which was used for the making of block moulds in the course of producing rolled steel plate materials by the existing method, for the production of billets and raise the actual output ratio of rolling to a high level while saving a lot of manpower, electric power and materials.

It can also expand the kinds and sizes of steel materials and improve their quality and, at the same time, further improve the working environment.

## New technologies serve as key to increasing production

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station is boosting the production of electricity by steadily introducing new technologies, as part of the efforts to carry out the important tasks set forth at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The continuous introduction of new technologies is a fundamental key to normalizing production at a high level.

There was an occasion for the employees of the power station to realize this truth once again.

One day when a senior official of the station was looking round the work site, something caught his eye.

The operating temperature of the superheated steam tube was higher than the rated value. Though it had no damage to the ongoing production, it was not a problem to be overlooked.

While trying to find out the cause, he paid attention to the coal economizer.

He thought that if some water was withdrawn from the economizer outlet by installing an auxiliary pipe and used as cooling water, the temperature of the superheated steam tube would be reduced to improve the performance of the equipment. A simulation test showed very positive results.

He immediately held an consultative meeting and put this matter on the table. But he was met with an unexpected opposition.

Some claimed that there was no pressing need to do that since the problem would be solved of its own accord if all the supply indices were improved, and others were of the opinion that they should not trouble themselves but maintain the present mode of production.

However, he did not step back, saying they should push ahead with this work unconditionally for increased electricity production and

for the advance of the power station.

And he convinced the participants in the meeting of the practical possibility of the plan with the results of the simulation test.

As a result, auxiliary pipes were installed and the operation period of boilers increased, making it possible to produce more electricity while saving much coal.

Another important aspect of the management of the power station is that they have a fresh methodology for training talents.

They selected some competent persons qualified as educators and made them give daily supplementary lectures to the employees studying in the online education system.

Consequently, the practical abilities of the employees have been remarkably improved and everyone got more eager to learn.

This in turn led to increased electricity production of the power station.

## Footwear factory increases solar power generation

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory produces electric power by its own efforts to use it for production and management activities and bring benefits to the country.

According to Song Hyok, a staffer in charge of equipment management, the factory installed well over a thousand solar panels on rooftops of production and office buildings. With them it generates over a thousand kWh of electric power a day to light the compound and

operate equipment. Electricity produced on rest days or holidays is put into the national power grid.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un visited the renovated factory a few years ago and was very pleased to see that it conducted production and management activities with electric power from solar panels. And he pointed to the need for other industrial establishments to harness renewables and manage solar power generating equipment well after setting them up.

True to his instructions of

that day, the employees of the factory made strenuous efforts to increase electricity production with solar panels while properly maintaining and managing the solar power generating equipment.

In the course of it, the factory established a new power supply system in collaboration with researchers in relevant sector and produced much electricity to offer substantial benefits to the country.

"We have keenly realized the validity of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on positively harnessing

renewable energies over the past several years. We are

determined to further increase the capacity of the 'solar power

station' in future," said the factory manager.



Employees inspect the solar panels installed on the rooftop at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory.

# Supply of necessities to students in a responsible manner—consistent policy of WPK, eternal policy of DPRK

## Factory improves quality of school uniforms

By Kim Hye Jong PT

State measures have been taken in recent years to provide all the students throughout the country with more fashionable and higher quality school uniforms. A new guide to body measurement for the schoolchildren was issued last year and a processing manual for the production of school uniforms was sent to all parts of the country this year. "In the past, a passing-on-technique session was offered for excellent technical experts selected from factories, but this

year garment experts go down to all factories to provide all employees with such sessions. Therefore, the quality of school uniforms have been further improved," says an official of the Garment Research Institute under the Ministry of Regional Industry. The newly-refurbished Pyongyang School Uniform Factory has overfulfilled its daily plan while improving the quality of uniforms remarkably. It increased the number of quality supervisor from one to five and appointed full-time process controllers who evaluate quality according to

processes in each workteam to arrange more than a products show every week. It actively invents and introduces new technologies conducive to improving the quality of products. A typical example is a large printer that ensures the automatic cutting of cloth in accordance with programs. Its introduction makes it possible to cut cloth more precisely and save 9 percent of materials. Large and small TVs installed at the factory's sci-tech learning space, design studio, technical preparation room and production sites help employees enhance their technical knowledge

and skills. At present, the production of uniforms for newcomers in primary schools is being pushed at the final stage in the factory whose production processes are automated from the beginning of the production to the final stage. "Employees hang the photographs of their children dressed in new school uniforms on their machines. Seeing the photos, they devote utmost sincerity to work with an attitude that they make school uniforms for their own beloved children," said Hong Ri Hwa, workshop manageress of the factory.



Workers hold a review on products at the Pyongyang School Uniform Factory. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Technicians hold a discussion to make an innovation in improving the quality of products at the Pyongyang Bag Factory. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Bag factory focuses on high quality, fresh design

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Pyongyang Bag Factory is stepping up the production of bags to be supplied to schoolchildren and college students. At the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that it is the consistent policy of the WPK and the eternal policy of the DPRK that the Party and the state supply necessities for schoolchildren and students in a responsible manner.

True to the instructions of the General Secretary, the factory is directing primary efforts to ensuring the quality of products. "Product quality is partly related to the materials and performance of equipment, but it entirely depends on the skill level of the producers. When the producers continue to improve their skills, the quality of all products can be guaranteed," said Han Jin Gyong, a technical staffer of the factory, adding that they are devoting all their sincerity to every product with the feelings of a mother making satchels for her

children. Regarding the steady improvement of the skills of its employees as a main factor in ensuring quality, the factory frequently organizes short courses, judgments and product shows and offers prizes to excellent workteams and workers. In the course of this, a new process checking system was introduced to increase the actual yield of products. They also made a zipper wire cutter with high accuracy and quality to save much labour and increase production capacity. And various kinds of quality inspection

facilities for measuring the durability and seam strength of bag-straps were newly built and installed to improve the quality of products. The factory is channelling efforts into creating new designs. The design studio of the factory worked hard to develop fresh designs with different colours and patterns in conformity with the psychology, likings and tastes of students. In particular, it holds joint meetings for creating and reviewing designs twice a month so that all employees can actively take part in the creation of

new designs. The factory introduced a new jet printing technology that can match printed images with original images through a simple operation process and thus saved materials and labour and further improved the product quality. Now that it has confirmed the designs of new types of bags and completed the technical preparations including the drawing up of patterns and technical guidelines in a short span of time, it is carefully organizing the work for executing the production plan within the time limit.



Workers are encouraged to improve their technical knowledge and skills so as to raise the quality of shoes for students at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory. KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## To produce more quality shoes for primary school pupils

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory is now engaged in the production of trainers for spring and autumn to be supplied to new pupils of primary schools. "The top priority policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK is always the one for rising generations. Now, we put in special effort to improve the quality of footwear in order to the tasks set forth at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK which stressed again the need to increase the sense of responsibility in implementing the socialist

policy for schoolchildren," said Son Hyon Sok, chief engineer of the factory. Son said that it is important in raising the quality of footwear to cut out their parts well. Especially, it is more so for those for primary schoolchildren as they have various parts to suit their psychology. The factory newly installed a CNC automatic cutting machine and established the process for cutting parts on the basis of it. Thus, the accuracy of the cut parts is being improved. It is also important in raising the quality of products to restore the original

performance of all facilities so that they can fully display their performance. This year the factory started production after perfecting equipment repair, for example, the restoration of the original performance of the toe-part lasting machine, four-way press and other hydraulic machines of the shoemaking line. Needle workers pasted photos of their children or siblings on their sewing machines and devote all their sincerity to stitching footwear with the mind of making footwear for their own relatives. "We are striving to raise the qualitative level of

footwear for schoolchildren to that of the first-class shoes by strictly meeting all technical requirements," says Ri Man Song, head of the shoemaking workshop. Meanwhile, the factory is putting efforts into developing new kinds of trainers. It newly designed the shapes of the shoetree and sole of trainers for men and women and introduced a CNC four-spindle processing machine to make footwear moulds at will and trained skilled hands specializing in designing soles. This year alone, the factory has developed dozens of kinds of trainers, which are

very popular. Among them are the trainers for young people which give them sense of lightness and activity by heightening the contrast in colour at their outer rims and soles to suit their psychology and seasonal characters, those for adults which improved in terms of wear and cold resistance of sole and those for children whose outer rims are made of materials of various colours to suit their minds. All of them fully satisfy the demands of customers. The factory also produces sports shoes for different sports like football, boxing, basketball, tennis, volleyball and table tennis.

## Mindulle notebooks much favoured by students

By Pak Song Min PT

The Mindulle Notebook Factory specializing in the production of notebooks for all the students of the DPRK has recently developed new popular products. In the past, the factory produced notebooks and mental arithmetic cards for primary school students which bear the national symbols to instil patriotism in the minds of the rising generation and sketchbooks and music notebooks suited to children's mind. "Excessive use of electronic media like computers and mobile phones has negative effects on the growth of pupils and other young children, causing such disorders as autism. Therefore, the technical team of the factory continues to put efforts into making the traditional printed paper products which children can use with interest," said Pak Pong Hyok, a staffer of the factory. In the course of this, they turned notebooks into functional workbooks to

enable children to use them not merely for writing but also for learning the Korean language, mathematics and English by themselves. The writing exercise book containing 1 080 most frequently used Korean words enables the user to easily have a correct writing style in the course of following the standard letters on it, and the written arithmetic exercise book enables them to practise addition and subtraction up to the number 100. And the English writing exercise book makes any children capable of holding a pencil learn hundreds of English words easily. The factory has recently developed dozens of such new products. At present, prior to the new school year, the factory is speeding up the production of notebooks, true to the instruction of General Secretary Kim Jong Un that it is the consistent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the eternal state policy of the DPRK to provide students with necessities in a responsible manner.



The Mindulle Notebook Factory steps up production as the new school year approaches. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Turumi-brand school supplies popular with children

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Sonamu School Things Factory produces Turumi-brand school supplies for primary schoolchildren who move up from the first year to the second and new students of junior and senior middle schools. The factory turns out dozens of kinds of such school things as pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, different types of rulers, crayons of 12 colours suited to children's mind, coloured clay, scissors and gel pens and the school things vary according to curricula. It is equipped with a full set of modern facilities for each production process, including machines for injection moulding, extruding and assembling and printers. "The main thing in producing school supplies is to make them convenient to use by sensitively accommodating the psychology of students and the global trend of

development," said Pak Chol, manager of the factory. The employees of the factory are making strenuous efforts for improving the quality of products to meet the students' demands that are growing with each passing day with the mind of parents providing their own children with school supplies, he added. The factory frequently organizes prize contests to enable its employees to actively propose the ideas conducive to the improvement of the quality of the products, the reduction of costs and the increase in kind and encourages them to voluntarily strive to raise their technical knowledge and skills a level higher. It has also directed big efforts to the domestic production of raw and other materials and, in the course of that, it developed 12-coloured clay, which is good for intellectual development and does no harm to the human body, with locally available raw materials.

"It is only a few years since the establishment of our factory, but along with the Turumi brand, it has become well known to all students and people across the country as a factory producing school things favoured by children," said section chief Hong Mi Hyang. The factory is associated with the love for the rising generations, the future of the country, of the Workers' Party of Korea which spares nothing for them, she added. On his inspection tour of the Mindulle Notebook Factory one year, General Secretary Kim Jong Un looked round all production sites with great satisfaction and unfolded a far-reaching plan for providing children and students with school things made at home like the Mindulle notebooks. Thus there was built the factory equipped with modern machines for the production of school things in a short span of time, and it was named Sonamu School Things Factory. The first

products from the factory were supplied to the second-year pupils of primary schools across the country in May 2021. Many parents shed tears of gratitude at the sight of their children being pleased to receive the school things produced not under comfortable situation but at a time when the country was experiencing the worst difficulties. "The Turumi-brand school things produced by the factory are being sent wherever there are children, including schools in Pyongyang and small or branch schools at the end of the country far away from the capital city and in remote mountain villages," said the manager. Under the loving care of the Workers' Party of Korea for the rising generations, students in the country now go to and from school in new uniforms and shoes, carrying Sonamu satchels containing Mindulle-brand notebooks and Haebaragi- and Turumi-brand school things.



## Identifying women as a powerful force

By Pang Un Ju PT

Once, a foreign figure wrote in his writings:

"In the heart of Pyongyang, the capital city of heroic Korea, there stands the Chollima Statue depicting a winged horse rushing toward the future with its head held up high.

"The statue symbolizes the heroic spirit of the Korean people and shows that the Korean women emerge as masters of the country together with men."

As he wrote, women constitute a powerful force that turns one of the two wheels of the revolution in the DPRK.

In the past, the Korean women had been living with a weary sigh and in tears due to the yoke

of feudalism and the Japanese military occupation and colonial policy. They could feel the pride and joy of life only after President Kim Il Sung won back their country.

Kim Il Sung, who put forward the cause of emancipating women as the main fighting task of the Korean women's movement in his early years, said at the historic inaugural meeting of the Party after liberation that the women accounting for half of the population should be emancipated socially in order to democratize society and pointed to the need to fully emancipate the women, who had been subjected to all manner of contempt and maltreatment with no right and freedom in the past, from the feudal relationship of social

status and provide them with equal rights and freedom with men, so as to make them reliably perform their part in building a new Korea.

After Kim Il Sung proclaimed the Law on Sex Equality after liberation, the Korean women could become full masters of society turning one of the two wheels of the revolution.

Chairman Kim Jong Il, who carried on the intention of President Kim Il Sung, illuminated the road ahead of the Korean women's movement in his immortal works, including "Women Are a Powerful Force That Pushes Ahead with the Revolution and Construction", in order to make sure that a social habit of attaching importance to and respecting women prevailed throughout the country.

Since they held the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who is faithfully implementing the intentions of the President and the Chairman, in high esteem, the dignity and happy lives of Korean women have reached a high stage.

When he met a woman official working well during his inspection tour, he was very pleased and bestowed on her great favour. On his visit to a women's company of the Korean People's Army, he had photos taken with its servicepersons in the hope that they would do military service well. And he put forward the wives of disabled soldiers and other women who have made devoted efforts for service personnel.

He personally undertook the construction projects for

an institute contributing to the promotion of women's health and hostels of women weavers and silk-reel workers. He paid meticulous attention to providing women with quality cosmetics and arranged a distinctive women's garment show to make them enjoy a more civilized life and look beautiful. Many other facts are recorded in the pages of the annals of his revolutionary activities.

Thanks to his such loving care, many women—scientists, athletes, workers and those who gave birth to many children and brought them up wonderfully—became heroes in the new century of the Juche era, and therefore all the women in the DPRK enjoy a worthwhile life as the flower of the country, society and life.

## Women's sincere efforts promote country's development

By Ri Sang Il PT

Women's patriotic zeal has been further grown in the DPRK since the Fifth National Conference of Mothers in December 2023.

Conspicuous is the zeal of mothers who took part in the conference.

Saying that she can never forget the paternal love which the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un showed for her, warmly holding her hands while praising her as a communist mother to be known to the whole country, Ri Hwa Suk, farmer of the Tokjung Farm in Koksan County, North Hwanghae Province, is increasingly active in farming for a bumper crop in autumn at the farm.

Jo Son Ae, aged woman living in Sinjong-ri, Kapsan County of Ryanggang Province, who received the Communist Mother Honour Prize, became an honorary farmer and has devoted herself to making low-yielding fields fertile with a mind to contribute whatever little efforts to filling the country's granary.

Unusually moved by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's instructions that mothers themselves should become communist mothers with noble and fine spiritual and moral traits, Kim Sang Sun, nurse of the Sariwon Baby Home, is devoted to raising triplets better and contributing to the education of children and the promotion of their health by securing dozens of items

of intelligence-promoting toys and different kinds of nutritive foods.

Im Ok Sil, worker of the Jongphyong public catering management station, is working with sincerity for the good of the country as she was deeply moved by the favour shown by the country which put forward her, a daughter of an ordinary coal miner, as deputy to the Jongphyong county people's assembly and meritorious person of socialist patriotism and invited her to the Fifth National Conference of Mothers.

Good deeds of participants in the conference, who are adding brilliance to their life as patriots, are further firing all other women across the country with a patriotic zeal.

In January this year, many women in South Phyongan Province volunteered for different sectors of the national economy in the province.

The women in cities and counties of the province, who volunteered to work in the sectors of the coal and chemical industries and agriculture, at thermal power stations, mines, machine factories and saltworks, are working honestly in their workplaces with an enthusiasm for fulfilling their civic duty for the prosperity and development of the country.

Also, women in Ryanggang Province are actively volunteering to work in main sectors for implementing the five-year plan for the development of the national economy.

## Selfless woman finds worth of life in patriotic deeds

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Koreans regard it as their greatest pride to devote themselves to the country.

Kang Hye Suk, head of neighbourhood unit No. 41 of Jungsong-dong in Central District, Pyongyang, has done many good things for the country for nearly 20 years.

"Kang is known as the 'patriotic mother' in the construction site of Jonwi Street, the Posong Farm in Rangnang District and many other places as well as her neighbourhood unit," said Choe Tae Man, head of the Jungsong-dong office.

Here is the story of how she came to earn that nickname.

Twenty years ago, Kang left her job for she had to nurse her father-in-law who had been confined to bed after suffering an accident.

Even though the country was having difficulties at that time, the socialist free medical care was invariably in place and measures were constantly taken to improve the people's living standards.

So, though she was out of work, she had little trouble looking after her bedridden father-in-law.

This made her think deeply about the benefits provided by the state, which had seemed so normal to her at ordinary times. And she renewed her determination to repay them even a little.

One day, Kang learned that some old women in the neighbourhood visited major construction sites to encourage the builders.

Then, it occurred to her that she could also help the builders and she joined in their visits to construction sites.

As she got to visit the construction sites more frequently with aid materials prepared with sincerity and sometimes with songs practised with much effort, she became more proud that she was making a little contribution to the prosperity and development of the country.

Her father-in-law also gave her support and inspiration.

Thus, she spent more than ten years visiting construction sites not only in Pyongyang but also in various parts of the country including those of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station, the City of Samjiyon, the Tanchon Power Station and the flood-stricken areas in the northern part of the country.

After she became the head of the neighbourhood unit, she encouraged her family members and all others in the neighbourhood unit to voluntarily do good things for the country.

At that time Kang said that the happiness in a family is not so great and does not last long, but the pleasure of doing good things for the society and the collective and for the country is incomparably greater than anything else and lasts for a lifetime.



Kang Hye Suk and her family members prepare aid materials for soldier-builders. KWON HYO SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

"Kang always tells us that patriotism is not something special but just worrying about the affairs of the country and making efforts to give even a little help to the country," said Kim Hye Suk, a resident of the neighbourhood unit.

According to her daughter Pak So Yon, Kang often tells her children that everyone should carry out their patriotic duties because the country gets strong and is firmly defended by the efforts and devotion of all people.

In recognition of the altruistic efforts of Kang Hye Suk who linked the happiness of her life with that of the country and has done lots of good things for many years, the state put her forward as a delegate to a major national celebration.

# Industrial design exhibition a focus of public interest

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Pyongyang Municipal Industrial Design Exhibition, which began on February 7 in celebration of the February holiday, is going on, attracting growing interest of the citizens.

"In February every year, industrial design exhibitions are held in all provinces to mark the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il. This is an important occasion in increasing public interest in industrial design and contributing to the development of the country's economy and improvement of the people's living standards," said Paek Kyong Nam, director of the Pyongyang municipal industrial design bureau.

On display in the current exhibition are more than 300 designs personally guided by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and some 800 designs, models, samples and products created by industrial design experts and fans and students.

Designs of construction machines draw particular attention of visitors.

The designs of hydraulic excavators, shovels and others with novel ideas, unique shapes and high utility reflect the intention of the creators to contribute to fulfilling the long-cherished desire of the Workers' Party of Korea to promote the people's well-being including the construction of modern regional-industry factories and dwelling houses, which is now dynamically pushed forward by the state.

Eye-catching are the designs of new-type tractors, threshers, wheat harvesters and other farm machines of various kinds produced to suit the rural conditions.

Interior and green architecture designs and those of new-type double-decker buses which ensure formative artistic representation with new ideas and original creative techniques are so developed as to provide the people with beautiful and civilized living conditions.

Also noticeable are ornamental designs of green environment. Among them are those for shaping trees, the designs of gateposts of children's park depicting unique landscapes and those

of benches of the park in the shape of tree branches.

The designs of various kinds of light shoes in different colours and shapes that suit the burgeoning spring season, bags, household goods and cosmetics are popular for their organic combination of practical and aesthetic aspects.

In particular, the designs of children's bags in diverse shapes and colours reflect their minds so well that they want to carry such bags.

Designs of various kinds of

elegant and beautiful clothes show the new development stage of costume art.

Among the exhibits are seen the designs of trademarks, packages, advertisements, signboards and calligraphic styles that clearly express conciseness, concentration and symbolism.

Products of the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, Pyongyang Hosiery Factory, Songyo Knitwear Factory and others in the city made by introducing various designs

are on sale at the exhibition.

Young "industrial designers" also presented ingenious inventions to the current exhibition.

Ri Ju Chon, a student at Kaeson Senior Middle School in Moranbong District, presented a model "New looks of cultured rural community" depicting the new appearance of the rural villages which will be spruced up more splendidly in the future, inspired by the great changes taking place in urban and rural communities every year.

And the designs of a table-lamp in the shape of a flowerpot and a paper bag made of waste paper and others show unusual and laudable intentions of the students.

"Through the exhibition, I have come to know better about the dreams and ideals of our people growing bigger day by day and our beautiful life to be brought earlier," said Rim Kyong Hye, head of the Moranbong Industrial Design Distribution Agency.

The exhibition will continue till March 7.

Visitors show keen interest in the models and designs at the Pyongyang Municipal Industrial Design Exhibition. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



## Pencil drawings attract many visitors

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

The 10th National Pencil Drawing Festival took place at the Pyongyang International House of Culture in February.

The biennial festival draws public interest since everyone who is interested in fine art can take part in it.

On display at the festival were more than 300 pieces of art works presented by experts, amateurs, youth, students and children across the country.

Put on show were works reflecting the immortal revolutionary career and exploits of Chairman Kim Jong Il and many other works dealing with the mightiness of the

DPRK and the Korean people's spirit of advance as the festival was held on the occasion of the 82nd anniversary of the birth of the Chairman.

A pencil drawing "The Sobaek Stream in February" was created by the first-year student of the secondary course of Pyongyang University of Fine Arts. It is one of the

works which were highly appreciated in the festival.

The work depicts the Sobaeksu Valley which is located in the Paektusan Secret Camp where Kim Jong Il was born. The creator vividly portrayed the white snow of the Sobaeksu Valley and the incessantly flowing stream water with a pencil.

Through the depiction of

an endless flow of study tourists heading for the Chairman's birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp holding high the red flag, the drawing represented well the will of young people to carry forward the revolutionary spirit of Paektu through generations.

A conte "At a stroke", which was created by Kim Jong Nam from Pyongyang University of Fine Arts, looked lifelike since it represented in a three-dimensional way the training of service members of the Korean People's Army.

Amateurs also produced excellent works.

Themes of the works presented by students and other children were diverse, but most of them depicted the happy looks of schoolchildren who received new school uniforms, bags and other school things thanks to the noble love of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state for rising generations, and their beautiful dreams and hope the future and their pride in their villages and schools.

A pen drawing "A happy event of our farm" done by Kim Yun Gwang, a student of Tonui Senior

Middle School in Waudo District, Nampho City, was never inferior to works of adults in terms of scale and content.

The original Korean painting and sketching techniques were good. Especially, people were pleased to see the works vividly and interestingly portraying a sea of farm machines in fertile fields with golden ears of grain and a happy event in a rural village which turned into a place as nice as cities.

The youngest child among the participants in the festival was Jon Ryo Song, a five-year-old from Woesong Kindergarten in Central District, Pyongyang. He has been drawing pencil pictures since three years old.

The child's drawing representing a drawing lesson at the kindergarten aroused the amazement of visitors.

The festival, which brought together pencil drawings, left a deep impression on viewers as they gave them a glimpse of the developments of the mass-based art of the country through the exhibits containing profound meaning and featured by vividness.



Visitors look round the art works on display at the 10th National Pencil Drawing Festival.



# Historic visit opens new chapter in DPRK-Vietnam ties

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, paid a historic visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam five years ago on March 1-2 2019.

His official goodwill visit to Vietnam served as a historic occasion for invariably preserving the history and tradition of friendship between the two countries and further developing the bilateral relations as required by the new era.

The DPRK and Vietnam are both socialist countries situated in Asia, and the friendly and cooperative ties between the peoples of the two countries have a long history and tradition.

President Kim Il Sung established intimate comradely relationship with President Ho Chi

Minh of Vietnam and provided the historic roots of the DPRK-Vietnam friendship.

He rendered sincere support to the Vietnamese people in their difficult war against imperialist aggressors. He dispatched airmen to Vietnam and sent large quantities of munitions including weapons, ammunition and uniforms to make a great contribution to supporting the embattled Vietnamese people.

When the Korean pilots arrived in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh visited their quarters after putting off a meeting of the Party Political Bureau, and said in excitement that Comrade Kim Il Sung was his brother who sincerely helped Vietnam and an outstanding leader of the international communist movement.

During his visit to Vietnam, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un established good relations with the

Vietnamese party and state leaders including Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and laid a firm foundation for carrying forward through generations the tradition of friendship between the DPRK and Vietnam provided by the preceding leaders of the two countries even under the complicated international situation.

He said that it was quite natural and right for him to visit Vietnam, a country associated with the noble spirits of the leaders of the two countries and the common soul of the martyrs of the two countries who made the history of the DPRK-Vietnam friendship with their lives, and affirmed the will to further consolidate and develop the bilateral friendly and cooperative ties as required by the new era and make

joint efforts in the sacred struggle to bring happiness and future to the peoples of the two countries.

The meeting and talks held by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un with the party and state leaders of Vietnam demonstrated the will and stand of the parties and peoples of the two countries to positively push forward the historic cause of defending and accomplishing socialism.

The strategic communication between the two parties has been strengthened unprecedentedly and the friendship between the two peoples has deepened day by day in the past five years since his Vietnam visit.

Today, the Vietnamese people are defending and advancing socialism chosen by themselves under the leadership of the CPV.

They are now working hard to implement the decision of the 13th

Congress of the CPV, rallied close around the Party headed by Nguyen Phu Trong.

Vietnam is consistently pursuing its foreign policy of independence and sovereignty, friendship and peace, cooperation and development, while strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations with many countries of the world.

The Korean people sincerely hope that the Vietnamese people will make a fresh development in building a prosperous socialist state under the guidance of the CPV.

The DPRK-Vietnam friendly and cooperative relations, which were forged by the preceding leaders and are being consolidated and developed under the deep care of the top leaders of the two parties, will invariably be carried on generation after generation as the common wealth of the peoples of the two countries.

## Sinister intention behind the admonition by 'democracy judge'

KCNA

The US, which often interferes in the internal affairs of other countries while touting "democracy", has come under fire since it posed as a judge once again as it meddled in the legitimate legislative activities of Kyrgyzstan.

Recently, the revision of a law is under discussion in Kyrgyzstan with an eye to defending its national security by clearly specifying the scope of activities of non-governmental and nonprofit organizations.

The gist of their discussion is reportedly to grant the position of foreign missions to the organizations, which are provided with funds from overseas or intervene in politics, and make them go through special formalities for registration and report.

As if the law is related to the US, its Secretary of State recently "ad-monished" the Kyrgyz President in a letter consistent with uppish re-marks, saying he expresses concern and the

adoption of the law might have a negative impact on the public circles of Kyrgyzstan.

It marked an occasion in revealing once again to the world the shamelessness peculiar to the "judge of democracy", who is apt to pick a quarrel with others without thinking of the consequences.

As is known, the Kyrgyz amendment is similar in content to the law on registration of foreign agents, which was adopted in the US in 1938 and is still being in force.

The US has long applied the registration law demanding organizations engaged in information activities on behalf of foreign governments and entities register as foreign agents and report the relations of foreign clients and their activities, financial income and expenditure in the US on a regular basis.

At present, the US is intensifying suppression on media organizations of other countries that are disagreeable to it by applying the law.

It registered the RT TV

broadcasting service of Russia as a foreign agent in 2017 and restricted its activities, and demanded relevant Chinese media organizations in the country that they register as foreign agents in December 2018, and included five Chinese media organizations in the list of foreign missions in February 2020 to expel many Chinese journalists.

Such presumptuous behaviour of the US, which admonishes others without reflecting on its own base deeds, is just the case of a thief crying "Stop thief!"

In short, there lies a wicked intention behind such faultfinding over Kyrgyzstan's legal revision.

Disclosing that the slander of the US is based on false information a tiny handful of non-governmental and nonprofit organizations spread to create social instability, the Kyrgyz President pointed to the need to investigate the records on the funds used by US-sponsored organizations in the past decade.

His stand suggests that the amendment is not unrelated to covert stratagems the US

is conducting in Kyrgyzstan.

It is not accidental that the US has interfered in the internal affairs of the country, in consideration of the same old aggressive trick of the US which has meddled in the internal affairs of sovereign states while clamouring for the "defence of democracy" in front and disguised reactionary forces as "democratic forces" and egged them on to overthrow their governments while intensifying reactionary ideological and cultural poisoning and supplying them with funds and weapons in the back.

The interference and pressure against sovereign states are a trite trick of the US imperialists for domination and subordination and precisely a prelude to invasion.

All the facts tell again that all countries should always sharpen vigilance against the honeyed words and stratagems by correctly seeing through the deceitfulness and dangerousness of the "democracy" touted by the US.

## Refugee crisis a hard nut to crack facing the world

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

The number of refugees continues to grow worldwide.

According to the Office of the UN High Commissioners for Refugees, the number of refugees in the world reached more than 114 million by the end of September last year. And the number is rising day by day, far from dwindling, arousing great concern of the international community.

Well over a million people have so far been displaced by the conflict in the Gaza Strip of Palestine. With widespread bloodshed by Israel persisting for months, refugees still continue to grow in number in the Gaza Strip.

The number of refugees also goes up in Sudan due to the dispute which began in April last year.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in January, the number increased by about 611 000 in a month alone in the country.

Refugees due to armed conflicts also grow in number in many other countries and regions like Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Drought, heavy rain, flash floods and other natural disasters are another contributor to the rapid

growth in the number of refugees.

Actually, millions of people have lost their homes and fled to other places for safety due to the damage from extreme weather conditions caused by global warming in recent years. In Somalia alone, more than 2.4 million people suffered damage from flood and at least one million lost their homes and property and left in search of livelihood in the period between October and December last year.

The plight of refugees is desperate. Many people die of hunger, diseases and accidents on their way to refugees. Some 970 refugees were drowned and over 1 370 others went missing in the waters off Libya last year as they crossed the Mediterranean.

The refugees cannot escape misfortune and pain even if they have a narrow escape from death and put their feet on other countries or regions.

Criminal organizations prey on refugees, regarding them as the victims for their moneymaking.

Meanwhile, the countries which have taken in refugees are troubled by a series of serious socio-political and economic problems such as the supply of food and daily necessities and employment.

### BYWORD

The Regional Development 20x10 Policy set forth at the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea is actively pushed

while evoking thunderous response from among the Korean people as it is a revolutionary, scientific and people-oriented policy for meeting a long-cherished desire of regional people.

According to this policy, the WPK will keep hold on the construction of modern regional industry factories in 20 counties every year as an unerring policy task, carry it out accurately and

thus raise a level higher the basic material and cultural living standards of the people in all cities and counties and, in another word, across the country within ten years.

## Regional Development 20x10 Policy

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# Press statement of vice foreign minister of DPRK

KCNA

Kim Son Gyong, vice-minister for International Organizations of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, released the following press statement on February 23:

On February 20, the UN Security Council had a vote on the draft resolution concerning an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, submitted by Algeria in reflection of the general will of the international community demanding an immediate halt to Israel's brutal massacre of Palestinians.

However, the US again ruthlessly trampled down the desire of the international community for peace in the Middle East by wielding its veto under the absurd pretext that it may have a negative impact on the ongoing negotiations on hostage release.

By becoming the only UNSC member state that voted against

it, the US proved itself to be an accomplice to the inhuman genocide Israel committed by killing tens of thousands of Palestinians and reducing the Gaza Strip to a huge mass grave and a veritable hell.

I vehemently denounce with bitter resentment the atrocious crime of the US that seeks hegemonic purposes only, remaining utterly indifferent to the bloodshed against innocent peoples of other countries to meet its own geopolitical interests.

The current Palestinian crisis is not simply a matter of armed conflict but a vital issue directly related to the destiny of mankind—whether the international community feebly watches a rogue state's indiscriminate massacre or defends the human dignity and justice by its concerted efforts.

As shown by the result of the UNSC voting, the international community is turning its back on the irresponsible act of the US which

allows the massacre of civilians by Israel.

Nevertheless, the US has recklessly blocked the adoption of a resolution reflecting a minimum measure for preventing the murder of civilians in the Gaza Strip. This is little short of a death sentence which gave green light to Israel's indiscriminate killings of innocent Palestinians.

By vetoing all three hard-won draft resolutions for defusing the Middle East crisis, the US has revealed once again before the international community its true colours as a peace wrecker involved in crimes against humanity that seeks only its geopolitical hegemony in disregard of whether the global peace and security and the life and security of mankind are in danger or not.

The US has completely lost its elementary moral qualifications to talk about the guarantee of international peace, security and human rights.

Witnessing the bloodbath of innocent Palestinians in the Middle East for 100-odd days, the world has come to the conclusion that there is no room for the US to remain any longer in the UNSC whose mission is to ensure international peace and security.

The reality teaches the immutable philosophy that in the present world, where the US high-handed and arbitrary practices are rampant, the dignity and sovereignty of a state and the life and security of its people can be defended only by the capabilities for legitimate self-defence powerful enough to defend themselves, not by any international organization or outside help.

If the US persists in such provocative exercise of veto to instigate Israel's genocide, behaving self-conceitedly at the UN arena, it will further aggravate the worst-ever humanitarian crisis and face greater indignation and protests of the international community.

## KCNA commentary censures US power politics

Shortly ago, US Secretary of State Blinken stated that "if you do not sit at the table of the international system, you're going to be on the menu" at the Munich Security Conference (MSC), eliciting international criticism.

This Yankee slang means that if you have the strength, you devour others at the table; if you lack strength, you become a prey on the menu. The point is that the international order pursued by the US is grounded in the law of the jungle, the "logic of power".

It's pretty regrettable that the chief diplomat of a "superpower" let out such shameful, nasty remarks at the venue of the international conference dealing with global security issues.

However, it is "helpful" that his bullshit once again made the world keenly realize that the "rules-based world order" trumpeted by the US is the "law of the jungle" where the strong prey on the weak.

Commenting on this, the Russian foreign minister said that "the US is coercing other countries into sharing its 'international system table', or else they will be on the 'menu'". Chinese newspaper Global Times reported that "Washington's current official diplomatic rhetoric emphasizes the so-called 'rules-based world order,' but it is all used as tools to demand, restrain and accuse others, or to cover up its own hegemonic intentions".

As recognized by public at home and abroad, it is the US that cannot survive without preying on the weak, in view of its origination and existence mode.

Built on the sea of blood of American Indians, the US staged over 114 big and small wars of aggression and more than 8 900 military interventions for over 130 years until World War I, and expanded its territory over ten times by annexing and subordinating other countries and nations.

After World War II, the US grew corpulent through many wars and military interventions in the DPRK, Vietnam, Iraq, Syria and other parts of the world and maintained its privileged position.

Even in the present century when the unipolar world has been collapsing and a new, multipolarized international order is being established, the US is persistently pursuing its hegemonic and aggressive mode of existence and foreign policy, being obsessed with "overconfidence in its own strength", and constantly breaking the security and stability of the world.

The present Middle East situation which has no sign of solution and goes from bad to worse can be explained only by the logic of the animal instinct of the US.

The New York Times in an article titled "Understanding the Middle East through the Animal Kingdom" likened the US which is going to become the "king of the Middle East jungle" to a lion and Middle Eastern countries to a "parasitoid wasp" or "caterpillars", stressing the need for the US to burn the whole jungle to "kill the parasitoid wasp".

Hence, clearly proved are the true colours of the US sacrificing Middle Eastern countries and the whole region for its ambition for domination.

In a nutshell, the US is devouring others at the table, some countries and nations in the Middle East including Palestine are on the menu as the "fish and meat" and Israel is "skillfully cooking" to suit the taste of the US.

The outlook on the world based on the American-style law of the jungle and hegemonic foreign policy of the US justifying aggression and war for existence can never be tolerated in the present era of human civilization.

The US should no longer be allowed to devour the world at the table.

## Japanese authorities should lend ear to public opinion

By Song Jong Ho PT

In disregard of the opposition and concern of local residents, the Japanese defense ministry is speeding up their bid to turn Okinawa Prefecture into a military base.

The defense ministry made a plan to build a training ground of the Ground "Self Defense Force" in the site of golf course (about 20 hectares) in Uruma, Okinawa Prefecture, on the pretext of strengthening the defence system in the Nansei Islands.

As soon as it announced the plan, the local inhabitants have continued to voice their opposition to the plan.

As the opposition of residents got fierce, the defense ministry held a briefing to convince the locals of the necessity of the construction of the training ground on February 11.

While advocating the deterioration of security environment surrounding Japan, the defense ministry mentioned the necessity of fundamental increase in defence capabilities in the briefing which drew about 300 persons

However, the locals protest, saying "the use of the training ground is not clear" and "the adverse effect on surrounding residential areas is uncertain".

As is known, the sufferings and misfortune of the residents are enormous since 70 percent of military bases are concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture.

The locals have strongly demanded the shutdown of the US military base and return of its land for a long time.

The Japanese authorities, who set the humiliating policy of following the US as a national policy, have openly buckled down to the removal and expansion of military base that they pushed secretly in the past, far from closing the US military base, while regarding the locals' demand

as the passing sound of the wind.

The residents, who have suffered misfortune and sufferings due to the US military base, will not agree on the construction plan of the defence ministry.

The Japanese authorities, who are dead set on the unheard-of military buildup, obsessed with the wild ambition for military expansion, look on with folded arms at the sufferings of residents.

They are reportedly going to build the training ground as the number of personnel has increased since the 15th brigade of the Ground "SDF" has been raised to the status of division.

Why does Japan, a war criminal state which lost the right of belligerency and participation in the war and which cannot possess combat capabilities under the constitution, continue to increase military bases in Okinawa facing the Asian continent?

It is evidenced by the undisguised military moves of Japan.

Japan, which has increased its defence budget every year, boosted the defence budget in 2024 to the largest ever scale of over 7.949 trillion yen and massively purchased offensive-oriented military equipment from the US including Tomahawk long-range cruise missile.

Given that it has pushed military buildup far exceeding its defence demand, Japan's continued expansion of military base in Okinawa is nothing but a revelation of its foolish wild ambition for overseas invasion disturbing regional peace and stability.

Its neighbouring countries and the international community are now carefully watching its military moves with heightened vigilance.

The Japanese authorities must lend an ear to the public demand and realize that they would be doomed to destruction if they keep moving toward a military power in disregard of the demand.

## Briefly

### Pakistan

#### President calls for increasing women's role

The Pakistani President called for enhancing the role of women in combating poverty in an event on February 25.

It is very important to enhance the role of women in the combat for resolving such issues, he said, emphasizing the need to help them to contribute to the development of the country by providing them with conditions for safe working, education and medical service.

### Russia

#### Representative denounces West's history distortion

The Russian permanent representative to the UN disclosed and denounced the West's base acts of history distortion related to the Ukrainian crisis at a meeting of the UN General Assembly on February 23.

Pure truth is very disadvantageous for the Western fellows, he said, adding that when the truth is known, they will be compelled to accept the blame for having sparked off the Ukrainian crisis, egged the country on to prepare for a war with Russia for years and trained nationalists and neo-Nazis there.

The spread of rumour that Russia is an aggressor and Ukraine is an innocent victim by turning black into white is in the interests of Western countries, he said.

### China

#### FM decries US for violating sovereignty

A spokeswoman for the Chinese foreign ministry in a press conference on February 22 denounced the US for violating its sovereignty as to the Taiwan issue.

With regard to the US bid for selling tens of millions of dollars' worth of munitions to Taiwan, she branded it as a violation of the One-China Principle and infringement upon China's sovereignty and security interests.

Saying the US should terminate the military connections with Taiwan, she announced that China would take resolute and powerful measures to safeguard the national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### Iran

#### FM spokesman criticizes US' and UK's air raids on Yemen

A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry on February 25 strongly censured the US and the UK for their air raids on Sanaa, capital of Yemen.

He branded the US and UK military planes' air raids as arbitrary actions, a violation of officially recognized international law and regulations and an infringement on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

The US and the UK, through the air raids, showed again that they support war crimes Israel commits in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of Palestine, he asserted.

# Top ten players and coaches of 2023

## Best weightlifting coaches

By Ri Sung Ik PT

### Prolific coach of women weightlifting stars

Jong Song Hui, one of the top ten coaches in 2023, is a lecturer at the weightlifting department of Central Sports School.

She began to work as a lecturer at the weightlifting department of the school in 2004 after graduating from the school.

Since then she has put her heart and soul into training talented sportspersons. Sometimes she walked a long distance to select students with suitable physical constitution and looked after young students with parental care.

As a result, Ri Suk, one of her students, won the then national sports contest of juvenile sports schools in 2015 and bagged six

and three gold medals respectively at the women's 53kg category events of the 2018 and 2019 Asian juvenile and junior weightlifting championships.

Her former student continued to achieve remarkable successes in the international events.

In international tournaments held last year and this year Ri Suk established several new

world and world youth records and snatched six gold medals in total.

Competent as a coach as well as a teacher, Jong coached Kang Hyon Gyong to successes in the women's weightlifting 55kg category of the 19th Asian Games held in 2023 and the 2023 IWF Grand Prix tournament. Kang set new world, Asian and Grand Prix records and topped the podium.

"A teacher is like a gardener. Flowers bloom beautifully as much as the gardener directs devotion and efforts. I have adopted this opinion as my lifetime motto since I embarked on the career as an educator," said Jong Song Hui.

### Experienced and competent coach

Ri Chol Nam, weightlifting coach of the April 25 Combat Sports

Team, is a gifted coach who trained four Merited Sportsmen and helped many players steal the show in international and national events in the past.

His position as an experienced and competent coach in the national weightlifting circles is evidenced by the fact that he has so far been selected as one of the top 10 coaches of the country for the sixth time.

His face always mirrors his serious and passionate thinking, cool-headedness and courage.

It is his ambition to train all the players in his charge into world-class weightlifting stars.

When Ri Chong Song won victory in a national contest for the first time, Ri Chol Nam was depressed rather than pleased. Because it weighed on him that

Ri Chong Song had not displayed his ability to the full, though he would have been able to set a new record.

He made a cool-headed analysis of the course of his instruction and guidance of training once again, worked out an innovative training plan and applied it to make sure that Ri Chong Song set several new national records and won victory in the DPRK Championships in 2021.

Later, Ri Chong Song was selected as one of the top 10 players of the country twice and received gold medals in many international events.

One of the top 10 players of the DPRK in 2023, Ri Chong Song earned three gold medals in the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in February this year.

## An Chang Ok wins gold medal at FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatus World Cup

KCNA

An Chang Ok, a player of the DPRK, won a gold medal at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatus World Cup 2024 held in Germany.

The tournament brought together more than 310 ace men and women players from over 70 countries and regions including the DPRK, China and France.

An Chang Ok correctly performed every movement in the women's vaulting

horse of the apparatus finals on February 24 to take the first place.

Meanwhile, DPRK player Jo Kum Ryong was placed third in the men's 60m race at the 11th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships held in Iran some days ago.

## Folk holiday marked in DPRK

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

People throughout the DPRK celebrated their folk holiday of *Jongwoldaeborum* (fifteenth day of the first month by the lunar calendar) on February 24.

Those Pyongyangites who visited the Rangnang Museum spent a good time playing a variety of folk games.

Many visitors to the museum looked round the

relics on display, yet the outdoor folk game section was crowded with others who saw and held fierce contests of strength and skill at the *ssirum* (Korean wrestling) ground and the archery range.

Public catering service facilities seethed with diners who came to relish national foods, while the Munsu Water Park, outdoor ice rink and other cultural recreation centres were wrapped in a festive mood.

The dining tables at

families were set with various traditional dishes and laughter rang out from families playing *janggi* and *yut* (four-stick) games.

The people, who enjoyed the holiday at homes in Kyongru-dong and Songhwa and Hwasong streets and modern houses in rural areas of the country erected under the loving care of the Party, expressed their firm resolve to build a socialist paradise envied by the world on this land.



## Living monument, brown bear in Ryongnim

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

There is a habitat of brown bear in the Rangnim Mountains located in Ryongnim County, Jagang Province.

Brown bears are now becoming extinct in the world and therefore they are under international protection.

A brown bear is 150-180cm long and 200cm at maximum.

It generally weighs 180-250kg. The body is large, the forehead is wide, and the snout is comparatively long.

The ears are small and round, and the neck is short.

The shoulders are higher than the waist and bulky like wens and the tail is short.

The four legs are thick and strong, with sharp claws at the toes.

The fur colour varies according to regions and seasons, but it is generally dark brown or black.

The brown bear is omnivorous, and the kind of food varies according to seasons.

It eats various soft grasses in spring, insects, fish and voles along with grasses in summer, and such wild fruits as acorns in autumn.

At full three years of age,

it becomes sexually mature and reproduces every two to three years.

The mating season is June and July, and between January and February the following year, a female bear usually produces one or two cubs in a lair or up to five.

The bear hibernates in a rock cave or a lair under a hollow tree or a fallen tree between November and December and begins to move between March and April.

The brown bear in Ryongnim was designated as a living monument in January 1980.



People enjoy themselves at the Natural History Museum (above) and the Mirim Riding Club on the holiday.

