

Military Hardware Exhibition *Defence Development-2024* splendidly opens Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un delivers speech at opening ceremony

KCNA

The great Workers' Party of Korea has vigorously led the second revolution in national defence industry aimed at making the Korean People's Army stronger in terms of military technique after declaring at its historic Eighth Congress a grand national defence development strategy on developing the KPA into an elite army equipped with ultra-modern weapons by highly developing national defence science and

technology and researching and developing a larger number of ultra-modern weapons and combat equipment.

The WPK Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un set it as the most important and primary task for defending the country, revolution and



people to highly develop the country's war deterrent with nuclear force as its pivot and has stubbornly propelled the struggle for its implementation. By doing so, it has uninterruptedly accelerated great quantitative, qualitative and technological changes in bolstering up the country's

capabilities for self-defence and thus steadily increased the combat super power for defending national sovereignty and peace.

The Military Hardware Exhibition *Defence Development-2024* opened with splendour in Pyongyang, the capital of the

DPRK, on November 21, demonstrating the increased power that knows no limit and radical leap forward of the DPRK.

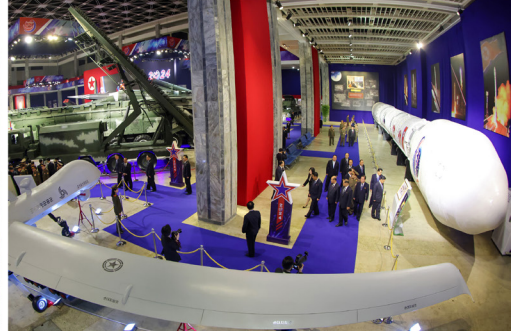
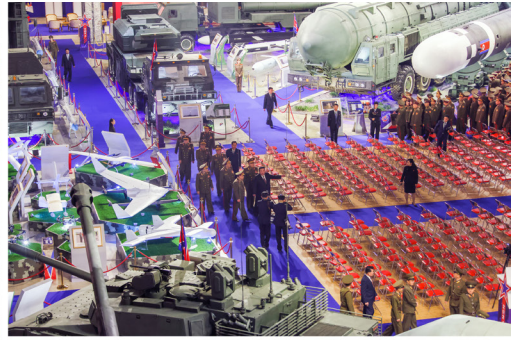
The exhibition brought together the latest creations by the national defence scientific and technological group of the DPRK, mainly the strategic and tactical weapons which have been further updated and developed in the light of modern and advanced characters and precision and power of strike and have drawn the world's attention through continuous development of their

new types.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

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When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived, the participants raised the stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" out of the absolute trust in and respect of the DPRK's armed forces for him, who represents the might of the powerful and matchless DPRK and its great dignity and leads to brilliant victory and glory the revolutionary struggle for achieving the great historic cause of building a rich country with a strong army, a long-cherished desire of the nation with a 5 000-year history, with his brilliant wisdom, extraordinary leadership ability and tireless devotion.

There was a demonstration of the flying corps of the KPA Air Force on the occasion of the opening ceremony.

Three-colour vapour trails were seen in the sky over Pyongyang.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition took place.

Enthusiastic applause burst out when Kim Jong Un took the platform together with senior officials in the defence and munitions sectors and commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence.

Present at the ceremony were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and other members of the Party central leadership

body, major commanding officers of all military and political organs of the Korean People's Army and workers, scientists and officials in the field of munitions industry.

Jo Chun Ryong, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, delivered an opening address.

At this moment when another milestone is to be set up in the course of building a rich country with a strong army, all of us are overwhelmed by the absolute trust in and boundless reverence for the great Comrade Kim Jong Un who ushered in a new era of the development of the Juche-oriented defence industry and enabled our country and its people to possess great dignity and matchless might, and visitors here would realize his ardent patriotic spirit and world of boundless creation reflected in the entities of great strength, he said, and declared the exhibition open.

The national anthem of the DPRK was played solemnly.

Kim Jong Un delivered a significant speech.

Pointing to the political and military significance of the exhibition, he said with pride that the brilliant successes in the field of national defence are enough to convince us that we have the capability and firm security guarantee for actively coping with not only various threats being posed by

the enemies to us but also the prospective security threats which we may face in the future, and our defence industry has been updated into an ultra-modern industry which supports the military activities most appropriately and thoroughly as required by each stage, each period and each circumstance of the revolution and has been further strengthened into a strategic fortress firmly defending the position of our state, the world's military power.

As long as the forces infringing upon our sovereignty exist, it is necessary to steadily update various weapons and equipment and develop them into ultra-modern ones as required by the security environment of our state, he noted, affirming that our Party and government will defend the DPRK, our glorious country, by dint of national defence by making all efforts to build up greater military and technical force and powerful military capabilities.

When he concluded his speech, all the participants paid the highest glory and respect to the peerlessly brilliant commander who is constantly writing the history of power of justice for achieving the eternal prosperity of the country and defending the peace of the people and hardened their solemn resolution to go all out for the sacred cause of bolstering up the national defence capabilities with a single mind.

Kim Jong Un, together with the visitors, looked round the exhibition.

Going round the weapons and equipment on display, he highly appreciated the noble patriotism and loyalty of the WPK's red national defence soldiers who are devoting themselves to defending the dynamic breathing of the Korean revolution winning victory after victory and upholding the invincibility and mightiness of our state.

He said that the inexhaustible military and technical edge of the armed forces of the Republic and the eye-opening progress of the self-supporting defence industry which firmly supports it are the pride and priceless victory which can be won only by our great people who have unconditionally and absolutely supported the WPK's line of building a powerful army and its national defence policy, without the slightest deviation, while unyieldingly overcoming all hardships and trials.

The Military Hardware Exhibition *Defence Development-2024*, which opened with splendour, demonstrating the grandiose development and signal prospects of the national defence capabilities of the DPRK, will serve as a significant occasion redoubling the pride of all the people across the country in the spirit, ideal and might of the DPRK outpacing the world and dynamically encouraging them in their heroic advance toward comprehensive national rejuvenation.



Speech respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made at opening ceremony of Military Hardware Exhibition *Defence Development-2024*

Dear comrades and friends,

In a stirring period, when the precious successes achieved in various fields of state work and socialist construction through a vigorous struggle in 2024 are approaching us, an exhibition has opened here today, introducing the successes gained in the defence sector this year.

First, I extend warm thanks to the persons in the relevant sectors and others, who have made efforts for the preparation of this exhibition.

The exhibition hall is really wonderful.

Seeing the exhibition hall encapsulating the remarkable development of the defence capability of our state that has given a new feeling in less than one year, we can give a satisfactory appraisal to the work of the defence industry for making a steady and rapid growth.

I extend thanks to Full Generals Kim Jong Sik and Jang Chang Ha, Chairman Ko Pyong Hyon, Presidents Kim Yong Hwan and Jon Il Ho and other leading cadres in the defence sector, the defence sci-tech group and the officials and workers at the munitions industry enterprises under the Second Economy Commission, who have made greater contributions than others for achieving remarkable successes in the development of our armed forces every year.

In recent years fundamental changes have been brought about in our defence sci-tech field, and many knotty problems in this sector have been resolved correctly by our internal forces, our defence sci-tech group.

While witnessing the process of these changes in person, I have become more confident of the practical abilities of this group and confirmed the promising nature and inexhaustible potential of our Democratic People's Republic of Korea that is justifiably matchless in the sector of the brain industry.

I am confident that this is an outcome of the perfect combination of the good qualities of our nation with the policy of training the group of brains in a correct way and enlisting them in a concentrated way.

The weapon systems on display here all differ in their missions, but I attach special meaning to the fact that they are crystallization of the modern defence sci-tech strength and economic potential of the defence industry, and that these have been developed by our own resources, ie our internal forces.

Great changes have taken place in recent years, indeed.

All these we are seeing today are a proud record of the successes achieved again in a year in the defence industry revolution in the new era, which our Party has planned and is dynamically pushing forward. And with this, we have demonstrated on a larger scale the righteousness and vitality of our Party's idea of self-reliant defence—defending the state, the people and the revolutionary cause by our own efforts—and made a decisive stride in attaining the goal of building up the defences, advanced by the Eighth Congress of the Party.

What makes the current exhibition weightier in the practical aspects and more significant in the political and military aspects is that these exhibits are fruition



gathered in defence development by exercising our right to self-defence on the principle of countering power with power and of head-on contest in 2024, when the hostile attitude of the United States and its allied forces for confrontation and their adventurist military records exceeded the peak year level.

These brilliant successes we have achieved in the defence sector year after year afford us glimpses at its development potential and speed, which fairly convince us that we are possessed of definite capability and a guarantee for security to cope proactively with not only the various threats the enemies are posing to us now but also the security threats we are likely to face in future.

Our defence industry has at last been upgraded as a cutting-edge one that can offer the most suitable and thoroughgoing support for military activities as required in each stage, each period and each situation of our revolution; it has also been built up as a strategic fortress that firmly guarantees the position of our state as a world-class military power.

Our cutting-edge defence sci-tech sector and the technological foundations of our munitions economy are also exerting important effects on, and playing the leading role in, transforming the structure of the national industry as a whole.

Comrades,

The military hardware on display here represent what we have achieved this year, 2024, and yet, until they presented their majestic appearance here, they witnessed arduous courses accompanied by painstaking and pioneering research work in renewing each of their records, whose value can hardly be measured by the lapse of time alone.

We can compare these military hardware with world-class ones of their kinds in terms of design, manufacturing skills, grade of materials or combat and technical specifications, but it is hard to fully estimate their true value.

In an attempt to suffocate and destroy our self-reliant defence industry completely, the hostile forces have pursued unprecedentedly cruel sanctions and blockade against us, leaving us in difficulty and in short supply of everything. But the Party and the people have adhered to the view that strengthening the defence capabilities is the supreme expression of their patriotism and consciousness of the revolution, and fully aware of their great expectations, our defence sci-tech group and workers in the munitions industry have worked with devotion to live up to them, regarding doing so as their duty. Their ennobling spirit is embodied in the weapons here.

For this reason, our military hardware, in terms of the righteous purpose and character, the indomitable spiritual strength and unheard-of fighting spirit embodied in them, has thousands of times greater—utterly incomparable—power than those the military-industrial complexes of imperialist countries manufacture in pursuance of massacre, destruction and economic profit.

Comrades,

Today our Republic has risen as a powerful axis exerting an influence on political and military developments around the world. It owes this status to the absolute dignity and strength it has gained thanks to its revolutionary ideology, cause of justice and perseverance.

However, without the extraordinary wisdom and courage and undying perseverance that would surpass those which we have displayed in clearing a thorny path and going through the successive stages by leaps and bounds, we can neither cope with the ever-changing reality nor guarantee our foreseeable future.

As we are witnessing now, our planet is in the grip of confusion and violence, the worst ever since the end of the Second World War.

The United States is growing more brazen in trying to place the whole world under the sphere of its interests, and the consequent contradictions and confrontations of every hue have passed all critical points to develop into too unjust, horrible wars and catastrophic disasters.

This is literally a pandemonium, in which some reckless and high-handed powers violate international norms, regardless of their obvious purpose of, and orientation towards, respecting the territories and sovereignty of all countries and nations and defending global peace and security.

Nearly a century ago, fascisms in Europe and Asia colluded with each other to throw the world into turmoil. Likewise, the reactionary forces in the West and East, allied under the baton of the US imperialists, are now attempting to establish a rapacious and tyrannical world order. This is a present reality.

Concert given on occasion of Military Hardware Exhibition *Defence Development-2024*

KCNA

A concert was given on the night of November 21 to mark the Military Hardware Exhibition *Defence Development-2024* demonstrating once again the mightiness of the DPRK with great pride.

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, saw the concert together with members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central

Committee and other members of the Party central leadership body, major commanding officers of all military and political organs of the Korean People's Army, workers, scientists and officials in the munitions industry and the participants in the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un appeared in the auditorium, all the participants raised stormy cheers with boundless reverence for the peerlessly illustrious commander who is writing the hero story of bolstering up the national defence capability for realizing the cherished desire in the nation's history spanning five thousand years and who is

ushering in a new period of great turn in building a powerful nation, while leaving sacred traces of great service and devoted efforts on a long historic journey for accomplishing the great cause of building a rich country with a strong army, shouldering the destiny of the country and people and their eternal future.

Put on the stage of the performance that started with a ceremony of a combined military band were colourful numbers including hymns to the leaders, revolutionary army songs and odes to the motherland.

The performers represented with stirring music the heroic combat spirit and noble patriotism of the KPA, which has written its proud history as the first death-defying

corps defending the leader, the defender of the government of the Republic and the genuine army of the people, holding aloft the colours of honour embroidered with the sacred letters "For the eternal prosperity of the country and the people's wellbeing", while assuming the heavy historic responsibility for defending national sovereignty which could never be easily defended.

The audience gave big hand to the numbers evoking the memories of the long and glorious history of victory the DPRK and its people won by relying on the vanguard role of the revolutionary armed forces which have been ideologically elite and possessed the most powerful arms.

The performance impressively showed

that the security of the beloved country and people, independence, justice and genuine peace are firmly guaranteed only by matchless capability of self-defence and the dignity of the state that should be more firmly defended and the dream and ideal of prosperity that should be certainly realized at any cost rest on the great service and feats which have been performed from one century to the next.

The concert reached the climax with monumental odes fully representing the firm will of all the people across the country to

eternally support with loyalty the socialist motherland, the benevolent embrace of the dear father who is translating the people's long-cherished desire into brilliant reality, embracing the destiny of all the people across the country. It ended with the national anthem of the DPRK.

The venue for the performance was again rocked by the stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" raised by all the participants, filled with the pledge to death-defyingly defend the absolute prestige of the great Comrade Kim Jong Un and the invincibility of the cause of Juche by dint of the world's strongest military muscle.

The concert brilliantly decorated the night of the opening of the significant exhibition.



On the Prevailing Situation and the Tasks of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Armed Forces of the Republic

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un makes a speech before those attending the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a speech on November 15, titled, *On the Prevailing Situation and the Tasks of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Armed Forces of the Republic*, before those attending the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army.

All the battalion commanders and political instructors of the armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Commanders of the military and political organs at all levels of the armed forces of the Republic,

Comrades,

At the historic time, when the prestige and honour of our legendary army is being fully demonstrated in all the theatres of the revolution seething with struggles and transformations, the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army has been convened.

First, on behalf of the Central Committee and the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, I extend warm congratulations to all the battalion commanders and political instructors of the Republic's armed forces attending this conference.

I also send my warm greetings to all the officers and men of the army, who are unsparingly devoting their ardent loyalty, patriotism and efforts at their honourable outposts for defending the sovereignty of our state and at the construction sites for bringing earlier the comprehensive prosperity of socialism.

In recent years many theoretical and practical tasks have been raised to strengthen the Party, achieve the rejuvenation of the state and promote the wellbeing of the people in addition to the enormous policy-oriented tasks set forth at the congress of our Party and the plenary



meetings of its Central Committee. As all these tasks had to be tackled after finding out the correct ways and means through sincere and painstaking efforts, I have always been busy.

However, I have come here today without any regret to see you, who have gathered in Pyongyang, and I am very glad about it.

Why do we attach such importance and special concern to this gathering of the battalion commanders and political instructors?

It can be explained in various ways, but the main reason is that you are our Party's loyal revolutionary fighters, who are firmly and silently consolidating the cornerstone for increasing the military capability while experiencing more difficulties than any others at the grass-roots level of our armed forces.

Battalions are at the lowest level in the military organizational system and command system for realizing the Party's

leadership over the army, but the Party and the country have always regarded you as being in very important positions.

Battalions are not large, but the pure and ardent patriotism and loyalty of their commanders and political instructors, who are leading their men and treading the road of devotion unknown to others as they live in the large family of the Party, revolution, country and socialism, constitute the sustenance for the high honour and military feats of our armed forces.

Exactly ten years have passed since the Third Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army was held.

Looking back, over the past ten years our Party, country and people have wrought miracles and transformations in the face of every manner of trials and challenges that could not be described but as being unprecedented. All these are imprinted on the course of struggle of

our army that has lived up to its precious appellation as the army of the Party by shouldering by itself the two fronts of national defence and creation, and each page of the chronicles of these heroic feats records your unknown devoted efforts.

All the current battalion commanders and political instructors, commanding personnel of the main combat units of our revolutionary armed forces, are a generation that has grown up in this arduous yet glorious decade, when the importance of presence and feats of our army has become conspicuous.

Because you have played the leading role, our revolutionary army has written another chapter of history of pioneering the road of advance and upswing not only at the borderline posts, where friend and foe are leveling their guns directly at each other, but also on all other fronts, decisive of the future destiny of our state and people.

A precious success achieved in building up the army in these ten years is that its commanding officers, loyal and trustworthy, have been trained. They are leading the ranks of soldiers with an ennobling outlook on life that the army exists to translate the Party's plans and determination into reality and that even though they may fall on this road, it is their glory, and with high-minded examples of death-defyingly implementing them.

Seeing you numbering thousands, the core that can be said to be representing the army's commanding personnel grown up in our era, I am fully convinced that our armed forces' history of loyalty and tradition of patriotism are being stoutly carried forward. I feel most pleased and satisfied with this.

As for the mightiness and promising future of the ever-victorious Korean People's Army, the army of the Workers' Party of Korea, there would be no clearer explanation than this.

True to the sacred mission and genuine conscience of commanding personnel of the revolutionary army, who made an

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oath before the state, you have overcome manifold difficulties and mental suffering to turn your battalions into elite combat units, thoroughgoing, brave and immaculate in carrying out any orders. Through this courageous struggle, you have added great strength and support to our Party. I extend gratitude to you once again for this.

Kim Jong Un stressed that our armed forces are occupying a position, for which no other forces can substitute in the present and future stages of the revolution as in the past decade, and that immutable and invariable is our Party's stand to propel the revolution steadily and bring about an upsurge in socialist construction with the support of these reliable armed forces, adding:

Availing myself of this opportunity of meeting you, I am going to remind all the service personnel of our armed forces of their natural mission and tasks they must never forget whatever they do at any place, and brief you on how important it is to prepare your battalions well for fulfilling them and what are the tasks facing you.

Our revolutionary armed forces are now in charge of not a few fronts, every one of which is decisive of the future of our country and people and the advance of the revolution.

Among them, however, the most important is the anti-imperialist class front, and making full preparations for war is the most crucial task facing our armed forces.

This is their main front and their basic duty, for which no other forces can take their place.

The armed forces of our Republic should be prepared so thoroughly that they can foil all manner of aggressive manoeuvres by the enemy through powerful military actions wherever our national sovereignty is exercised, and that they can accomplish their tasks with credit in times of emergency.

They must never forget that the enemy will joyously take advantage of any laxity in their combat readiness to launch an attack, and the price for it will be the

dear blood shed by their beloved parents, wives and children.

The more fully they are prepared for war, the more durable peace will prevail on this land, and the closer we will come to our goal of building a powerful and prosperous state.

The moment when our armed forces become fully prepared for war, our state's sovereignty and peace will become permanent.

I would like to reiterate that preparing for war is the most important and vital of all the tasks facing our armed forces.

This is just the revolutionary armed forces' inherent mission and duty.

Noting that the gravity of the recent developments in different parts of the world, the Korean peninsula in particular, demands that all the service personnel of the Republic's armed forces be better prepared for war with a correct understanding of the prevailing situation, Kim Jong Un pointed to the danger of the military provocations by the United States and its vassal forces that are ratcheting up tension to an unprecedented level in pursuit of their adventurist military policy for supremacy in the peninsula, the hottest spot in the world. He went on:

As a key factor threatening peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and other regions of the Asia-Pacific, the tripartite military bloc of the United States, Japan and the ROK is more clearly revealing its menacing nature.

The United States has already converted its alliance with the ROK into a nuclear-based one and created an "Asian NATO" in haste by cementing its military ties with Japan and the ROK. And almost every day it has brought strategic military hardware and the troops of its allies, including those of NATO member states, into and around the ROK, staging intensive drills of all hues to get these forces familiarized with a war of aggression.

The strengthening of the exclusive military bloc and successive military drills simulating a real war are gradually undermining the strategic environment in the Korean peninsula. These dangerous moves by the United States, Japan and the ROK remind us of the criminal actions that NATO committed to create a security crisis in Europe by steadily expanding its

military alliance system and pursuing its unjustifiable eastward advance policy.

After all, the US-led military alliance is gaining in scope to include Europe and the Asia-Pacific, and the spearhead of its aggression is being directed at our country, which is the rival most hostile to the United States and the longest belligerent state against it.

The present situation is such that there will be nothing strange about the troops of the United States and its vassal countries, in times of emergency, showing themselves in the Korean peninsula under the signboard of such a military alliance as NATO, not the UN.

The US and ROK scum are approaching closer to the actions that will entail very dangerous consequences.

The United States, Japan and the ROK can never dodge the criminal responsibility for disturbing peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the region.

The United States has proven to be the ringleader of the disturbers of peace and stability, who are constantly driving the security environment in the peninsula to a labyrinth, and its evil identity as such reminds us repeatedly of what kind of strategic option we must choose to control our rivals.

The more frantic the United States' moves of confrontation against our Republic grow, the clearer it becomes that our efforts and actions in defence of our state's security and regional peace are justified.

Long ago, the line of building up our nuclear forces became an irreversible policy, so what remains to be done now is for these forces to get more fully ready for action so that they can carry out the mission of deterring war and the second mission at any moment.

Recently, I have clarified on several occasions the geopolitical change because of which our option can or should never be changed, and what we should do to cope with it.

We will build up our nation's self-defence forces, the pivot of which is its nuclear capability, limitlessly and endlessly without satisfaction.

War is by no means what concerns others alone, nor is it a thing of a distant

future, stressed Kim Jong Un, adding:

As the United States and other Western countries are using Ukraine as a shock force in the war against Russia, we should view it as a manoeuvre to enrich their real-war experience and expand the scope of military intervention all over the world.

Currently, by sustaining their military assistance to Ukraine and Israel, the US warmongers are prolonging the wars there, in which an increasing number of countries are being involved. This aggravates the international security situation, stoking fears of a third world war.

The danger of war lurks in all parts of the planet, and no one is certain when and where it will break out.

Witnessing the use of force in Europe and the Middle East, the world recognizes that another armed conflict is most likely to erupt in the Korean peninsula.

All the levels of our armed forces should completely orient and subordinate their actions to making preparations for war, going all out to perfect them as soon as possible.

Each passing day now is very precious in stepping up preparations to cope with war.

The armed forces of the Republic should make the most effective use of this precious time, regarding a day as a hundred or thousand days, and be fully ready to take the initiative and be active in any military developments.

"All efforts for completing war preparations!"—this is a requirement of the revolution and the present situation, as well as a military slogan to be held aloft by every level of our armed forces.

It is especially important to build up the battalion in maintaining the political and military superiority and accelerating the increase of the military strength for our regular and other armed forces of the Republic to cope with war.

Our Party regards the battalion as the main unit in fighting a revolutionary war, and attaches great significance to building it up.

The battalion is a combat unit that should accomplish a combat mission





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independently, given the organizational system of our armed forces and all the subjective and objective conditions of our country.

In case of emergency, the role of battalions is pivotal for our armed forces to move adroitly and exactly in accordance with the strategic intentions of the Party Central Committee and to firmly take hold of the initiative and good chance of winning in accordance with our own tactics whatever the circumstances.

As the wars going on now in several regions of the world give living proof, victory in modern warfare, characterized by colossal deployment of intelligent and informatized state-of-the-art military hardware and comprehensive and multi-dimensional phase of operations and battles, covering land, sea, air and outer and cyber spaces, is dependent on how the battalions, tactical sub-units, are strengthened and commanded.

If a war breaks out, we have to fight the enemy who possess state-of-the-art military technology. Given the situation, the optimum unit is the battalion which can cover up its military action plan from the enemy's various advanced reconnaissance and detection means, launch surprise attacks and preserve the manpower and combat equipment. It is also a group that can effectively manoeuvre in the combat areas in our country with complex topographical features.

Therefore, the battalion constitutes a basic combat unit, a major tactical unit, most important in combat group formation and operation, and a lead unit in demonstrating the powerful combat strength of our army.

I am going to make maximum use of the strength of battalions in possible war by assigning missions with battalions as the basic unit, giving independence to them and ensuring their active operation.

The position and role of the battalion are given such great importance that the Party took a measure for holding this meeting and a short course by summoning all the battalion commanders and political instructors of the army at the same time, even though this is a period pivotal in

completing most important state-level projects and the security environment of the country is extremely unstable.

Kim Jong Un stressed once again our Party's steadfast policy on prioritizing battalions—that completion of their war preparations immediately means completion of the whole army's war preparations and their capabilities to fight a real war represent the war potentials of the revolutionary armed forces—and referred to the important tasks facing the battalion commanders and political instructors as follows:

The first basic task for battalion commanders and political instructors is to step up the turning of battalions into ideological and spiritual elite forces with the definite viewpoint that the political and ideological preparedness of revolutionary soldiers decides victory in war.

You should bear in mind that ideology is the most powerful weapon and the only guarantee of invincibility of the revolutionary armed forces.

It is our ever-invariable war method and philosophy of victory to prioritize overwhelming ideological and spiritual victory, no matter how the aspects of modern warfare evolve and what effects advanced military and technical means have on operations and battles.

Our Republic's armed forces should overwhelm the enemy, above all, in the ideological and spiritual aspects.

We, who advocate the Juche-oriented theory of ideology, ought to gain definite control of the enemy's vicious anti-communist consciousness of confrontation by dint of political and moral superiority before military and technical edge, and demonstrate the might of our powerful revolutionary army that always emerges victorious by dint of the communist ideology and morality.

The ideological and spiritual characteristics of the powerful revolutionary army that all the officers and men of the Republic's armed forces should possess are just the absolute loyalty to the Party and the revolution, ardent love for the country, the spirit of devoted service for the people, steadfast class awareness and the will to annihilate the enemy.

The Party has consistently identified the first generation of our revolutionary

armed forces and wartime heroes as the noble example in this regard.

We should hold fast, as the primary task in strengthening the battalion, to training all the service personnel to be men strong in ideas and spirit like the first generation of the revolutionary armed forces and wartime heroes.

The work of the battalion should definitely be oriented to this point, and its practical effects should be exhibited just in that.

It is needed to make service personnel burn with the heroic spirit that they would fight against the enemy, standing firmly and holding the red flag in their arms to the death, as the anti-Japanese guerrillas and the victorious wartime generation of the 1950s did.

At the present moment, it is important to deeply imbue service personnel with the thoroughgoing viewpoint on the archenemy and the will to fight a decisive battle against the enemy.

The American and ROK scum we are confronting are whipping up extreme war hysteria as they advocate the heinous anti-communist ideas and the spirit of destroying communism.

We should not view anti-communism merely as the national policy of the United States and the ROK.

It is necessary to make all the service personnel clearly know and always remember that the enemy we should fight are the wicked beings steeped in anti-communism and trained in the spirit of destroying communism and the utter confrontation maniacs who whet swords till they die out of their class nature.

A bullet in the rifle of a soldier with an obscure viewpoint on the archenemy is as good as a dud.

The security of the country and the people should be guaranteed by the staunch class awareness of service personnel, ahead of the force of their arms.

We should inspire all the service personnel to display matchless heroism in a sacred war, once it breaks out, to punish and annihilate the enemy who infringe upon the sovereignty of our beloved country and endanger the lives of our people.

I avail myself of this opportunity to emphasize that battalions should not try

to conduct ideological education only on special occasions and under special circumstances.

It is essential to actively explore and apply original methods of education so that all the processes and occasions of performing daily service and carrying out military tasks, as well as the ideological offensive under the situation where the outbreak of war can be said to have become a fait accompli and the countdown to have begun, can be a course of spiritual arming of service personnel.

It is particularly important to make education for them begin with love and be run through with a tender feeling.

As each of children is precious to their parents, the true heart of warmly embracing and taking good care of every soldier constitutes speechless teaching and an inspiration with definite practical effects on service personnel.

Battalion commanders and political instructors should care for service personnel more deeply than anybody else and, by dint of affection and tender feeling, prevent them from becoming ideologically heterogeneous and inspire them to display their spiritual strength.

You should take this in your mind as my request to the commanding officers, who should take care of service personnel as their blood brothers would do, rather than my order.

I hope you will pour more affection and tender feeling on service personnel who should go to battlefields at the risk of their lives, instil into them the approach to war and powerfully inspire them to a heroic struggle.

The second basic task for battalion commanders and political instructors is to concentrate all efforts on boosting their battalions' capability of fighting a war so as to surely guarantee victory in a revolutionary war militarily and technically.

In order to strengthen our armed forces qualitatively and provide for a revolutionary war, we should step up efforts for building them into an army strong both in the political and ideological aspects and in military and technical aspects.

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Noting that modern warfare proves from hour to hour that an army which is technically superannuated cannot beat back the enemy which is armed to the teeth, Kim Jong Un underscored the necessity to step up more dynamically the technological revolution in the People's Army, too, and continued:

The battlefields require combatants, who are capable of overpowering the enemy not only in ideological and spiritual aspects but also in military techniques.

I stress once again: We should make a straight advance towards bolstering up the armed forces of the Republic in military techniques.

Battalion commanders and political instructors should have a clear understanding of the changing aspects of modern warfare and the main orientation of building a powerful army corresponding to the changes, and train all their men into brave fighters fully prepared not only spiritually but in military techniques, into versatile combatants capable of skilfully handling sophisticated weapons and other combat equipment and accomplishing any combat missions with credit.

The actual war capabilities to secure victory in the battlefield can be consolidated through intensive training.

Pointing out some weak points and shortcomings revealed in the course of inspecting the combat readiness of battalions across the army, Kim Jong Un stressed that combat training for the army, which has to defend the country and the people with arms, is the primary revolutionary task that must not be neglected under any conditions and circumstances, and that there is no other revolutionary task more vital and important than that.

Noting that battalion commanders and political instructors should always visualize in their mind the circumstances of battlefields and effect a drastic turn in practical training with the main emphasis put on performing combat duty true to the Party's five-point policy of bringing about a revolution in training so as to ensure that all the officers and men acquire flawless combat capability to correctly carry out the Party's order of military operations, Kim Jong Un indicated the tasks for the commanding officers to improve their abilities to organize and command battles and steadily improve the manoeuvrability and fighting efficiency of battalions.

He clarified the demands of principle

for both the operations units and the combat units across the army to maintain in training, including those of exploring and applying the training contents, forms and methods in an innovative way in keeping with the developing aspects and changing trend of modern war and constantly studying innovative tactics and combat plans of our own style to hold the initiative in battlefields.

Noting that enhancing the soldiers' abilities to fight an actual war and putting weapons and other combat equipment on a regular readiness means making war preparations, he stressed the need to thoroughly establish the spirit and culture of loving and handling weapons with care in battalions across the army.

Even at this moment the United States and ruffraff, including the ROK puppets, hand in glove with one another, are resorting to provocative sabre-rattling around our country, he said, adding that this situation absolutely highlights the importance of combat guard duty, and continued:

If the sky becomes cloudy often, it will rain, and if dark clouds gather and cover the sky, there will be a flash of lightning. Likewise, it is clear that there will inevitably be a military conflict on this land over which the dark clouds of war hover and, accordingly, it is necessary to be always prepared to contain and frustrate any slight provocation by the enemy immediately and thoroughly by building up all the posts and positions into fortresses of no retreat and carrying on various combat guard duties with high vigilance.

The third basic task for battalion commanders and political instructors is to raise a strong wind of improving their qualifications, being conscious that their own politico-ideological, military and practical preparedness is decisive of their battalions' fighting efficiency and victory in battles, Kim Jong Un said, and went on:

They should become competent and action-oriented commanders of field-officer type, who stand readily in the vanguard before issuing an order and who are equipped with qualifications and organizing and commanding capabilities high enough to accomplish whatever mission the Party gives them in a perfect, thoroughgoing way.

Above all, they should become persons of faith and moral obligation, who follow the Party Central Committee without an inch of deviation, persons strong in

ideological faith, who are dyed red with its revolutionary ideas.

They should also make painstaking efforts to enhance their practical abilities so that they can acquire as soon as possible the qualifications and capabilities needed for commanding and controlling their battalions as intended by the Party.

The commanding personnel of battalions should possess a revolutionary work method, militant way of life and ennobling traits, and turn their battalions, by means of their personal examples and effective education of their officers and men, into fighting groups that have established strict ethos and assumed the appearance appropriate to a regular army, Kim Jong Un said, and clarified the ways to do so, before continuing:

Battalion commanders and political instructors,

You are not only masters of your battalions who are responsible for the grass-roots level of our armed forces, but also reserve military and political cadres who will form the backbone of our armed forces in the future.

Most of those officers who attended the Third Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors have grown into cadres at higher commanding organs now, and you, present here, will surely be assigned to higher ranks than the battalion ones in a few years.

Yet, battalion commanders and political instructors gain experience and lessons and attain the traits and qualifications due for military and political officers while getting invaluable experiences in different spheres like military, political and supply service work. They will find that there is no more worthwhile period of their careers than this one in learning how to work.

This is why we keep it as an essential principle to form the ranks of army commanders with those who have been battalion commanders and political instructors; this will continue to be the consistent principle in dealing with military and political personnel administration, which is of core importance in following the line of building a powerful army.

Battalions are where army commanders grow up, and it is here that the future of our army is shaped to win victory after victory.

Considering that the key to the building of a powerful army in the new era and victory in war is how to prepare its core force, you have assumed

important missions in truly important positions.

As befits the backbone shouldering the future of our revolutionary armed forces, you should make ceaseless efforts to improve your abilities, qualifications and personalities and put your heart and soul in whatever you are doing now, thus proving yourselves worthy of the Party's great trust.

Comrades,

In the prevailing subjective and objective situations, it is a pressing task—which brooks not a day's delay—to make full preparations for war.

If we are to mount a counterattack to the enemy if they attempt to infringe upon the sovereignty and security of our state even in the slightest degree and to win decisive victory in war once it is unleashed, strengthening battalions is posed as an important and urgent task that requires sure progress.

You must not confine yourselves to shouting a slogan or taking an oath in regard to the defence of sovereignty and rights of our state, but must be fully prepared to carry out any combat missions in a perfect way at any time and in any circumstances.

To prepare the battalion into that capable of going into action and engaging in battle immediately after receiving an order, not merely making speeches and taking an oath, and into an all-purpose one that is capable of bringing any missions to brilliant perfection—this is the goal that all the battalions of our armed forces should attain without fail and the spirit of this conference.

Fully aware of the noble mission and duty entrusted by the Party and the revolution, let us all march forward to bring about a substantial and fundamental improvement in strengthening the battalions' capabilities for an actual war, and to defend the state and the people and bring earlier honourable victory in war with the powerful military deterrent that we have long built up.

My most beloved comrades-in-arms,

All the commanding officers of our armed forces,

Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend my warm encouragement to all the beloved officers and men of the army.

For the eternal prosperity and peace of our socialist country and for the safety and happiness of our beloved people, let us all equip ourselves fully with the revolutionary ideology of the Party and fight on dynamically.



Historic meeting provides fresh turning point for making armed forces of DPRK most elite and powerful ones

Fourth Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of KPA held

KCNA

The Fourth Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army (KPA) took place with splendour in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, at a historic time when the august name and fighting spirit of the armed forces of the Workers' Party Korea, the guardian of the DPRK government and genuine army of the people are fully demonstrated in the forefront of the drive for building a rich country with a strong army under the invincible guidance of the great Party Central Committee.

The conference, the fourth of its kind in the history of the Juche-based army building, is of great significance in accelerating the drive for making the revolutionary armed forces the most elite and powerful ones by remarkably enhancing the role of the commanding officers of a battalion, the lowest-level commanding organ and major combat unit of the People's Army, and thereby bringing about a substantial and fundamental improvement in strengthening battalions, as required by the revolutionary practice that calls for decisively frustrating all threats and challenges from the hostile forces, firmly defending the inviolable sovereignty, dignity and honour of the country and people and hastening the overall upward development of national rejuvenation.



All the battalion commanders and political instructors of the army arrived on the same day in Pyongyang where there are the Party Central Committee they have pictured while decorating their military service with loyalty and feats, and the Supreme Commander they have always longed to see, while dedicating their pure conscience and sincere sweat to firmly consolidating the cornerstone of the military might.

Along the streets citizens of the capital warmly waved their hands to the battalion commanders and political instructors who have unsparingly dedicated their youth in the first-line trench of defending

the country and its interests and in the grand construction projects for bringing happiness to the people.

The Fourth Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA took place on November 14 and 15.

The conference comprehensively analyzed and reviewed the successes and experiences gained in the past decade's struggle for putting into effect the spirit of the Third Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA, and discussed the tasks and ways for strengthening all the battalions into the most powerful combat groups so that they can firmly maintain

the perfect capability for fighting a war and full combat readiness and proactively and perfectly carry out the important historic duty entrusted by the Party and the revolution, regarding it as their core target to implement the Party's line of making the KPA stronger in terms of politics, ideology and military techniques.

Present there were battalion commanders and political instructors of the armed forces of the DPRK and commanding officers of different military and political organs.

The platform was taken by No Kwang Chol, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, Ri Yong

Gil, chief of the General Staff of the KPA, Jong Kyong Thack, director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA, major commanding officers of all military and political organs, and commanding officers and political officers who have performed outstanding feats in strengthening battalions.

The letter "Let's guarantee the cause of building a strong army with sure progress in strengthening the battalions" sent by the Central Military Commission of the WPK to the participants in the Fourth Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA was read out at the conference.

In the letter the Central Military Commission of the WPK referred to the vanguard role and patriotic activities of battalion commanders and political instructors, who have contributed to all victories of our armed forces that have firmly defended the dignity and security of the country and its people while proactively coping with not only military challenges encroaching upon the state sovereignty and security but also sudden crisis endangering the lives and properties of the people. It also highly appreciated that the foundation of our powerful and invincible armed forces is sturdy, and the security of the country and the advance of the revolution are firmly guaranteed,

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as such excellent revolutionary soldiers have become the roots for consolidating their battalions.

The letter noted that the WPK, in view of the importance of the position and role of battalions which are further highlighted today facing a new stage of building a strong army, sets it as a main link in the whole chain of strengthening the army as a whole to strengthen battalions.

It indicated important tasks and practical ways for the battalion commanders and political instructors to turn their battalions into the ones, which are strong in idea and faith and remain absolutely loyal and obedient to the military guidance of the Party Central Committee, and into elite combat ranks with strong fighting spirit, perfect combat posture and strict discipline.

A report was made by Minister of National Defence No Kwang Chol.

Saying that the KPA has grown stronger into an entity of iron fist and absolute strength of Juche Korea, upholding in the vanguard the WPK's great cause of building a rich country with a powerful army, the reporter noted that in this proud course, the validity and vitality of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's idea of prioritizing and strengthening battalions have been clearly demonstrated.

He said that Kim Jong Un, who has attached great significance to the position and role of the battalions in strengthening the KPA since the early years of his guidance over the military, attended the Third Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA ten years ago to provide an undying great programme for increasing the political and military might of the battalions in every way, and has wisely led the struggle for providing sure political and military supremacy of the KPA by training the battalions of the entire army to be elite combat ranks capable of defeating any formidable enemy.

He said it is an invaluable truth cherished by the service personnel of the KPA through their life experience of the past decade that the victorious history of the strong revolutionary army, dignified with its highest honour and reputation, is being steadily carried forward, along with the proud course of

strengthening battalions, and a rosy future is in store for the Juche revolutionary armed forces, thanks to the great brilliant commander.

He referred to the precious successes made in the struggle for implementing the important tasks set forth at the Third Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA, thanks to the high revolutionary enthusiasm and devoted efforts of all battalion commanders and political instructors who have faithfully supported the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's idea of prioritizing and strengthening the battalions.

The outlook on revolution and life that there is no greater happiness than the pride in living with ardent yearning for the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and sharing intention with the Supreme Commander has constituted the ideological and spiritual qualities of the officers and men of all battalions, and that all battalions have become more firmly prepared as vanguard ranks of death-defying guardians that remain absolutely loyal and obedient to the ideology and leadership of the Party Central Committee, he added.

He said that all the battalion commanders and political instructors devoted themselves to increasing the combat capability of their battalions by setting practical examples and thus brought about a remarkable improvement in the war preparations to secure the full combat capability for carrying out any fighting duty promptly and accurately in contingency.

He also noted that good experiences were gained in the work to turn the battalions and companies into dear native villages and homes of soldiers overflowing with brotherly affection.

The reporter analyzed and reviewed the deviations that must be overcome in strengthening the battalions, saying that unless the commanding officers of battalions display extraordinary strength and fighting power, always mindful of the trust and expectations of the Party, they cannot turn their battalions into elite combat forces befitting the dignity and reputation of the powerful army.

Noting that a new era of struggle, which has greeted an important turning phase in the dynamic development of the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK, is calling the battalion commanders and political instructors, the reporter called on them to dedicate

themselves to fulfilling their responsibility with pride and honour of standing in the vanguard of the struggle for accomplishing the Party's cause of building a powerful army and thus dynamically open up a new heyday of strengthening battalions and bolstering up military capabilities in the great era of Kim Jong Un.

Then followed speeches.

Introduced in speeches were the achievements and experience gained in the course of consolidating battalions into a politically and ideologically pure entity sharing idea and intention and breathing the same air with the Party Central Committee and vanguard ranks for death-defyingly defending it, and of preparing the officers and soldiers of the battalions as hot-blooded warriors possessed of matchless pluck and perfect capability for fighting an actual war and of making painstaking inquiry and tireless efforts to improve the soldiers' living standards in the spirit of making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of them.

Analyzed and reviewed in speeches were a series of deviations and lessons battalion commanders and political instructors revealed in their work as they failed to be deeply aware that the fighting efficiency of battalions is guaranteed by their idea, faith and ability.

The speakers expressed their firm determination to prepare themselves to be field commanding officers of abilities and action and front-line warriors, who can be the first to be called by the Supreme Commander and entrusted by him with the van of advance, and to dynamically lead the work for improving the fighting efficiency of the battalions by devoting themselves to improving their political awareness and practical ability, always bearing in mind that the situation of a grim war in which the destiny of the country and revolution will be decided and the implementation of the grand blueprints for the comprehensive national development depend on the preparedness of the battalions and the role of their commanding officers.

Then followed a ceremony of awarding the Party and state commendations to the battalion commanders and political instructors who contributed to strengthening the battalions.

Jong Kyong Thack, director of the KPA General Political Bureau, read out a decree of the Standing

Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

Citations of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, were awarded to Pak Yong Nam, Jo Song Jin, Kim Song Jin and An Tong Hyok.

Order of National Flag First Class was awarded to 6 persons, Order of Labour to 2 persons, Order of National Flag Second Class to 11 persons, Order of National Flag Third Class to 14 persons and Distinguished Military Service Medal to 6 persons.

The venue of the ceremony was full of boundless gratitude to Kim Jong Un and the pledge to remain faithful to him who gave the high honour to the ordinary battalion commanders and political instructors who only fulfilled the sacred mission and duty as commanding officers of the revolutionary army and awarded high state commendations to them.

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, visited the venue of the conference on the afternoon of November 15.

Commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence, commanders of the KPA large combined units and other major military and political officers courteously greeted the Supreme Commander of the armed forces of the Republic who, attaching importance to the conference, visited the venue with his ardent affection and trust though he was very busy guiding in the van the struggle for defending the national sovereignty, achieving the national prosperity and promoting the people's wellbeing, shouldering the heavy burden for the country and revolution.

When Kim Jong Un appeared on the platform amid the playing of welcome music, all the participants broke into stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" looking up to the great defender of our state and invincible and iron-willed brilliant commander.

Kim Jong Un warmly waved back to the commanding officers of the battalions of the entire army who are firmly consolidating the cornerstone of bolstering up the military capabilities with ardent patriotism and loyalty, pure conscience, indomitable devotion and dynamic efforts at the basic echelon of the revolutionary armed

forces of the DPRK.

He made an important speech "On the Prevailing Situation and the Tasks of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Armed Forces of the Republic" before the participants in the conference.

Appreciating the pure and ardent patriotism and loyalty of the battalion commanders and political instructors who are leading their men and treading the road of devotion unknown to others as they live in the large family of the Party, revolution, country and socialism, he repeatedly expressed thanks to them who are giving great courage and support to the WPK through their dynamic struggle for turning their battalions into elite combat forces that are thoroughgoing, brave and perfect in carrying out any order.

He disclosed the threatening nature of the US, puppet ROK and other hostile forces' frantic military confrontation with the DPRK that have brought the tension on the Korean peninsula, the hottest spot in the world, to the worst phase in history, and set forth a militant slogan to be held high by the armed forces of the DPRK at all levels for concentrating all efforts on rounding off the war preparations in conformity with the requirements of the revolution and the present situation.

He clarified the importance of preparing the battalions well in accelerating the powerful political and military strength and fighting efficiency so that the regular armed forces and all other armed forces of the DPRK can cope with a war, and the position and role of the battalions and the basic duty of battalion commanders and political instructors.

Saying that it is the goal of all the battalions of the armed forces of the DPRK to prepare themselves to be the battalions capable of immediately acting and fighting on command, not only speaking and vowing, and to be all-round battalions capable of perfectly carrying out any task and this is the spirit of the conference, he ardently called upon all the participants to go all out for bringing about substantial and fundamental improvement in consolidating their capabilities for fighting an actual war and for defending the state and people and bringing earlier an honourable victory in the war with the powerful

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un has photo session with participants in Fourth Conference of Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of KPA

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had a photo session with the participants in the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army on November 21.

The venue for the photo session was full of boundless reverence for and trust in the respected Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un, who gave the precious name of the most beloved comrades-in-arms to battalion commanding officers performing



the vanguard mission in strengthening the armed forces of the DPRK into the unshakable mainstay of the WPK and the revolution and into an entity of great and matchless strength honourably defending the sovereignty and dignity of our state and who has shown them warm affection and trust so that they could become passionate warriors consolidating the foundation for the invincibility of the KPA.

When Kim Jong Un arrived amid the playing of welcome music, stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" were raised.

He was courteously greeted by No Kwang Chol, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, Ri Yong Gil, chief of the KPA General Staff, and Jong Kyong Thack, director of the KPA General Political Bureau.

All the participants paid the highest tribute to the great father who made the conference of battalion commanders and political instructors, the fourth of

its kind in the history of building the Juche-oriented army, a great historic meeting for bolstering up a powerful motive force for building a strong army in the new era, showed them benevolent affection and bestowed on them the glory and happiness they had desired even in dreams, by making precious time once again.

Warmly acknowledging the enthusiastic cheers, Kim Jong Un sent militant encouragement to the participants, who were full of great enthusiasm for bringing about a fresh dynamic turn in rounding off the war preparations under the militant slogan set forth by the WPK Central Committee, which regards the strengthening of the battalion as a key link in the chain of strengthening the whole army, at the conference, so as to firmly guarantee the mightiness and invincibility of the armed forces of the DPRK.

The battalion is a reliable base which the Party Central Committee consistently

attaches importance to and relies on in the process of strengthening the KPA politically, ideologically and in military technique and its combat capability is the fighting power of our armed forces, he stressed again. The battalion commanding officers should bear in mind our Party's standard and goal in strengthening the battalion and its fundamental requirements and thoroughly realize them, and thus creditably discharge their mission and duty as the advance force and vanguard in implementing the line of building a strong army in the new era, he said.

He affirmed that when every achievement, which is associated with the loyalty that has become the integral part of faith and special quality, firm will and indomitable efforts of the battalion commanders and political instructors, leading officers of the main combat units of our armed forces, is piled up as the cornerstone and strong pillar, innovations will surely be made in building up the

battalion and our army's political and military superiority and combat power will be further augmented.

He expressed expectation and belief that the participants in the conference would fully embody in their future political and military activities the main spirit of the meeting which calls for preparing all the battalions of our armed forces as those capable of going into action and engaging in battle as soon as they have received an order of the Party Central Committee and as all-purpose battalions capable of perfectly performing any mission, and vigorously propel the perfection of war

readiness through the proper combination of military and political work. Then, he left a picture of love that would shine forever along with the history of army building.

When the photo session was over, the participants broke into stormy cheers, chanting slogans of "Kim Jong Un" and "Death-defying defence" in reflection of their ardent loyalty and pledge.

Bearing in mind the lofty intention and deep trust of Kim Jong Un in great excitement, all the participants hardened their will to strengthen the battalions of the whole army into a crystal of absolute loyalty to the Party and the revolution, the country and the people and elite ranks of a-match-for-a-hundred combatants and thus reliably defend and add glory to the sacred sovereignty of the country and the honour of the people with the steadfast revolutionary faith, strong patriotic spirit and matchless heroism and mettle of the great strong army of Kim Jong Un.

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military deterrent that has been built and bolstered up for a long time, deeply aware of their noble mission and duty entrusted by the Party and revolution.

When Kim Jong Un concluded his speech, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers, looking up with emotion to the great brilliant commander who gives an invincible action programme indicating a clear path for strengthening and developing all battalions of the entire army into elite combat groups which are fully equipped with the revolutionary idea and will of the

WPK, are capable of defeating any formidable enemy ideologically, morally, militarily and technically and embody the dignity unique to the KPA that is brave and imposing in fighting efficiency and manner, in line with the requirement of the building of a powerful army in the new era.

The venue of the conference was filled with the extraordinary determination and militant enthusiasm of all the participants to dedicate their lives to the great Comrade Kim Jong Un, the inexhaustible might of our great state and the peace and happiness of our great people.

A workshop was given for the participants in the conference on November 16 and 17.

The workshop was chiefly aimed at making them deeply grasp the main idea and essence of the important speech made by Kim Jong Un before them.

It dealt with important and urgent issues arising in bolstering up the fighting efficiency of the battalions, including the issue of defending and adding lustre to the immortal exploits performed by Kim Jong Un for strengthening the battalions and the issue of concentrating all efforts on rounding off the battalions' war preparations as required by the

prevailing situation and modern warfare.

Through the workshop, the participants in the conference once again realized and were awakened to how important the position and duty of a battalion, the lowest-echelon commanding organ for realizing the Party's leadership over the army, are in fulfilling the sacred mission of the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK to defend the sovereignty of the country and the people, and learned the detailed ways and correct methodology for bringing about a definite advance in bolstering up the battalions.

The conference will be brilliantly

recorded in the history of building the Juche-oriented army as a great significant gathering that provided a new turning point in making all battalions of the entire army firm fortresses death-defyingly defending the Party Central Committee, iron fists for defending the national sovereignty and treasured swords for annihilating the enemy and in further strengthening the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK into a powerful and matchless entity of strength with the perfect capability for fighting a war and into an invincible vanguard for ushering in a new era of national rejuvenation.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un inspects regional-industry factories under construction in Songchon County

He gives important instructions on the operation and management of regional-industry factories and the orientation of their long-term development

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at the regional-industry factories under construction in Songchon County of South Phyongan Province on November 19.

He was accompanied by leading officials of the Central Committee of the WPK.

He was greeted by senior officials of the Party, administrative and economic organs in the region and commanding officers of the unit of the Korean People's Army involved in the construction.

Going round the construction site, he expressed great satisfaction over the fact that tangible successes in carrying out the Party's decisions have already been made in twenty cities and counties this year when a new policy of the WPK to open up a new era of regional development was adopted and the first year's campaign

for implementing it started and the validity and prospect of the Party's line and policy to achieve simultaneous, balanced and rapid development across the country have been proved in practice.

He acquainted himself with the level of machinery and equipment produced at home, their assembling, building construction, preparation of raw and other materials, training of skilled workers, etc. and gave important instructions on the operation and management

of regional-industry factories and the orientation of their long-term development.

He stressed that the plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee to be held in December 2024 should accurately review the first year's work for implementing the Regional Development 20x10 Policy of special significance in the history of comprehensive development of Korean-style socialism and conduct in a responsible manner the work for expanding the experience and successes

be taken by the state at the plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee.

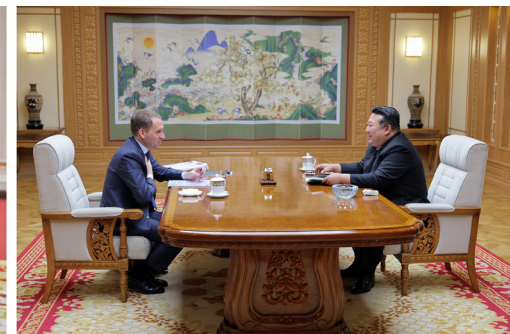
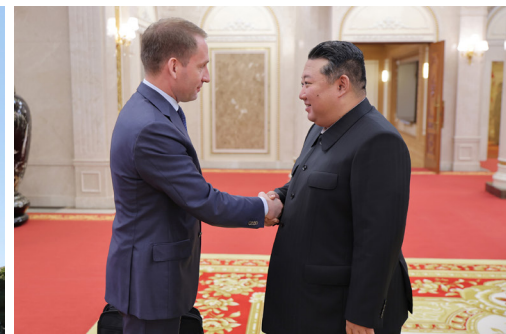
Saying that we have not much time left until the end of this year, he gave important instructions on the issues to be solved without fail in perfectly concluding the construction of regional-industry factories in twenty cities and counties which has been pushed forward this year and on drawing up the plan for regional construction in 2025.

at an accelerating pace.

Referring to the requirements of the era in which the continuous construction revolution aspiring to and creating a new civilization of socialism goes on and to the priority tasks for dynamically launching and pushing forward any huge construction projects, he set forth an important task for studying measures for implementing them and discussing and deciding the steps to



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un meets minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russian Federation



KCNA

On November 18 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, met Alexandr Kozlov, minister of Natural Resources and Ecology who is heading the government delegation of

the Russian Federation on a visit to the DPRK to take part in the 11th meeting of the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un gladly met Alexandr Kozlov at the headquarters building of the WPK Central Committee and had a talk with him.

Kim Jong Un appreciated the fact that the bilateral solidarity and cooperation has been growing closer and more intense in different fields since the conclusion of a new treaty between the two countries.

He said that it is necessary to mutually and powerfully propel the co-prosperity and development of the two countries by

further promoting the inter-governmental trade, economic, scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation in a more extensive and diversified way as the DPRK-Russia friendly and cooperative relations have reached a new strategic level.

The talk proceeded in a friendly and sincere atmosphere.

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In particular, the United States is expanding the nuke-sharing military alliance system to contain our Republic's rapid rise, which is an insurmountable obstacle in the way of implementing its policy of dominationism, and to retain and increase its influence over its vassal countries. On the other hand, it is going to great lengths to ratchet up the military pressure and provocations against our country by deploying around it a vast array of strategic strike means and troops of its allies.

The Korean peninsula has never been under such a critical situation as the present, in which there is a growing likelihood of a most destructive thermonuclear war breaking out amid the acutely dangerous confrontation between the belligerents.

Another fact that we must point out here is that this extreme tension in the peninsula is by no means something caused by the misunderstanding of each other's rival.

We already did everything possible in the bilateral negotiations with the United States, and what we were eventually convinced of was not the superpower's will to co-exist with us but its domineering stand and unchangeably aggressive and hostile policy towards the DPRK.

American politicians still say, as they are wont to do, that the United States has never been hostile. This odd-sounding rhetoric has long been rejected by the world as anything but plausible.

The US imperialists' and their vassal forces' wild ambition to obliterate our ideology and system at any cost and destroy our people to the last one has never changed. Rather, they are recklessly manoeuvring to realize this ambition in this century.

In the present world where military conflicts are growing rampant, a country which gave up building its own defence capability cannot be called a sovereign state; a weak country will fall victim to tyranny and is bound to be ravaged by foreign invasion.

All facts convince us, with each passing moment of the day, that the greatest defence capability with

which to overpower the enemies is just the key to safeguarding peace and guaranteeing durable stability and development.

Our Party and government will never remain an onlooker to any encroachment upon our state's sphere of security, and we make clear once again that we will never lower the weight of military balance on our side by ourselves.

We will go on with resolute actions for removing all manner of military threats to our state and people and thoroughly break the enemies' will to use armed forces by steadily developing our defence capability and exercising our legitimate right to self-defence.

Comrades,

It is an indispensable and consistent demand of our Party's line of building up the self-reliant defence to bolster up our strength without interruption and limit and steadily raise the tremendous capabilities of deterring and fighting a war to defend the sovereignty, interests and security environment of our state in a responsible manner.

The enemies, too, keep whetting their sword for evolution.

Accordingly, only when we make a more unequalled leap forward can we prevent military conflicts with the enemies and take the strategic initiative in controlling the political and military situation.

We should not content ourselves with the present mightiness but push for infinite mightiness. In this aspiration and will lie the true mightiness of our state and the sure guarantee for its security.

Our main purpose of holding this military hardware exhibition is not merely to look back on the history or to congratulate ourselves on the current level.

It is to highlight more clearly the necessity for us to step up the important change of defence capability and markedly enhance its strategic position and role by bringing about leaps forward in the self-reliant defence industry at any cost.

I think that as long as there exist the forces attempting to infringe upon our sovereignty and the enemies persist in their vicious moves, we should continue to upgrade various kinds of military hardware and make them cutting-edge as much as the security environment of

our state requires us and as many as the changes in the current wars show us.

Given the new aspects of modern warfare and the enemies' war tactics that are transforming in a dangerous way day after day, we should develop our defence capability more aggressively and limitlessly while promoting technological modernization of our army and equipping it with a larger number of powerful means.

Rapid development of science and technology is continuously transforming the world, and this transformation of enormous significance greatly affects the security of every country.

That it must acclimatize to the change of the objective world and cope with it rapidly and promptly is the character of the main duty and development orientation of our defence science sector today.

Military capability should be constantly upgraded.

Stagnation in increasing overwhelming military strength means the start of the defence capability becoming inferior.

Our Party and government will show more concern to search for answers to this end, mapping out a greater number of long-term projects and implementing them actively.

Comrades,

To remain more faithful to the line of self-reliance in national defence, whose scientific accuracy and power have been clearly proved through the prolonged revolutionary practice, and make steady, invariable and more vigorous advance—herein lies the eternal security and future of our state and our people.

Pioneering this road and the will to pioneer the road constitute our boundless worth of life, pride and honour.

Our Party and government will make all their efforts to increase more advanced capability of military technology, powerful military strength, thus safeguarding our glorious motherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on the strength of reliable defence capability.

I hope that all those attending this event will have a pleasant time looking round the exhibition with due pride in our defence capability and with optimism for and confidence in the limitlessness of its development.

Thank you.

Russian government delegation visits DPRK

Protocol of the 11th meeting of the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology inked



Premier Kim Tok Hun meets Alexandr Kozlov, minister of Natural Resources and Ecology heading the government delegation of the Russian Federation.



Yun Jong Ho and Alexandr Kozlov sign the protocol of the 11th meeting of the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology.

KCNA
A Russian government delegation headed by Alexandr Kozlov, minister of Natural Resources and

Ecology who is chairman of the Russian side to the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology, visited the

DPRK between November 17 and 20 to take part in the 11th meeting of the committee. Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of

the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, met with Alexandr Kozlov, minister of Natural Resources and Ecology and head of the government delegation of the Russian Federation who made a courtesy call on him, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on November 20.

Present there were Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations of the DPRK, Kim Jong Gyu, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

The talk proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hosted a reception at Yanggakdo International Hotel in Pyongyang on the evening of November 18 to welcome the government delegation of the Russian Federation on a visit to the DPRK.

A protocol of the 11th meeting of the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology was signed.

A signing ceremony took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on November 20.

Present there were Yun Jong Ho, minister of External Economic Relations who is chairman of the DPRK side to the inter-governmental

Russian president presents rare animals

KCNA

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, sent rare animals as gifts.

Alexandr Kozlov, minister of Natural Resources and Ecology who is heading the Russian government

delegation on a visit to the DPRK, courteously conveyed the list of the gifts sent by Comrade Vladimir Putin to the Korean people through the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to Kim Tok Hun, premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, on November 20.

Agreement on exchange and cooperation signed between WPK and URP

KCNA

An agreement on exchange and cooperation between the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Moscow City Branch of the United Russia Party was signed in Moscow on November 19.

Present at the signing ceremony from the DPRK

side were members of the delegation of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK led by Secretary Ri Myong Chol and the DPRK ambassador to Russia and from the opposite side Pyotr Tolstoi, secretary of the Moscow City Branch of the URP, and members concerned.

Ri Myong Chol and Pyotr Tolstoi signed the agreement.

committee, officials concerned, members of the Russian government delegation led by Alexandr Kozlov, minister of Natural Resources and Ecology who is chairman of the Russian side to the inter-governmental committee, and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

Yun Jong Ho and Alexandr Kozlov signed the protocol.

The Russian government delegation led by Alexandr Kozlov, minister of Natural Resources and Ecology who is chairman of the Russian side to the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade,

Economy, Science and Technology, visited the Tower of the Juche Idea on November 19.

After being briefed on the grand monument telling the ideo-theoretical exploits of President Kim Il Sung who founded the immortal Juche idea to clearly show the road ahead for the era of independence, the visitors went up to the observation deck of the tower to enjoy a bird's-eye view of Pyongyang.

On the same day, they also toured the Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum and the Jongbaek Church.

Nation celebrates Mother's Day

KCNA

The people across the DPRK significantly greeted the Mother's Day amid the vigorous struggle for the prosperity and development of the country and the promotion of the people's well-being.

The sons and daughters of the country extended warm congratulations to their mothers in reflection of sincere thanks.

Entering the plaza park of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are

preserved in their lifetime appearance, visitors paid tribute to them, recollecting their revolutionary exploits.

Many people visited the statues of the President and the Chairman on Mansu Hill and in different parts of the country and mosaics depicting their images to pay floral tribute to them.

Officials of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea and women's union officials in different parts of the country spent a pleasant time at baby homes and orphanages and families of prolific women.

Colourful performances were given in Pyongyang and provinces on the occasion of the Mother's Day.

Souvenir shops, flower

shops and flower stands across the country were crowded with those buying bouquets and flowers to be presented to their

mothers.

Public catering establishments across the country provided special services for mothers, and

cultural and leisure centres were full of the laughter and optimism of those celebrating the Mother's Day.



Colourful performances are given in Pyongyang and local areas to mark the Mothers' Day



'Three-party cooperation' to bring strong retaliatory actions: KCNA commentary

KCNA

The US Biden administration is jittery about its DPRK policy on the verge of total bankruptcy.

Occasioned by the APEC summit on November 15, Biden chaired the "three-party summit talks" with the chief executives of Japan and the puppet ROK in Lima, Peru.

At the talks they agreed to establish a "tripartite cooperation office" against the DPRK, while Biden blew his own horn, touting it as a "new era of tripartite cooperation".

Japan and the puppet ROK shamelessly danced to his tune, terming the "three-party cooperation" not only beneficial to their national interests but also "indispensable for peace and prosperity" in the region. They loudly said that the "three-party cooperation office" will serve as a "durable foundation" for

leading stronger cooperation between the three nations.

Timed to coincide with the confab of the chief executives of the three countries for securing the institutional and structural establishment of "three-party cooperation", the three-party multi-domain exercises, Freedom Edge, were launched again, involving US super-large nuclear carrier George Washington as flagship and new-generation fighter jets mainly tasked with precision strikes on core facilities of the DPRK. Such regular anti-DPRK war rehearsals provoke serious concern.

The master and its servants established "new three-party cooperative relations" one year ago and have busied themselves to put them on an institutional, regular and general basis since then.

It is primarily aimed at perpetuating their anti-DPRK "confrontational policy" based on "tripartite cooperation" as their

"invariable national policy" by bequeathing it as "legacy" to their next regimes and thus upsetting the balance of power in the Korean peninsula and the region.

What the world has witnessed over the past one year since the start of the "era of tripartite cooperation" talked big by the US, Japan and the ROK is by no means peace or stability of the Korean peninsula and the region.

In actuality, the current US administration has put its policy of nuclear confrontation with the DPRK into practice and frantically staged various war exercises to invade the DPRK, calling for putting into operation the real-time missile information sharing system and intensifying the three-party joint military drills with its henchmen along with the "era of tripartite cooperation".

The US, Japan and the ROK frequently brought nuclear strategic assets and

even NATO forces to the Korean peninsula and its vicinity to disturb peace of the Asia-Pacific region and provoke regional countries' heightened surveillance, all of which have nothing to do with security, peace and prosperity.

In a joint statement released at the end of the "summit" the US specified the DPRK and other independent countries in the region as targets of siege and stifling, thereby producing the entity called the "tripartite cooperation office" as an institutional foundation for expanding the US-led military bloc in the Asia-Pacific region.

Such moves of the US, Japan and the ROK for securing permanent "three-party cooperation" have sown the seed of discord and confrontation deeper into the Korean peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region.

They are a revelation of the scheme to seize the political and military supremacy in the

region by dint of the military bloc that has evolved into a nuclear alliance.

But such unprecedented confrontational hysteria of the hostile states has brought such undesirable catastrophic results as the DPRK's possession of powerful sighting telescope and ICBMs targeting the US at all times and the establishment of a just strategic structure in Northeast Asia.

In the final analysis, the "tripartite cooperation era" billed by the US, Japan and the ROK as the greatest, has turned into the "era of tripartite ruin".

Among those who met at Camp David in August last year allegedly to open up an "era of completely new three-party cooperation", one has already been ousted from his premiership and another one will soon leave the Oval Office and the last one is on the verge of being impeached, for being forsaken by the public.

Briefly

Russia

The West is losing geopolitical fight with Russia, says Leonid Slutski

Leonid Slutski, chairman of the international affairs committee of the Russian State Duma, said on November 15 that the West is losing the geopolitical fight with Russia they provoked in Ukraine.

Referring to the telephone conversation between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the German Chancellor on the initiative of the latter, he said that this is a signal that the West began to recognize their purpose to give strategic defeat to Russia on the battlefield will be defeated.

China

UNSC reform called for

The Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations called for reform of the UNSC.

In a speech at a recent session of the UN General Assembly, he said that the operation of the UNSC is now affected by high-handed politics, geopolitical confrontation and double standards and its prestige and honour are constantly being tarnished.

China supports the comprehensive and systematic reform of the UNSC, he said, adding that but it is resolutely opposed to deliberately promoting the reform programme by force to destroy the unity of the member states and cause new contradictions.

Ukraine

MPs criticize policy of authorities

Voices have risen against the policy of the puppet Zelensky authorities among members of the Verkhovna Rada (parliament).

On November 14, Alexandr Dvinski, an MP, asserted by e-mail that Zelensky would not voluntarily agree on holding a presidential election but drive the country into a civil war or nuclear war.

Referring to a "new plan for Ukraine" Zelensky is going to announce, Alexei Goncharenko, another MP, said that there is no possibility that any proposal of Kiev based on calculation of the West's action would finally be implemented.

Yemen

Resistance force carries out drone attacks against Israel

A Yemeni resistance force carried out drone attacks against Israel.

A spokesman for the resistance force on November 16 said that the drone attacks were made on major targets in Elat, a port city of Israel, and that such operations will continue until Israel's aggression against the Gaza Strip of Palestine and Lebanon ceases.

Protection of children's rights directly linked to future of mankind

By Choe Song Jun PT

November 20 this year marks the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The convention, adopted in November 1989, stipulates that children have the right to special protection and assistance and should grow up in an atmosphere of happiness, affection and understanding and in family environment.

But many children in the world are groaning, suffering from all sorts of social evils, maltreatment and diseases.

Children are the targets of various kinds of violent crimes, maltreatment, flesh trafficking and forced labour.

The US is the only country in the world that has not joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the country, gun-related crimes are the first cause of child death and 4 752 children were killed by gun violence in 2021 alone.

In addition, the manpower exploitation of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) is prevalent in American society, and businesses are making huge profits by employing a large number of children they can work as much as they want while paying them much less than adults.

In Japan it has become a social trend to maltreat children, regarding them as troublesome beings. The number of juvenile maltreatment cases reaches hundreds of thousands every year and parents are unhesitatingly killing or discarding their children, regarding them as useless beings.

Juvenile trafficking is getting ever more undisguised and about 28 percent of victims of flesh trafficking in the world are reportedly children.

Disputes and armed conflicts are the main cause of inflicting immeasurable pain and misfortunes on children.

An official of UNICEF said that children are more seriously affected by war than anyone else, urging the international community to take all measures for the protection of children. In particular, even if the battle is stopped in the Gaza Strip, the psychological injury of children cannot be healed, he said, calling for continuing to help them with their future life.

The prevalence of hunger, poverty and various infectious diseases has caused children more suffering than anyone else.

The food crisis sweeping the world has made 783 million people suffer from hunger with 150 million children undergoing trouble in growth due to malnutrition every year. In the Horn of Africa, 11 million children suffer from malnutrition, calling for humanitarian aid.

Fifty-nine percent of cholera infection cases in Somalia and 77 percent of pertussis cases in the Philippines were children under 5 in the first three months of this year. It is said that children were the main victims of measles, hand-foot-mouth disease, malaria and other infectious diseases spreading in other different countries.

It is an important issue related to the future of mankind to solve the problem of protecting children as soon as possible.

Impudent act of threatening life and security of mankind

By Song Jong Ho PT

Japan continues to pour nuclear-contaminated water into the Pacific despite the strong opposition and protest from the international community.

From October 17 to November 4, it diluted about 7 800 tons of nuclear waste water with sea water and discharged it into the sea about 1 km away through a submarine tunnel. It was the sixth discharge of nuclear-contaminated water this year and the tenth from August last year, and the total amount reached nearly 80 000 tons.

Experts have already warned that the dumping of radioactive-contaminated water in Japan might cause marine pollution by radioactive substances and, moreover, seriously harm food safety and human health.

Radioactive substances in the nuclear waste water released by Japan will reportedly spread to the most waters of the Pacific in 57 days and to the waters all over the world ten years later. That is, the marine environment of the whole world will be contaminated by radioactive substances. This is the argument of the academic circles

The international community and the locals

are becoming increasingly critical of the moves of the Japanese authorities, demanding a halt to the dumping of nuclear waste water and a ban on import of marine products from Japan and saying that the Pacific is not a sewer of Japan.

The nuclear-contaminated water discarded by Japan contains a large amount of extremely dangerous radioactive substances that cause leukemia, thyroid cancer, myeloma and others.

Nevertheless, Japan makes such disjointed remarks that the nuclear waste water is safe as it is diluted in sea water and the concentration of tritium in the surrounding waters is much lower than the standard level of the country. As is known, Japan plans to release nuclear waste water again in February next year.

It is indeed a shameless act peculiar to Japan aiming to meet its own interests, irrespective of whether it infringes upon the life and security of mankind or not and whether the ecological environment of the earth is destroyed by it or not.

Such impudent behaviour of the Japanese authorities to fulfil their selfish purpose even by bringing nuclear disaster to humankind can never be tolerated and Japan will have to pay dearly for it.

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Cross-country championship applies new yardstick for ranking

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The 2024 cross-country championship took place on the picturesque Moran Hill in Pyongyang.

This year's cross-country championship brought together dozens of players from nine units including the April 25 Sports Team, the Amnokgang Sports Club and the Kigwancha Sports Club. It took place in the form of six players from each team running 10km and 5km distances one after another in relays.

Though it is an event held almost every year in this season, the recent contest was held with heightened enthusiasm of the players encouraged by the amazing successes achieved in the FIFA U-20 and U-17 women's world cups, the 2024 Asian Table-Tennis Championships and other international games this year.

As the signal gun was fired and players started, deafening cheers went up from the crowds all through the course. Many people who went up Moran Hill to enjoy themselves on Sunday joined the cheer squads.

Cross-country race is a physically exhausting sport among field and track events as players have to run along

the course on mountain slopes. Therefore, it is important for them to have a good grasp of the running distance and keep control of

physical strength and speed in each section.

The April 25 Sports Team seemed to lead others in section 1 (10km distance),

but it was the player of the Ministry of Commerce Sports Club who received the baton first. But in section 2 (5km distance) the players of

the Pyongyang Sports Club passed the baton first and in section 3 (10km distance) the Amnokgang Sports Club gained the upper hand. As

the first and second players ran with a margin of about 50 seconds in the third section, experts and players believed that the winner of the event was definitely decided from the third section. But beyond their expectation the player of the Ministry of Commerce Sports Club passed the baton first in section 4 (5km distance) and those of the April 25 Sports Team ran ahead of others in sections 5 (10km distance) and 6 (5km distance) to breast the finishing tape.

In the women's event, the players of the April 25 Sports Team led others all the way through except section 2 (5km distance) in which the Kigwancha Sports Club player took the lead.

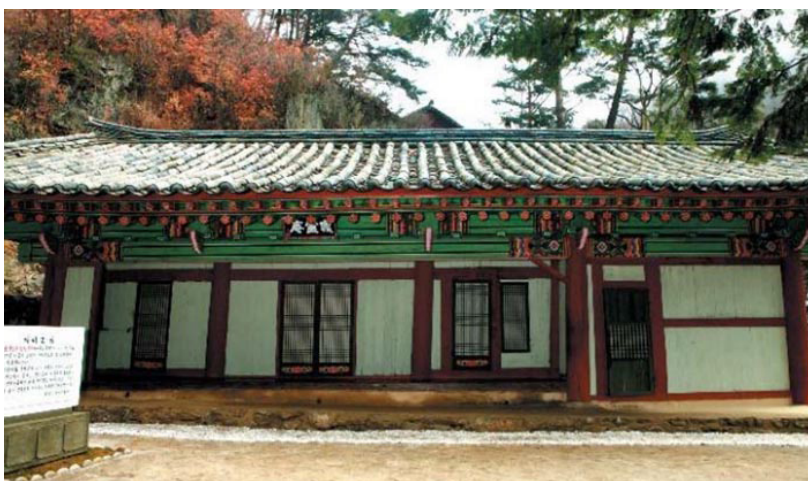
"Many players were satisfied with going ahead of others, rather than renewing the records, in the event in the past as winners were decided by their places. In order to overcome this shortcoming and improve the level of this sport, the athletics association of the DPRK set standard records and decided to rank with the teams that reach them. This measure will be a positive influence on the development of the sport," said Han Ho Il, an official of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.



The 2024 cross-country championship takes place on picturesque Moran Hill in Pyongyang.

PAK KWANG HUN/ THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Habiro Hermitage



By Choe Yong Nam PT

The Habiro Hermitage is a small temple belonging to the Pohyon Temple on Mt Myohyang in the middle part of the Myohyang Mountains in the northwestern part of the DPRK.

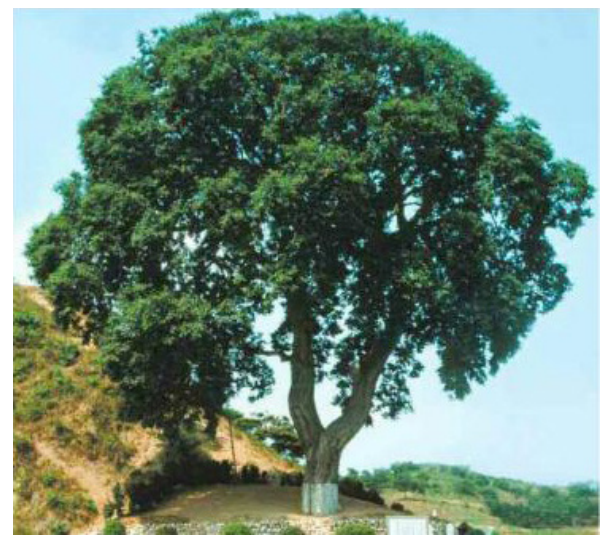
It consists of the main hall, the Poryon observatory, Chilsong and Sansin pavilions and others.

The Poryon observatory, which had been on a high rock opposite the hermitage, was rebuilt in the present place after being destroyed by a flood in 1915.

The construction date of the hermitage is uncertain, but historical records suggest that it was built before the 17th century.

The present building was rebuilt in 1882.

Riwon hackberry, living monument



By Song Jong Ho PT

Hackberry is a tall broadleaf tree belonging to the elm family.

Riwon hackberry grows in Kokgu-ri located about ten kilometres northeast of the Riwon county town.

It is an old tree, which

has grown since around 1730.

It is 27 metres tall, 3.3 metres round at the root neck, 2.4 metres round at the chest height and about 15 metres at the crown.

It ramifies into two branches at the height of 3 metres, forming a good-looking round crown.

