

Art performance given for seeing in New Year

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, sees the performance



KCNA

An art performance was given with splendour at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, to see in the hopeful New Year 2025, which will be a watershed for steady success and leap forward, after seeing out a year of great transformation, when unprecedented progress noteworthy in the history of Korean-style socialist

construction was made.

The venue of the performance was overflowing with deep emotion of the audience reviewing with dignity 2024, which witnessed another crucial and responsible journey for the development of the revolution and the state and when such a great undertaking as comprehensive rejuvenation, unprecedented since the founding of the nation, was carried on by dint of the invincible might peculiar to

the Korean revolution, their great pride in the truth of our ideals and cause and their confidence in the fresh victory and civilization to be brought about in the New Year.

Before the performance, figure skaters and schoolchildren added to the festive atmosphere by presenting an optimistic and beautiful scene on the ice to the tune of the all-people hymn "Dear Father".

The national flag of the DPRK was

hoisted.

All the audience paid high tribute to the sacred national flag that reflects the great history, eternal future and immortal glory of the country and its people.

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 performance.

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When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un appeared in the auditorium amid the playing of welcome music, the audience broke into stormy cheers.

They paid the highest glory and tribute to Kim Jong Un, the prominent leader of the revolution and the benevolent father, who ushers in a new era of a powerful nation with high confidence, in which the people's dreams and ideals will come true, as he steers the sacred cause for the prosperity and beautiful future of our great state along a road of brilliant progress.

Warmly acknowledging the enthusiastic cheers, Kim Jong Un extended his best wishes to all the beloved people across the country, who are seeing in the New Year.

Among the audience were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, members of the Political Bureau, other senior officials of the Party and the government, commanding officers of the armed forces organs, labour innovators and persons of distinguished services invited to the New Year celebrations, Pyongyangites, service

personnel of the Korean People's Army and students of the revolutionary schools.

Overseas compatriots staying in their socialist homeland enjoyed the performance.

The performance was held divided into two parts.

The first part, which began with the instrumental music, song and dance "The People Offer Glory to the Party", touched the heartstrings of the audience with all-people hymns to the WPK and other colourful numbers.

Hearing the narrative poem "Only Our Party", which evoked precious memories of the great events in the year 2024 when the country made a bold advance under the guidance of the great Party Central Committee that translates the long-cherished desires of the people into reality creating legendary tales in the new era with its most sacred ideals and ennobling spirit, the audience pictured in their mind's eye with great joy the era of eye-opening transformations to be brought about by the far-reaching ideals and outstanding leadership of the motherly Party and the rosy future of the

country that will prosper forever.

The song "We Are Koreans" aroused excitement among the audience as it gave an intensely lyrical and graphic poetic description of the thoughts and feelings of all the people determined to firmly support the mightiness of socialist Korea with steadfast pioneering spirit and patriotic will, adding glory to their honour of having successfully defended their dignity while undauntedly following the untrodden path of history.

When the emotion-charged countdown for seeing the old year out ended to signal the start of a New Year at 00:00, January 1, 2025, celebration torch was kindled and fireworks were set off bringing the excitement and joy of the audience to the climax.

Children presented bouquets to Kim Jong Un and senior Party, government and military officials, wishing them a happy New Year.

The venue was overflowing with the great honour and happiness of the audience seeing in the New Year, filled with their confidence and optimism, in the presence of their great leader, their dear father.

Put on the stage of the second part, which started with the song and dance "Snow Falls on New Year's Day", were newly produced musical masterpieces that truthfully portray our people's patriotic feelings which have grown stronger in the new era of a great powerful nation.

Highly applauded by the audience were such songs as "The Motherland and My Destiny", "My Powerful Motherland" and "I Will Love You Forever" that sing of the people's highest tribute and glory to, and firm pledge they have made before, the great and dignified DPRK which has always emerged victorious in the tempest of history.

The performance ended with the playing of the national anthem of the DPRK.

When the performance ended, loud cheers of "Hurrah!" for Kim Jong Un rocked the venue and fireworks were set off gorgeously decorating the nocturnal sky.

The last night of the old year passed with precious recollection and pride of victors and the New Year filled with their new hope and enthusiasm began.



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un has photo taken with labour innovators and persons of merit on occasion of New Year 2025



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, called labour innovators and persons of merit to the headquarters building of the Central Committee of the WPK and had a photo taken with them on January 2 on the occasion of the New Year 2025.

The participants were filled with great emotion and joy as they entered the yard of the Party Central Committee with boundless gratitude to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un who values the life and struggle of ordinary working people devoting themselves to the prosperity of the country, shows warm benevolence for

them to participate in the significant New Year celebrations and puts them on the peak of glory again.

When the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un appeared, all the participants broke into thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!" looking up to the leader, symbol of the absolute dignity and invincibility of our great Party and our powerful state and the destiny and happiness of all our people.

Kim Jong Un extended warm greetings to the labour innovators and persons of merit in various fields, who made contributions to bringing about great changes in 2024 which are of epochal significance in the historic course of struggle toward the comprehensive development of socialism.

He highly appreciated their efforts, saying that the great successes and proud edifices, symbolic of the self-dependence and prosperity of our state, clearly reflect the pure conscience and devoted efforts of the patriotic working people as reliable cornerstones supporting the country.

Thanks to the large contingent of genuine patriots filled with the strong will and ardent enthusiasm to bring earlier the future of a powerful country by dint of their strenuous efforts, only victory is always in store for our glorious motherland, the DPRK, which is making a dynamic advance and leap forward, ushering in a new era of national prosperity, he said.

Expressing his belief that the participants would glorify their worthwhile life as performers of heroic

feats and the standard-bearers of the collective innovation movement in the vanguard for increased production and patriotic struggle for carrying out the struggle tasks set forth by the Eighth Party Congress, he had a photo taken with them.

On the same day, he met female footballers and coaches who won the first place in the 2024 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup finals, congratulated them on their successful games, which fully demonstrated the honour of the DPRK and added national pride and self-esteem to the feeling of the people across the country, and encouraged them to make uninterrupted development in the

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Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un meets members of art troupe of Korean schoolchildren in Japan



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, met members of the art troupe of Korean schoolchildren in Japan, who visited the socialist homeland and took part in the New Year performance for 2025, at the headquarters building of the Party Central Committee on January 2.

The schoolchildren were greatly excited with the highest happiness and honour as they would receive warm blessings of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un,

whom they had wanted to see so much, in the yard of the Party Central Committee which they have always kept reverentially in their hearts though they live in an alien land far from their homeland.

Seeing them full of joy with great excitement, the fatherly Marshal warmly congratulated them, who greeted the New Year's Day in the motherland meaningfully, patting the beloved schoolchildren on their cheeks.

He took in his arms the valuable sons and daughters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) who are growing up stoutly and beautifully by carrying forward the

soul of their fathers and mothers who remain unchangeable on the road of patriotism, cherishing warm love for the socialist homeland, and had a photo taken with them.

The cheers of "Hurrah!" raised by the happy schoolchildren, who received his warm feelings of kinship, reverberated far and wide in the clear and blue sky of the New Year.

Warmly shaking the hands of the head of the art troupe, he requested him to train a larger number of pillars who would carry forward the baton of the patriotic cause of Chongryon.

A song of loyalty and filial devotion,

the sons and daughters of Chongryon had sung earnestly at the New Year performance, reverberated in the yard of the Party Central Committee full of loving care and passion of repayment.

Kim Jong Un heard with pleasure their song full of the desire to carry forward the patriotic tradition as their lifeblood, and warmly encouraged them.

Members of the art troupe of Korean schoolchildren in Japan were filled with the will to fully prepare themselves to be patriotic pillars, who would reliably shoulder the future of Chongryon, bearing deep in mind the boundless affection shown by Kim Jong Un.



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future.

The labour innovators and persons

of merit made a firm pledge to make the meaningful year 2025 a year of great victory of fully demonstrating the validity and vitality of the fighting

programme of the Party and a historic watershed that provides a phase of upturn toward a higher stage of development, by charging forward with a single mind

to accomplish the sacred patriotic cause for the prosperity of the socialist country, true to the ideas and leadership of the Party Central Committee.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un inspects service facilities in Kalma Coastal Resort



KCNA

A Korean-style coastal tourist city is splendidly springing up in Myongsasimni, renowned as a coastal scenic spot in the country, demonstrating the dynamic spirit of socialist Korea that is ushering in a new era of transformation and civilization with a great ambition and ideals.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea unveiled a plan for building characteristic tourist resorts that can satisfy the cultural and emotional demands of our people on the picturesque coasts by preserving the natural and geographical features of our maritime country, and has led the projects step by

step. Under its meticulous guidance, a service network that includes many hotels, hostels, sea-bathing service facilities, various sports and recreation service facilities, and commercial and catering facilities, has been built in Myongsasimni on the Kalma peninsula, presenting a beautiful landscape.

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, looked round several hotels and other service facilities inaugurated on December 29.

Feasting his eyes with a bright smile on the coastal tourist city with a picturesque appearance along the beach beaten by

clear blue waves of the East Sea, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said:

When guiding the construction on the spot before, I said that Myongsasimni would be turned into a 4km-long stretch of beach crowded with people full of their happy laughter and optimism, a 4km-long tide of the people. Now the ideal has come true.

Noting that the Kalma Coastal Resort is very spectacular, beautiful and magnificent, he expressed great satisfaction that the major service facilities in the area have been built at a level high enough to successfully host even important external, political and cultural events of the state.

Saying that the service capability

and level constitute the value of a tourist attraction and a factor decisive of its prospect, he gave instructions on managing and operating the service facilities on a regular basis, including proactively developing various kinds of new service categories and training world-level service workers.

Our country has tourist resources rich and diverse enough to arouse the envy of the world people, along with the political stability, institutional advantages and material and economic conditions essential for the development of tourist industry, he said, adding:

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If we develop the tourist industry by making active use of such favourable conditions and environment, we will open up a new realm of socialist cultural construction and create another motive force for promoting regional rejuvenation and national economic growth.

To this end, it is necessary to ensure maximum efficiency and profitability through a scientific survey of tourist resources, and it is posed as an important task to set proper legal standards concerning the development of tourist zones, construction of tourist facilities and protection of nature and environment, raise the level of tourist information service and operation of tourist facilities

to the world standards and diversify the range of gifts for tourists, he said, indicating detailed ways for developing the country's tourist industry.

Noting that construction of the Kalma Coastal Resort is the first big step of great significance in putting the country's tourist industry on a track of radical development, he went on:

In the future we should lay out a nice resort area that would link the Mt Kumgang Resort and the Kalma Coastal Resort, proactively exploit the tourist resources in other regions, including mountaineering tourism in the Samjiyon area, to consolidate the material foundations for the economic development of regions and improvement of the people's living standards and



fundamentally transform the appearance of the country.

He expressed belief that the Kalma Coastal Resort, reflective of the seaside scenery of our beautiful country, will

demonstrate its great fame as a national and world-class scenic spot, a favourite haunt of our people and foreign friends.

The resort will open to the public from June 2025.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends congratulatory letter to Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

KCNA

Greeting the New Year 2025, 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, sent a congratulatory letter to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, on December 30.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un

extended warm New Year greetings to Comrade Putin, his dearest friend and comrade, offering best wishes to the fraternal Russian people and all the service personnel of the brave Russian army in the name of his own, the Korean people and all the service personnel of the armed forces of the DPRK.

Recalling the meaningful journey in 2024, which developed the traditional DPRK-Russia friendly relationship into

a strategic and cooperative one and into that of sworn friends, he expressed his willingness to design and powerfully push ahead with new projects for accomplishing the cause of building powerful nation in the two countries and achieving people's wellbeing and prosperity by relying on the sincerest and warmest comradely trust, thereby further strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the DPRK

and Russia.

Hoping that the New Year 2025 will be recorded as the first year of war victory in the 21st century, when the Russian army and people defeat neo-Nazism and achieve a great victory, he wished Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin greater success in his responsible and heavy state leadership activities and the Russian people prosperity, wellbeing and happiness.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends greetings to Cuban President

KCNA People's Republic of Korea, sent a congratulatory message to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, on January 1. The message said: I extend warm congratulations to you and the Cuban party, government and people on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the victory in the Cuban revolution, wishing the Cuban people success in their struggle to defend the sovereignty of the country and advance the socialist cause under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Senior Party and government officials visit Kumsusan Palace of Sun

KCNA Senior Party and government officials, including members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and commanding officers of the armed forces organs visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche, on January 1 on the occasion of the New Year. The sacred temple of Juche, where the eternal leaders of the Party, state and people of the DPRK and peerlessly great sages are preserved in their lifetime appearance, was wrapped in the most solemn atmosphere.



Senior Party and government officials including members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and commanding officers of military organs visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on January 1 2025.

Seen before the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il there was a flower basket bearing the name of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Officials of the relevant organs laid flower baskets in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, the Cabinet of the DPRK and the Korean People's Army.

The participants paid high tribute to the great leaders at their statues.

At the halls of immortality where the great leaders lie in state, the participants made deep New Year's bows to them in humblest reverence for them.

All the participants hardened their firm will to dynamically usher in the era of prosperity of the powerful state by fully discharging the important responsibility and duties entrusted to them by the Party, the revolution and the people in the historic advance towards the comprehensive development of socialism that is rapidly rising and expanding, upholding the revolutionary ideas and leadership of Kim Jong Un with intense loyalty.

Banquet given in celebration of New Year 2025

KCNA The venue of the banquet was filled with boundless gratitude and reverence for the great Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee which values the loyalty and uprightness of ordinary working people devoting themselves to the prosperity of the country and holds them in public esteem. Attending it were Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the DPRK Cabinet, Jo Chun Ryong and Choe Tong Myong, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, and other senior officials of the Party, government and armed forces organs. The national anthem of the DPRK was played. Pak Thae Song made a congratulatory speech at the banquet. Upon authorization of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the speaker warmly congratulated the labour innovators and persons of merit who took part in the grand banquet with the pride of having devoted themselves in the vanguard of the all-people struggle for the prosperity of the country. All the assets and successes shining along with the absolute position of the DPRK were provided by the patriotic citizens with an indomitable pioneering spirit, heroic stamina, warm blood and sweat, and their noble conscience and undaunted struggle laid a foundation for bringing about the sure success and change in 2024, he noted. He said that the struggle in the New Year marking the 80th founding anniversary of the glorious Workers' Party of Korea and the 80th anniversary of Korea's liberation requires the strong and energetic efforts of all the people. He expressed belief that all the participants would launch an intensive campaign for increasing production and performing new miracles in the drive to implement the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK by fully displaying their single-minded loyalty and patriotism in supporting the Party and the state, saying the strong foundations for prosperity, secured by dint of self-reliance only and in a Korean way, and the people's self-respect and patriotic spirit, which have grown stronger, will surely bring about the implementation of the five-year plan and record the Ninth Congress of the WPK as a glorious one in history. All the participants toasted the good health of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the prominent leader of the state and dear father of the people, and for the new victory in 2025 when a greater stride will be made toward prosperity.

National flag-hoisting ceremony held on New Year's Day

KCNA

A national flag-hoisting ceremony was held at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on January 1 2025 amid the joy and excitement for celebrating the significant New Year.

The square was crowded with Pyongyangites seeing out 2024 recorded with eye-opening events and unforgettable stories and waiting for the moment of excitement to be filled with confidence in the New Year.

At 00:00 sharp, a bell tolled the start of the New Year and melodies of the immortal revolutionary hymns "Song of General Kim Il Sung" and "Song of General Kim Jong Il" resounded in the sky above the capital city.

On behalf of the workers, peasants and intellectuals, model working people of the capital city courteously hoisted the national flag amid the solemn playing of the national anthem of the DPRK.

Masses paid high tribute to the national flag of the DPRK which flutters invariably and more brilliantly everywhere on this land demonstrating the independent dignity and prestige of the powerful state and bearing the responsibility for the destiny and rosy future of the people.

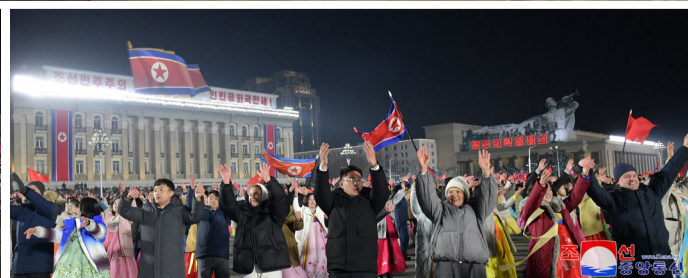
With the DPRK flag fluttering in the sky above the capital city, marvellous fireworks were displayed to celebrate the New Year.

Displaying the pride and joy of the people of a powerful state who have grown up under the national flag of glory, the magnificent and bright fireworks redoubled all the people's revolutionary will to dynamically accelerate the new historic advance for vigorously hastening the era of comprehensive prosperity of the state, praying for the good fortune of the country.

The national flag-hoisting ceremony is held at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on January 1 2025. RYU KWANG HYOK/THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Evening gala of young people held



KCNA

An evening gala of youth and students took place at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on December 31 2024 on the occasion of the New Year 2025.

The venue of the evening gala was filled with joy and optimism of young vanguard greeting the hope-filled New Year with the pride of having fully demonstrated the wisdom and stamina of the patriotic youth boundlessly loyal to the cause of the Workers' Party of Korea in the gigantic advance of 2024.

As the song "Cheers of the People" resounded through the nocturnal sky above the square, the participants began their grand dancing party.

The participants danced to the tune of songs "Let's Love Our Country" and "Oh Party, It's Thanks to Your Care" with ardent reverence for the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un who is bringing about miraculous victories and prosperity to be immortal in the history of the country with his extraordinary political calibre and gigantic leadership practices.

Amid the playing of "Song of Youth" and "Dash toward Future" and other songs which reflect the courageous spirit of the rising generation dynamically advancing in the van of the struggle to achieve the comprehensive development of Korean-style socialism with youthful enthusiasm and strength, the young people were in high spirits.

The evening gala fully showed the revolutionary will of the rising generation to fully display their spirit and mettle as the vanguard in the sacred patriotic struggle for the comprehensive prosperity and development of the great state, true to the idea and spirit of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

An evening gala of youth and students takes place at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on December 31 2024.

Nation pays floral tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il

KCNA

Officials, working people, service personnel, youth and schoolchildren of the DPRK visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in different parts of the country on the morning of New Year's Day of 2025 to pay high tribute to them.

Placed at the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang were flower baskets in the name of the Party, power and armed forces organs, social organizations, ministries, national agencies, units of the Korean People's Army and the Public Security Forces, and institutions and industrial establishments at all levels and universities in

the capital city of Pyongyang and bouquets.

The visitors offered New Year greetings to them, recollecting the sacred careers of the peerlessly great men.

Flower baskets in the name of units of the KPA and the PSF, institutions and enterprises, and bouquets were laid at the statues of the great leaders at Kim Il Sung University, the Ministry of National Defence, the Mansudae Art Studio and other places in Pyongyang.

Officials, working people, service personnel and youth and schoolchildren across the country visited the statues of the great leaders in their residential areas to pay tribute to them.

Pyongyang citizens pay floral tribute at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill.
PAK KWANG HUN/ THE PYONGYANG TIMES



New Year performance given by schoolchildren

KCNA

Amid the blessing of the whole country, a performance of schoolchildren in celebration of the New Year 2025 was given at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace on January 1.

Among the audience

were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, and other senior

Party, government and military officials, labour innovators and persons of distinguished services invited to the New Year celebrations, Pyongyang citizens, students of revolutionary schools and schoolchildren.

Overseas compatriots staying in the socialist

homeland enjoyed the performance.

The performance began with prologue "We extend New Year greetings to the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un". The schoolchildren placed a flower basket on the stage, reflecting their gratitude to the respected fatherly

Marshal.

They showed through their cheerful songs and beautiful dances the fact that the bright future and eternal happiness are guaranteed thanks to the fatherly Marshal who is taking care of all students, pupils and other children in all parts of the country, including Pyongyang and

the remote mountain and island villages, and those in alien lands, with his paternal love and affection.

The performance was acclaimed by the audience as it artistically represented the aspirations and determination of the young revolutionaries and patriots.



A schoolchildren's performance in celebration of the New Year 2025 is given at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on January 1.

New Year 2025 celebrated

KCNA

The people of the DPRK significantly greeted the New Year 2025.

An endless stream of visitors flowed to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

The visitors made New Year greetings to the great leaders looking up to their eternal images at the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

Working people, service personnel, youth and schoolchildren laid flower baskets, bouquets and flowers at the statues of the President and the Chairman on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang

and other parts of the country and mosaics depicting the peerlessly great men.

Children and pupils of primary schools across the country received gifts associated with the loving care of the Workers' Party of Korea on the occasion of the New Year.

Korean feature film "Day and Night of Confrontation", a sequel to "One Day and

One Night", was screened at cinemas across the country.

Colourful performances were given in Pyongyang and local areas to rev up the holiday atmosphere.

Working people, students and children enjoyed themselves at the people's cultural recreation grounds including the Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum and the Munsu Water Park.

Public catering facilities across the country including Okryu Restaurant in Pyongyang and Sinhung Restaurant in Hamhung were crowded with visitors.

The pleasant smell of roast chestnuts and sweet potatoes which were served at outdoor stalls in different parts of the capital city added to the festive mood.

New Year greeting cards

were served at the greeting card and souvenir shops in Pyongyang and greeting cards and mobile phone messages exchanged between parents and their children, teachers and their disciples, relatives and friends across the country.

The streets of Pyongyang and the provinces were decorated with majestic and colourful illuminations.



The Korean people spend New Year holiday in Pyongyang and the provinces.

New posters produced

KCNA

New posters were produced to powerfully encourage all the people across the country, who have turned out in the historic march of the New Year under the seasoned and tested leadership of the Central Committee of the great Workers' Party of Korea, to wage a vigorous struggle.

Posters "All out for the implementation of the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central

Committee!", "Let us carry out the tasks for this year of the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Party Congress!" and "Let us greet the 80th anniversary of the Party founding with high political enthusiasm and brilliant labour achievements!" reflect the revolutionary will of all the people of the country to glorify this year as an eye-opening year, a year of great change, which provides a phase of upturn toward a higher development stage, true to the grand revolutionary

programme set forth at the plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee.

Poster "Let us make the flames of the drive for increased production and economy campaign spread fiercely all across the country!" calls for conducting the dynamic drive for increased production and economy campaign in all fields of socialist construction to further heighten the patriotic enthusiasm of all the people and double the inexhaustible motive

force of development of the state.

Posters "Let us make the people get real benefit!" and "Let us put production on a normal track at regional-industry factories!" reflect the strong desire to clearly prove the validity and vitality of the Party's policies by laying firm foundations for regional development.

Other posters call for conducting fish farming and aquaculture on a large scale, pushing ahead with the forest restoration



Poster "All out for the implementation of the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee!"

as a Party-wide and nationwide honour of the country with gold undertaking and exalting the medals in the sports field.

2024 a year of devoted service for good of the people

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Last year the DPRK people started the New Year advance with unusual emotion.

Because they received the news that the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un had a photo session with schoolchildren after seeing their New Year performance on January 1.

Seeing the benevolent image of Kim Jong Un, who smiled brightly with schoolchildren, the future of the country, in his embrace, the people were filled with fresh confidence and optimism.

He visited the farm machine exhibition the following day and gave field guidance at the newly-built Kwangchon Chicken Farm a few days later.

Not long after, the people heard his important policy speech at the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

In the speech he said that the WPK would keep hold on the construction of modern regional industry factories in 20 counties every year as an unerring policy task, carry it out successfully on a high level and thus raise a level

higher the basic material and cultural living standards of the people in all cities and counties and, in another word, across the country within ten years. Declaring this grand decision, he noted that in addition to the line for rural prosperity, he was going to call this Party policy "Regional Development 20×10 Policy". His speech greatly excited all people.

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

At the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea that followed, General Secretary Kim Jong Un made an important conclusion "On Forcefully Promoting the Implementation of the Party's 'Regional Development 20×10 Policy'". It provided an epochal milestone in the history of struggle of the WPK which has aspired only to the good of the people

for nearly 80 years since its founding.

February comes every year, but it has become a special month for the Korean people since the historic Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Because the sound of blasting for ground-breaking along with the beginning of spring heralds the start of large construction projects for the people's happiness.

In February last year, the ground-breaking ceremonies for the construction of 10 000 flats in the third stage of the Hwasong area and for the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County also took place, with the respected General Secretary in attendance.

Indeed, 2024 was a year in which new policies and goals were defined one after another and there were unusually many beginnings and starts and which was full of joy and successes.

The news about the field inspection by the General Secretary of the construction sites of the Central Cadres Training School of the WPK and the second-stage 10 000 flats in Hwasong area nearing

completion was followed by those on the completion of the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm, Rimhung Street, Jonwi Street and the Central Cadres Training School of the WPK in succession.

His tireless leadership for the people's happiness continued across the country including in the city of Samjiyon in the northern part of the country, the city of Sinpho in South Hamgyong Province and the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area.

Last year the Korean people keenly realized once again what the devoted service of the respected General Secretary for the good of the people was.

Not only the flood victims but also all other people of the country were moved to tears as they saw him on TV who came all the way through the rough and dangerous path to save the lives of flood victims from the jaws of death after hearing the report that the people in the Amnok River basin suffered flood damage, and who waited for the last one of them at the rainy air base.

He convened an emergency enlarged meeting of the

Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee on the spot to take crucial measures to provide the flood victims with good homes as soon as possible and visited the tents where they were temporarily living in the sultry weather. His warm love and affection impressed on the people again the world of devoted service he does for the good of the people by taking full responsibility for their lives and living.

He met the flood victims in Pyongyang, learned about the preparations for education of their children and provided them with all conditions for living without any inconvenience. And then he visited the construction sites of regional-industry factories again and took new crucial measures to hasten the epochal regional development and comprehensive rejuvenation of the country.

In September when the DPRK celebrated its 76th founding anniversary, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made a historic speech, in which he clarified the scientific plans for fully displaying the mightiness, resoluteness and invincibility of the DPRK, to inject fresh

confidence and courage into the people and made energetic field guidance tour of the important units for bolstering up the national defence capability.

In October and November, he continued his field inspection across the country including the flood-hit areas of North Phyongan Province to devotedly service the people.

As they walk along the broad avenue as owners of new houses on brightly-lit Rimhung and Jonwi streets and hear almost every day the exciting news that agricultural workers have moved into new houses in the socialist rural areas and modern miraculous entities of the regional industrial revolution are springing up in 20 cities and counties across the country, the Korean people realized again that the journey of patriotic devotion of the respected General Secretary brings them happiness as it serves as the roots and cornerstone of all their happiness.

It is the philosophy of happiness which was more clearly engraved on the minds of the DPRK people with each passing day of last year.

Boundless reverence of the people

By Pang Un Ju PT

It is said that mountains and rivers change in ten years.

The appearance of the DPRK has literally changed.

As a great golden age of construction has been ushered in, new modern streets and bases for cultural and leisure activities were built in different parts of the country and many factories and enterprises for the improvement of the people's living standards were built or renovated.

A new era of the overall development of socialism is being ushered in as the appearance of Pyongyang has improved every year and the policy of rural development in the new age and the Regional Development 20×10 Policy for liquidating the centuries-old backwardness of the countryside have been implemented.

And a number of socialist policies have additionally been enforced, including the universal 12-year compulsory education, childcare policy, supply of school things at the state's expense and making of all the people well versed in science and technology.

Over the past decade, the national defence capability has taken a world-startling, dramatic upturn.

The Korean People's Army has developed into a powerful army which is more reliably prepared politically, ideologically, in militarily technique and physically, and the Korean defence industry has developed into a powerful one.

In a word, the armed forces of the DPRK emerged as a powerful entity firmly guaranteeing the sovereignty of the country, the well-being of the people, the security of the region and the accomplishment of the cause of global independence by force of arms.

All these changes that have been made in over ten years, which can be referred to as a moment of a long history, are the precious fruition of the outstanding leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

After indicating the bright future of the revolutionary cause of Juche based on the people-first principle with devoted service for the people as its kernel, he gave perfect scientific answers to all problems arising in advancing the revolution and construction and lifted the dignity of the country to the highest level and brings the people all blessings with his boundless devotion and service.

That is why the people entrust all their destiny and future to him, absolutely follow him and faithfully support him.

It is the greatest pleasure and happiness for the Korean people to see him, and it is their earnest desire and honour to meet him, and they are determined to devote their all to supporting his leadership.

The boundless reverence for and trust in the General Secretary are the feelings and traits the Korean people keep, and the harmonious whole of the leader and the people is the politico-ideological might that is possessed only by the DPRK.

For the buildup of armed forces

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

The year 2024 witnessed a rapid development in the strengthening of the armed forces of the DPRK.

The respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un advanced important guidelines for bolstering up the armed forces, a guarantee for national defence, in the present world where confrontation between physical strength and physical strength decides fate, thereby further consolidating them into invincible forces.

On a visit to Kim Jong Il Military and Political University, the supreme temple of military education in the country, he said that the university should achieve greater success in education so that units of the entire army at all levels can be filled with competent and versatile commanders who have made the capacity and temperament of overpowering the enemy with ideological, spiritual, combat and moral superiority and tactical ascendancy part of their special and mental qualities. When he paid a congratulatory

visit to Kim Il Sung Military University, he indicated important tasks and ways for radically developing the university's instruction and edification onto a new, higher stage.

As he visited the O Jin U Artillery Academy, a "pedigree" institution for training the hard-core members of the artillery of the country, he clarified ways to be followed by the academy in bolstering up the country's artillery forces.

He attached great importance to the position and role of the battalion, the lowest commanding unit and major combat unit, in strengthening the Korean People's Army, organized the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA and illuminated ways to turn the battalions into combat groups with strong military discipline and regularized appearance.

The boundless love and trust of the respected General Secretary, who visits every place where soldiers are and shows fatherly affection to all officers and men, instill matchless strength and

courage into them.

Various military drills and test-fires he guided at the training grounds thick with powder smoke and dangerous firing lines and military hardware constantly updated and sophisticated are associated with the revolutionary leadership of the respected General Secretary, who is writing a hero biography for national defence buildup.

Different kinds of military exercises he oversaw, including the first general tactical drill for nuclear counterattack of sub-units of 600mm multiple rocket launchers, the artillery firing drill of large combined units of the KPA, the match training between the KPA tankmen's combined units, the drill of the paratrooper units of the KPA and the firing drill of the artillery units in the western area, which are in charge of an important firing assignment, marked important occasions in developing the armed forces of the DPRK into an invincible army capable of fully coping with any combat situations.

Under his guidance, the DPRK armed forces

have grown into elite ranks equipped with more advanced military hardware.

The development of a new-type tactical ballistic missile weapon system, a powerful cutting-edge tactical offensive weapon of Korean style, the completely successful test-fire of the latest-type ICBM Hwasongpho-19, a super-powerful offensive means, and the latest military equipment pieces which were on display at the Military Hardware Exhibition Defence Development - 2024 clearly demonstrated the modernity and advancement of the military hardware attained by the DPRK armed forces.

Under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, who leads the cause of a powerful army building along the road of victory with outstanding ideological and theoretical wisdom and scientific insight, the DPRK armed forces have been further consolidated politically and ideologically and in military technique and are demonstrating their might as an elite army with a powerful war deterrent.



Happy New Year!



Happy New Year!

Marking the New Year 2025, the Editorial Board of *The Pyongyang Times* extends warm greetings to all readers.

We wish you good health, greater success and joy and happiness in your families in the New Year.

As always in the past, 2024 was not easy for everyone, but the strenuous efforts and advancement made by the progressive people for justice, truth and independent development did not stop, and meaningful and precious successes were made by many countries amid the gigantic trend of

the times.

Recollecting the past year with great pride and self-confidence, we recall once again the miraculous successes covered by *The Pyongyang Times* throughout the year and Korean heroes who left the beautiful traces of life.

Hostile forces got more outrageous in their military confrontational moves to check the advance of the Koreans courageously following the road of independence and socialism and manifold trials and difficulties including unexpectedly huge natural calamities stood in their

way, but the Korean people made spectacular achievements by the united efforts of patriotism under the outstanding and seasoned leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Rural dwelling houses were built one after another in the wake of the inauguration of Rimhung and Jonwi streets, the news about the moving into new houses was heard throughout the year and the construction of 50 000 flats has proceeded in Pyongyang without fail according to schedule. The first entity rose up in only ten months since the start of the implementation of the Rural

Development 20x10 Policy aimed at eliminating the century-old backwardness of regions, apart from the line of rural development in the new era.

To repair damage from natural calamities is a great burden for any country and a blow to it which may have a negative effect on many undertakings. But under the leadership of the WPK, which holds the people in highest esteem and prioritizes the work to relieve them of suffering, well over ten thousand victims were brought to the capital as special guests to lead a happy life enjoying

all kinds of benefits and afflicted areas underwent tremendous changes in a few months to unfold rare reality in which people moved into new houses.

This is the tip of the iceberg.

The Kwangchon Chicken Farm and the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm were completed and many projects for the development of the national economy and the improvement of the people's living standards were newly built or modernly renovated until the end of the year. The military hardware of the DPRK's armed forces as we saw

at the Military Hardware Exhibition Defence Development-2024 made rapid development once again in terms of modernity, advancement and precision and power of strike.

Marking the New Year 2025 with fresh hope, the Korean people are filled with confidence to achieve greater victories in the building of a powerful country and a peaceful and just new world, and we will report such a reality originally and correctly.

Hoping you would become our regular readers in 2025, we wish you Happy New Year once again.



Night of Pyongyang celebrating New Year 2025

Walled City of Pyongyang

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Among the national



cultural heritage elements of the DPRK is the Walled City of Pyongyang which was the capital of the Koguryo Kingdom (277 BC- 668 AD).

It was in 427 that Koguryo moved its

capital to Pyongyang.

It built the new capital by enclosing the whole city with walls on its great national strength, hence the Walled City of Pyongyang.

The walled city built between 552 and 586 was surrounded by Moran Hill with rugged ridges and precipitous cliffs to the north

and by Taedong and Pothong rivers as natural moats to the east, west and south, so it was inimical to foreign invasion and instrumental to defence.

The inside of the walled city was partitioned by walls into the keep and the middle, outer and northern parts. The total length of the walled city's walls, including

those of the four parts, was approximately 23km. There were seven command posts in the walled city. Typical

of them are Ulmil Pavilion in the keep and Choesung Pavilion in the northern part.

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