

Inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories in Jaeryong County held

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attends ceremony, cuts inauguration tape



KCNA

Regional-industry factories in Jaeryong County of the DPRK were inaugurated, significantly decorating the outset of 2025, a year of great turn in raising the comprehensive development of socialism onto a higher stage, true to the ideas and spirit of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The inauguration of modern regional-industry factories built in Jaeryong Namuri Plain, a granary in the western area of the

country, presenting a wonderful reality of regional rejuvenation, is a powerful proof of the unshakable will and executive ability of the great Party Central Committee that launched the historic cause for realizing the long-cherished desire of the regional people and keeps the promise with the people without fail, and a great inspiring event predicting dynamic progress and miraculous successes.

An inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Jaeryong County for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy took place on January 7.

The venue of the ceremony was full of the great pride of the soldier-builders who have wonderfully built the regional-industry factories into precious entities of our Party's people-first politics and crystallization of their pure conscience as servants of the people in the steadfast spirit of defending the Party's policies and through their devoted efforts, as well as the great excitement and joy of the people in Jaeryong County who will enjoy a new civilization, a new life, to their heart's content under the care of the Party.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un

attended the ceremony.

When Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants raised enthusiastic cheers, extending the greatest glory and respect to the outstanding leader and great father who opened up a new era in which the whole country develops all at once, provided a springboard of dynamic advance and upswing of our state and is leading the sacred cause for changes in the vanguard with his outstanding ideology and theory

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and unexcelled leadership ability.

Present at the ceremony were Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, and other senior officials of the Party and the government, service personnel involved in the construction project, officials and employees of the regional-industry factories, and officials and working people in South Hwanghae Province and Jaeryong County.

Ju Chang Il, director of the Information and Publicity Department of the WPK Central Committee, made an inaugural address.

The speaker said that he could not suppress a surging emotion before feeling pleased to greet the significant New Year with the inauguration of such modern regional-industry factories, adding that it is a great revolution which can be made only by Kim Jong Un that the comprehensive development of regions, which had been an ideal for nearly 80 years, was adopted as the most important political task of the Party and the state and that its brilliant entities sprang up in the year of its adoption. He continued:

When anyone looks round the regional-industry factories to which modernity,

civilization and profitability are applied, they will gain a deep knowledge of the great painstaking efforts that Kim Jong Un has made to bring about transformations that will actually reach the regional people and will be welcomed by them, and will be convinced of the future of the regional changes to be brought about on a larger scale under his great leadership.

Today's grand inauguration is a proud success of the regional-industry revolution and, at the same time, a springboard for a new struggle and a cornerstone for greater, higher and more dynamic progress. This important event welcomed by all people across the country should surely be followed by perfect results every year regardless of conditions.

Saying that the great cause of regional rejuvenation shouldered by the Party is a science, practice and victory, he called for working harder and more vigorously to brilliantly carry out the Party's policy on regional development and bring earlier the future of a rich and civilized, prosperous and powerful country with redoubled confidence and courage.

Kim Jong Un cut the inauguration tape.

Enthusiastic cheers were raised by the participants in the venue of the

ceremony, where a historic event took place recording another brilliant page in the history of regional development in the new era, as a reflection of their ardent reverence for and absolute trust in the great Party Central Committee.

All the participants extended grateful thanks to the benevolent leader of the people, who has set it as his lifelong mission and the most important work of the Party and the state to promote the people's happiness and well-being and unfolds socialist paradises, in which all the people would enjoy happiness, and comprehensive efflorescence of national rejuvenation.

Kim Jong Un went round the factories.

Noting that the inauguration ceremonies for the regional-industry factories take place one after another in 20 cities and counties including Songchon and Jaeryong counties as a fruition of sincere efforts rendered for the people last year, he said:

This is an auspicious event of the whole country that gives great pleasure to the people who have started the worthwhile journey in the new year. As I see all the people of the region full of excitement and joy today, I feel greater pride and dignity in waging the revolution and struggle, and it makes my determination firmer to identify what should be done more for the people and shoulder their implementation.

Going over the trial products, he set forth principles and ways to be consistently adhered to in the operation of the regional-industry factories and their production, and discussed with

the leading officials accompanying him a series of measures to be taken by the Party and the government for leading and powerfully supporting the regional industry in a sustained way in order to guarantee its long-term development.

He repeatedly stressed the need for the Party and government organs in cities and counties to always pay close attention to providing conditions necessary for normalizing production at the regional-industry factories, including providing raw materials and training skilled workers, and unconditionally ensure the provision of the conditions so that the new regional development policy of our Party can make a substantial contribution to promoting the material well-being of the inhabitants in the relevant regions.

He affirmed that he would make this year a year of another upsurge in regional construction by setting a higher standard as a goal on the basis of last year's successes and ensuring the economic profitability, effectiveness and prospectiveness to the maximum.

The inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Jaeryong County held in the presence of Kim Jong Un served as a significant occasion, which instilled confidence in sure victory and optimism into the people across the country, who have turned out as one in the drive to open up a new avenue for prosperity according to the viewpoint on development and in the spirit of creation of the Korean style and greet the Ninth Congress of the Party as a glorious congress of victors.

DPRK Missile Administration succeeds in test-fire of new-type intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile

The development of the new-type hypersonic missile is aimed mainly at steadily putting the country's nuclear war deterrent on an advanced basis by placing the means of changing the war situation, a weapon system to which no one can respond, at the core axis of our strategic deterrence, just like the intended purpose of all military powers



KCNA

The Missile Administration of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea successfully conducted a test-fire of new-type intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile on January 6.

Full General Jang Chang Ha, general director of the Missile Administration of the DPRK, and leading officials of the defence science institute guided the test-fire on the spot.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, oversaw the test-fire through a monitoring system.

The test of the new strategic weapon system is part of the plans for the

development of the national defence capabilities to raise the durability and effectiveness of the strategic deterrent against the potential enemies in conformity with the changing regional security environment.

A new composite carbon fiber material was used in the manufacture of the engine body of the missile and a new comprehensive and effective method based on the already-accumulated technologies introduced in the flight and guidance control system.

Expressing great satisfaction over the result of the test-fire, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, with regard to the new weapon system, said:

The current test-fire proved without

doubt that we are steadily upgrading the powerful new-type weapon systems like the intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile to cope with different security threats posed by the hostile forces against our state at present.

A few countries in the world might possess such a weapon system.

Just like the intended purpose of all military powers, the development of the new-type hypersonic missile is aimed mainly at steadily putting the country's nuclear war deterrent on an advanced basis by placing the means of changing the war situation, a weapon system to which no one can respond, at the core axis of our strategic deterrence.

This is clearly a plan and effort for self-defence, not an offensive plan and action.

As shown by the result of today's test-fire, the effectiveness of the missile system that fully meets the expected military specifications has been confirmed.

The performance of our latest intermediate-range hypersonic missile system cannot be ignored worldwide, and the system can deal a serious military strike to a rival by effectively breaking any of its dense defensive barriers.

Through the current test of the strategic weapon, we fully demonstrated the potentiality and development speed of our inexhaustible self-defensive technical forces capable of fully coping with even the prospective threats and clearly showed

the enemies what we are doing and that we are fully ready to use any means to defend our legitimate interests.

The hypersonic missile system will reliably contain any enemies in the Pacific region that can affect the security of our state.

We have acquired a technical force which is by no means easy to achieve.

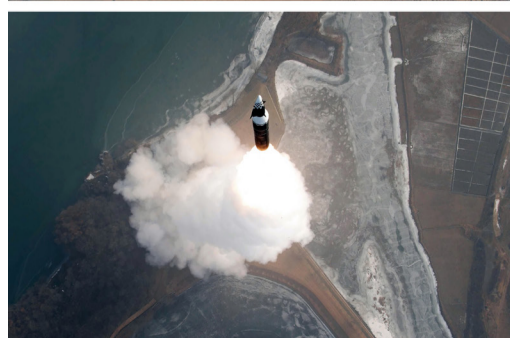
This is a remarkable achievement and a special event in strengthening the self-defensive capabilities, which we should be proud of.

I express thanks to all the researchers and technicians and the workers of munitions industry enterprise, who contributed to the successful development of the new-type strategic weapon system.

The hypersonic glide vehicle of the missile, fired northeastward at a launch site in a suburb of Pyongyang, made a flight along the scheduled trajectory, attaining its first peak height of 99.8 kilometres and the second peak height of 42.5 kilometres at the speed amounting to twelve times of the speed of sound, and accurately landed on the simulated target waters in the open sea 1 500 kilometres away.

The test-fire had no negative impact on the security of the neighbouring countries.

The development of the defence capabilities of the DPRK aiming to be a military power will be further accelerated.



Inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories in Sukchon County held

KCNA

Regional-industry factories in Sukchon County were inaugurated in the wake of the inauguration ceremonies of those in Songchon and Jaeryong counties amid the simultaneous appearance of precious entities of regional-industry revolution across the country under the wise leadership of the Central Committee of the great Workers' Party of Korea.

The smart factories built in a granary in the western area of the DPRK, showing off the new looks of development

of regional industry, are the precious assets which will signally improve the living conditions of the residents of Sukchon County and firmly support the regional economic development and a proud creation which inspires their confidence that they can bring forward the rosier future by their own efforts in their region.

An inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Sukchon County for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy took place on January 8.

Present there were officials

of the Party and power organs and working people in South Phyongan Province and Sukchon County, soldier-builders and the employees of the factories.

Ri Kyong Chol, chief secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, made an inaugural address.

He warmly congratulated the residents of Sukchon County on participating in the inauguration ceremony at the beginning of the hopeful New Year.

He said that the reality in which the great historic

cause called the overall development of regional-industry is being successfully accomplished is a precious fruition of the devoted service for the people's wellbeing by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who regards it as the supreme principle governing the activities of the Party and the state to promote the people's well-being and realize their ideals and dedicates his all to realizing them.

He called for upholding with loyalty and proud patriotic successes the noble intention of the respected General Secretary

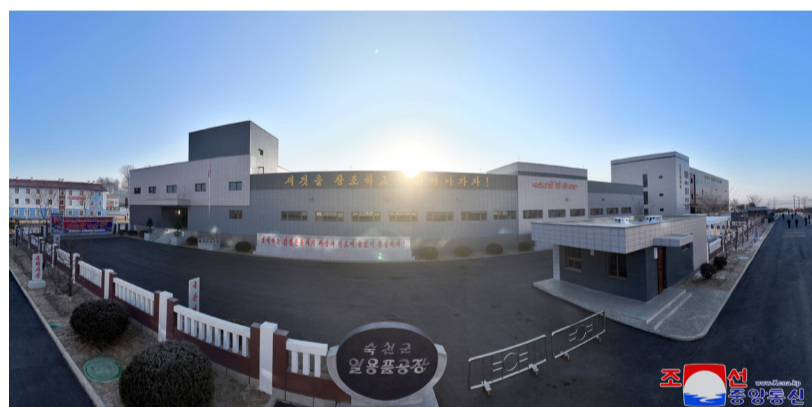
Kim Jong Un to improve the living conditions of the regional people, making them enjoy to the full tasty foodstuffs and quality daily necessities peculiar to their residential areas in modern dwelling houses.

Ho Yun, chief secretary of the Sukchon County Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, in his speech expressed his determination to hold fast to the normalization of the operation of the regional-industry factories as a key issue in regional development and positively push ahead

with it and thus ensure the vitality of the Party's core policy which it has accelerated by making every possible effort will be fully displayed and to fulfil his mission and duty as a genuine servant who is possessed of the spirit of devoted service for the good of the people.

Then, employees of the factories who are filled with pride and excitement to work at the new modern workplaces cut the inaugural tape.

At the end of the ceremony, the participants looked round the factories.



An inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Sukchon County for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy is held on January 8.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New feature film attracts large audience

The new feature film "Days and Nights of Confrontation" produced as a sequel of "One Day and One Night" by the Korean April 25 Film Studio has been screened at cinemas, the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang and other film-screening units across the country, since early January to add to the pleasure of the people who greeted the New Year.

Those buildings are packed every day with many people

who have great expectation of and interest in the sequel of "One Day and One Night" which had deeply impressed them.

The film constantly led the audiences to tension and thrill with well-knit construction of plots and unexpected developments of human relations.

The son of a class enemy, who was brought to stern punishment by the revolution for conspiring against the

government while holding an important post in the railway sector after the war, is keen on revenging his dead father while covering up his true colours for decades. This incited towering hatred of the audiences.

Through the tragic end met by the renegades of revolution and dregs of society who, infatuated with personal pleasure and wealth, fail to discern the enemies' dark tentacles and eventually align themselves with their moves to harm the top leadership of the DPRK, the film teaches the audiences the lesson that those who neglect to improve themselves politically and pursue their own interests will only take the road of treachery.

Seeing the grandson clenching his teeth, pledging to take revenge on the system of the country in the closing part of the film, the audiences keenly feel once again that not only the revolutionary forces of the country have grown through decades and from one century to the next but also the moves of hostile elements have become vicious generation after generation.

The film on the theme of class education tells the immutable truth that the Korean people's happiness lies in defending their leader devotedly and that the real nature of the imperialists and class enemies will never change even with the passage of time.

Schoolchildren's New Year performance goes on

The schoolchildren's New Year performance entitled "The happiest day" took place at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang for consecutive days.

Put on the stage were a variety of numbers including folk dance and *janggu* (an hourglass drum) beating.

The performers represented their joy of greeting New Year's Day holding the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un as the father of the great family.

Such numbers as light music and a series of dances

fully reflected the joy and optimism of schoolchildren who have spent happy days and months under the care of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The dance tale "We grow up under the flag of the DPRK" got enthusiastic applause. It was staged by the Korean schoolchildren in Japan, who had met the fatherly Marshal and received an honour to be conveyed generation after generation, with the enthusiasm to firmly carry forward the tradition of patriotism.

Working people, youth and students in Pyongyang saw the performance.

Economic affairs organized scrupulously to carry out five-year plan

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Cabinet, economic guidance organs concretize economic arrangement

True to the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Cabinet and economic guidance organs are making economic arrangement in detail to successfully complete the five-year plan and achieve the growth and development of the overall national economy.

Officials are taking organizational steps as they study and discuss the methods of decisively improving economic guidance and management and setting up a well-knit nationwide crisis control system.

The Cabinet maps out detailed plans and lays down struggle schemes, focusing on establishing a well-knit

work system and order for the overall economic affairs of the state and further improving economic guidance and management.

On the basis of clear-cut advance orientation and fighting policies for this year clarified by the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee, the economic guidance organs have taken practical measures to further consolidate the stable growth trend of the national economy.

Officials of the Cabinet and economic guidance organs are waging operations to implement the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee with enthusiasm to fulfil their duties in the implementation of the Party's economic policies.

Key industry sectors explore ways to achieve overall economic growth

The key industry sectors of the DPRK intensify the operation to successfully complete the five-year plan.

The metal and chemical industries are discussing the ways to carry out the national economic plans without fail by perfecting the Juche-based iron production system and giving precedence to the supply of raw materials and fuel.

Constructive proposals are put together to boost the production of

various kinds of chemical goods by accelerating the establishment of the chemical industrial base relying on domestic raw materials and by pushing ahead with the capacity expansion projects of industrial establishments.

The electric power industry is seeking practical solutions to problems by placing the main stress on maintaining the stability of power production and supply and creating new generating capacity.

The coal-mining industry is discussing the urgent issues arising in giving priority to prospecting and tunnelling and steadily increasing the proportion of mechanization in the mining work.

The machine-building industry is striving to increase the level of technical equipment and productivity so as to lead the overall economic sector.

The mining industry and

forestry sectors, too, are taking scientific measures to bring substantial and good results while directing efforts to expanding the production capacity.

Officials in the field of rail transport are pooling their wisdom over the issues of improving the conditions of railways, manufacturing modern rolling stock and informatizing the organization and direction of transport on a high level.

Agricultural sector takes scientific, innovative measures to attain grain production goal for this year

In hearty response to the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, agricultural officials in the DPRK work hard to draw up a scientific and innovative plan to increase grain production.

Officials of the Agricultural Commission and agricultural guidance organs at all levels are seriously discussing the ways for implementing the tasks facing the agricultural sector.

On the basis of the successes and experience gained in last year's farming, they are taking foresighted economic and practical measures to put all farming processes on a scientific basis and carry out the grain production plan for this year without fail.

Steps are also taken to keep farm machines on a normal track and maintain and repair them in a responsible manner, increase the proportion of mechanization in farming

and update the farm machine sector.

Practical measures are taken to ensure the stability of farming by stepping up the irrigation projects for paddy and non-paddy fields affected by water shortage, drought and flooding and by maintaining and repairing already-built irrigation facilities, drainage canals and waterway structures.

Innovative proposals are being developed to increase the area of cropland by speeding up the construction of outer and inner networks of facilities of tideland and directing efforts to the restoration of farmland and land realignment.

Projects are being planned to increase the productivity of vegetables, livestock, fruits and industrial crops and thus contribute to improving the people's living standards.

Practical ways are under discussion to consolidate the material and technical foundations of the grain management sector.

What they say

'We will achieve remarkable successes leading to new stage of development'

Last year witnessed the fulfilment of key and priority tasks for the development of science and technology and a stride forward in solving sci-tech problems arising in boosting production in key industries, light industry, agriculture and other economic sectors and improving the people's standards of living.

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea put forward the enhancement of the role of the scientific circles as an important task for this year when the first stage of comprehensive development of socialism will be concluded.

I keenly feel our heavy responsibility for the country's sci-tech administrative work as I ruminate on the great expectations and trust of the Party that hopes the scientific sector would redouble efforts to bring about more perfect results and transformation in achieving dynamic advance of the overall economy.

All the civil servants at the State Commission of Science and Technology are now filled with enthusiasm

to markedly increase the sci-tech strength so as to provide a sure guarantee for attaining this year's goals and give spurs to the growth and development of the overall national economy.

We will solve important sci-tech problems arising in developing economic sectors and improving the people's living standards.

We will deliberate on new sci-tech achievements by the yardstick of scientific accuracy, effectiveness and practicality and establish a system to promptly introduce them into production, thereby contributing to making all the sectors and units maximize production and economy, enhance the quality of products and increase their quantity and boost labour and production efficiency.

We will innovate administrative management for sci-tech development to make the scientific circles a motive force in supporting this year with weighty creative and innovative successes.

Choe Chi Myong,

department director of the State Commission of Science and Technology

'We will sustainably develop agricultural production capacity'

Last year the agricultural sector carried out the grain production plan at 107 percent by widely introducing scientific farming methods and further consolidated the material foundations of agricultural production by completing the second-stage irrigation construction and restoration project.

At the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that the task facing the agricultural sector in 2025 is to attain the grain production goal set by the WPK and lay the foundations for decisively increasing the agricultural output during the period of the new long-term plan.

He assigned tasks and ways in detail to put the country's agricultural production on the track of stable and sustainable development.

We have invaluable experience gained in the course of waging the drive for increased crop harvest by holding fast to the development of science and technology and the courage plucked up in those days.

On the basis of it, we will radically improve the

guidance on agricultural production by focusing on increasing the per-hectare yield at all farms across the country.

We will work out an effective strategy for stably increasing the agricultural production and carry out all farming processes in line with the requirements of the Juche farming methods.

We will also consolidate the foundations of the seed sector to meet the demand for seeds of high-yield varieties.

Primary efforts will be directed to preventing drought damage and mechanizing the sowing and harvesting in the farming of preceding crops to demonstrate the validity and vitality of the Party's policy on changing the structure of agricultural production in practice.

At the same time, scientific and technical steps will be taken to complete the improvement of the irrigation system and minimize the effects of extreme weather conditions.

By doing so, we will be able to discharge our responsibility and duty.

Kim Ju Yon, *department director of the Agricultural Commission*

Visual information aids posted across DPRK

KCNA

Visual aids greatly encouraging all the people to carry out the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea have been set up in different parts of the country, spurring the dynamic advance and development towards a greater victory.

They will enhance the high spirit of all the people across the country to translate the Party's gigantic revolutionary programme into reality.

Visual information aids call on the whole Party, the entire country and all the people to glorify 2025 as a proud year to be specially etched in the history of the DPRK.



Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex turns out Juche iron

By To Kyong Chol PT

An energy-saving oxygen blast furnace was built and put into operation at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, which takes the lion's share in the country's iron production, on December 19 last year.

This is another step forwards in the establishment of the Juche-based iron production system.

"The iron production system fully relying on domestic raw materials and fuel, free from coke which had been used for ages, has been built at the Hwanghae

Iron and Steel Complex in the wake of its establishment at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex in 2023. As a result, the country's iron-making industry has been put on a definitely upward track of Juche-orientation," said Min Kwang Sik, researcher at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

It is the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea to make the iron-manufacturing industry Juche-oriented by redressing the imbalance, irrationality and lopsidedness that have remained in the sector for a long time.

Scientists and technicians in

the field of the metallurgical industry completed a more advanced and efficient coke-free iron-making method of great economic effectiveness by their own efforts and science and technology by putting an end to big-power worship, defeatism and mysticism about technology.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex completed the oxygen blast furnace in 2018 to put production on a normal footing and built an energy-saving oxygen blast furnace in 2023 to gain valuable experience.

On this basis, technicians

and workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex carried out several projects for Juche-orientation in a three-dimensional way.

They completed the building of the systems of furnace body, gasification and floatation and steel structures and the making and assembly of equipment in five months, though they had been thought to take a year, and rounded off the construction of structures measuring over 10 000 square metres, including raw material and repair yards and gas distribution and pumping stations.

According to Deputy Manager Ri Song Ho, valuable research findings and technical plans were introduced into the construction of the energy-saving oxygen blast furnace in keeping with the actual conditions of the complex and profitability.

Accordingly, a raw materials-drying process using waste heat was newly built, an air compressor was fully remodelled into an oxygen compressor and a new measurement and automatic control system was introduced to measure the level of molten iron and slag

and automatically control the amount of raw materials and oxygen.

"Everyone shed tears of joy on the day when the first molten iron was tapped. Although we had seen lots of tappings previously, we were so excited about making iron with domestic raw materials and fuel," said Yun Hyok Chol, deputy manager of the blast furnace workshop.

The thrilling scene of red molten iron pouring down implanted in the workers of the complex stronger faith in and will of self-respect and self-sustenance.



The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex boosts production of iron and steel from the beginning of the new year.

Economic sectors get off to a good start from outset of new year

By Kim Il Jin PT

True to the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the key industrial sectors in the DPRK have set higher production targets than last year and turned out in the struggle for increased production from the beginning of the new year.

On January 1, the first tappings in the new year started at large metallurgical bases.

Amid ever-growing production competition between two oxygen blast furnaces of blast furnace workshops Nos. 1 and 2, the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex increased production from the first day of the year, and the following day it produced well over a hundred tons of more molten iron by the Juche-based production method than the first day. Now it carries out

its daily production plan without fail.

The blast furnace workshop of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex increases the production of molten iron per charge while directing efforts to mastering the technical specifications of the energy-saving oxygen blast furnace.

The smelters of the steel workshop of the Chollima Steel Complex successfully did the first tapping while managing cooling water and heating the steel ladle in a scientific and technical way and taking measures in advance to ensure continuity between processes.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex strives to attain a higher goal than last year.

Carbide workshops Nos. 1 and 2 overfulfil their daily production plan. The technicians and workers of the synthesis workshop are registering good results in the production of intermediates including aldehyde, displaying the collectivist

spirit with which shifts and workteams help one another.

According to data available, thermal and hydro-power stations across the country carried out their daily power production plans higher than last year on the first two days.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex produced millions of kilowatts of more electricity than planned in the first three days of the year. The Pyongyang, Chongchongang, East Pyongyang and Sunchon thermal power stations have increased the operation rate of boilers, thus increasing steam production and ensuring the efficiency of generating equipment.

The Suphung, Hochongang, Kanggye Youth and Sodusu power stations are pushing ahead with production while taking economic and technical measures to raise the scientific level of water conservation and improve the operational efficiency of generating

equipment. Meanwhile, the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station and the Thaecheon, Jangjingang, Pujongang and other hydroelectric power stations are directing efforts to ensuring high water level and high-efficiency operation of generators, thus expanding achievements in power production.

The machine-building industry sector is concentrating efforts on the production of custom-built equipment.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex has started the production of custom-built equipment for the chemical industry.

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex has organized a competition according to occupations to fire the employees with the zeal for competition and introduced valuable technical innovation plans to raise work efficiency and machining accuracy.

The Anju Pump Factory is spurring pump production

while giving definite precedence to the supply of raw materials and strengthening cooperation among units. The Kusong Machine Tool Factory is directing efforts to the normal operation of newly-built processes, thus flawlessly producing equipment needed for rail transport, chemical industry and other sectors.

Workers of the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Factory are making remarkable achievements in production by concentrating on improving the quality of alloy steel. The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326, Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory, Munchon Valve Factory and others are making collective innovations in production by vigorously conducting mass movements.

The coal industry sector took the first vigorous stride in the new year.

The workers of the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine

and Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex have achieved good results by introducing efficient blasting methods and increasing the operation rate of compressors, winches and so on.

The Namdok Youth Coal Mine, Inpho Youth Coal Mine and Songnam Youth Coal Mine under the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex have expanded tunnelling successes with continuous drilling and blasting and improved transport capacity, thus contributing to the complex's production of over 100 tons of more coal than planned on the first day alone.

Thanks to the responsible and strenuous efforts of the officials and workers in the rail transport sector, the first-day transport plan of the Ministry of Railways was overfulfilled and innovations are being made every day.

Immortal exploits shining in history of Juche-oriented paramilitary force

By Pang Un Ju PT

January 14 marks the 66th founding anniversary of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, the Juche-oriented paramilitary force of the DPRK.

The 60-odd-year history of the WPRG is the course in which it has steadily developed into the revolutionary armed forces defending the revolutionary cause of Juche with arms and the annals during which it has won victory after victory in the confrontation with imperialism and the struggle for building a prosperous

country.

President Kim Il Sung, pioneer of the revolutionary cause of Juche and founder of socialist Korea, set forth the original idea of building a paramilitary force with broad sections of revolutionary people together with the standing revolutionary armed forces in the early period of his revolutionary activities and established a brilliant tradition of the revolutionary paramilitary force building.

He clarified the importance of arming all the people together with the Korean People's Army in bolstering up the country's defence

capabilities and founded the Worker-Peasant Red Guards on January 14 1959 by reorganizing the former people's self-defence force.

He put forward the policy of arming all the people and fortifying the whole country to turn the DPRK into an impregnable fortress and wisely led the Korean people to implement it.

True to the intention of the President, Chairman Kim Jong Il wisely led the work to develop the Worker-Peasant Red Guards.

On September 7 2008 he laid down important

guidelines for boosting the country's paramilitary force.

In September 2011, he saw the military parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards held in celebration of the 63rd founding anniversary of the DPRK and expressed his firm conviction that the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, which inherited the brilliant revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle, would as ever fulfil their mission and duty as the revolutionary armed forces faithful to the revolutionary cause of Juche.

The brilliant history of the WPRG is now being

faithfully carried forward under the wise leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

With his profound military and theoretical wisdom and energetic leadership, he presents ingenious plans for victory for making the WPRG an elite force and perfecting its combat preparedness and ushers in a heyday of the buildup of the Juche-oriented paramilitary force.

Today the WPRG has been strengthened and developed into an invincible revolutionary armed force fully ready to cope with any aggressive moves of the

enemy at any time together with the KPA. The military parade of the paramilitary force held in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the DPRK in September 2023 was a significant occasion for demonstrating the might of the Juche-oriented paramilitary force to the whole world.

The Worker-Peasant Red Guards displaying their invincible spirit as the reliable wing of the KPA and the main force for the defence of the rear and native villages will continue to write the ever-victorious history in the future, too.

Juche-type militia force greets golden age of development

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

The Worker-Peasant Red Guards, the Juche-type paramilitary force of the DPRK, have now greeted the golden age of its development under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In September 2023, the columns of the military parade of the paramilitary force of the country fully displayed the heroic spirit of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, whose members were fully prepared to fight a decisive battle as a-match-for-a-hundred combatants if the time comes for it, while fulfilling their missions and duties on the two fronts of national defence and socialist construction full of pride, confidence and courage as defenders of the great powerful country.

It is a precious fruition of the energetic leadership of the respected General Secretary that the paramilitary force has been built up to cope with any combat situations by putting primary efforts into the political and ideological education of members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards to get them ready to become combatants strong in ideas and faith and by intensifying their training to further increase their combat capabilities.

In the early period of his revolutionary leadership, he attached great importance to strengthening the paramilitary force and ensured that the Worker-Peasant Red Guards fully discharged their sacred duty in national defence and the building of a powerful socialist country by holding

the arms of the revolution and the class firmly in their hands.

He visited a women's anti-aircraft machine gun company of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and gave precious instructions which would serve as guidelines for the development of the paramilitary force, including the issues arising in arming the commanding officers and men of the company with the spirit of defending the country and further strengthening their combat readiness.

The sixth meeting of commanding officers of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards held in August 2022 by the

untiring efforts of the General Secretary was a significant occasion which marked a new milestone in strengthening the self-reliant defence capabilities in every way, firmly defending the revolutionary gains won at the cost of blood and surely guaranteeing the victorious advance of socialist construction by remarkably boosting the political and military might of the paramilitary force, the revolutionary armed force of the Workers' Party of Korea and a reliable wing of the Korean People's Army.

He also sent an important letter to the participants in the meeting to put forward the ambitious plans for strengthening the WPRG.

There are many museums in the world which show the history of struggle of their own countries and nations.

But there is no place like the Revolutionary Museum of Paramilitary Force, which vividly shows the sacred history of self-defence during which the paramilitary force has been developed into an armed force with clear revolutionary character and full capacity to conduct any modern warfare proficiently and the whole country has been turned into an impregnable fortress fully prepared for an all-people resistance.

Today the WPRG are fully

ready in all aspects including ideology, military tactics and the sense of organization and discipline and filled with a strong will to wipe out the aggressors at a single blow together with the People's Army if they dare provoke the DPRK.

A unified command system has firmly been established in the Juche-oriented paramilitary force to faithfully support the leadership of the General Secretary. Herein lie the advantages of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the key to winning victory in the fight against any formidable enemy.



A parade of the paramilitary force staged in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the DPRK demonstrates the power of the militia force of the country.

Rifle in one hand and hammer, sickle or writing brush in the other

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Decades have passed since the gunfire of war ceased on this land.

However, durable peace has not yet settled.

Due to the aggressor forces' constant moves to trigger another war, the Korean peninsula has been recognized as one of the crucial hot spots.

While the Korean People's Army has impregably defended the outpost for defending peace on this land where a war danger exists on a constant basis, the reliable Worker-Peasant Red Guards have always been in the rear.

In peacetime, the ordinary working people devote their patriotic efforts in all workplaces including factories, farms, fisheries and construction sites. But they have stepped up military and technical preparations with a will to annihilate the enemies at a single strike once they pounce upon the DPRK.

Whenever the country was faced with the crisis of outbreak of a new war, including the EC-121 large spy plane and Panmunjom incidents caused by the US imperialists, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards throughout the country got fully ready for combat and turned out in the showdown with the enemy.

When a state of semi-war was declared in the country in 1993, the WPRG discharged their mission and role with credit in the campaign to safeguard

socialism.

When the ROK puppets committed the provocative acts of infringing upon the sovereignty of the sacred capital city of the DPRK last year, the WPRG members turned out in a fight without gunshot for defending the socialist system with a will to annihilate the enemy.

The WPRG is fully ready for independently carrying out any military operations and fighting battles in the modern warfare.

The paramilitary parade for celebrating the 75th anniversary of the DPRK showcased the development aspect of its paramilitary force.

The columns of anti-aircraft gun and camouflaged multiple launch rocket system, which impregably defend the sky over their villages and workplaces, motorcycles with swift mobile power and antitank missiles clearly demonstrated the might of the WPRG and its will to deal a merciless hard blow to aggressors.

Under the wise leadership of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un, the WPRG will continue to fulfil its mission as the reliable wing of the Korean People's Army and an invincible militia that firmly defends the independent dignity and sovereign rights and the gains of the revolution they achieved at the cost of blood by grasping the rifle in one hand and hammer, sickle or writing brush in the other and by boosting military capabilities for self-defence.

2024 SHINES AS A YEAR OF NEW CHANGE

Immortal programme for comprehensive national rejuvenation

Original ideas and theories advanced by the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un spurred substantial changes and development in all fields of socialist construction

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Korean people made lots of momentous achievements last year.

In January 2024, when the march of the new year began for ascertaining the practical guarantee for the fulfilment of the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un made a policy speech entitled, "On the Immediate Tasks for the Prosperity and Development of Our Republic and the Promotion of the Wellbeing of Our People", at the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, in which he advanced in a comprehensive way the important tasks in bringing about great changes for the comprehensive development of socialist construction and the improvement of the people's living standards in a multi-stage, three-dimensional and offensive way and the issues of principle to be adhered to in carrying them out.

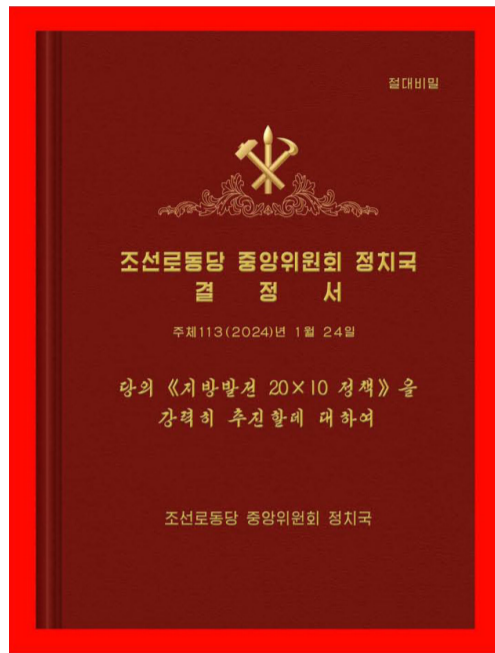
In the speech he stressed that the supreme task, to which the DPRK government should attach utmost importance and pay great efforts at present, was to stabilize and improve the people's living as early as possible and declared to the entire audience the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, a new policy for the development of regional industry which constitutes a great revolution for fulfilling the long-cherished desire of the regional people, and important measures for its implementation.

And at the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK held less than ten days afterwards, the General Secretary took practical measures to develop regional industry in a simultaneous, balanced and distinctive way by dynamically promoting the regional development policy.

On his energetic inspection tour for implementing the policy, he arranged a consultative meeting on regional development work to put forward the policy of regional development in the new era which calls for making a genuine contribution to the improvement of the material and cultural living standards of the regional people and stepping up the historic cause of regional rejuvenation by building advanced health facilities, multi-functional cultural complexes and grain management facilities along with regional-industry factories.

The policy, aimed at eliminating the centuries-old backwardness of regions and bringing about a radical change in the standards of living of regional people, evoked an enthusiastic response from the people of all social strata. In only ten months after the groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon and other counties, those of Songchon County rose up as the first entities of transformation.

Kim Jong Un, who always attaches importance to the duty and role of officials in victoriously advancing the revolution and



The decision on forcefully promoting the implementation of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy of the Workers' Party of Korea adopted at the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party.

construction, indicated the basic guidelines for sustaining more clearly the original features of the Party that absolutely and devotedly serves the masses of the people, fulfilling the centuries-old desire of the people as soon as possible, improving the style of work of officials and preserving the revolutionary and sound political climate within the Party in his work "Officials Should Become Communist Revolutionaries Who Are Possessed of the Party's Original Ideals and Spirit as Their Mental Qualities" published on the occasion of the 79th founding anniversary of the WPK.

His work showed a bright path for opening up a new era of strengthening of the whole Party and national rejuvenation by successfully carrying forward

the noble ideals and spirit of the generation of pioneers of the cause of Party founding and has served as a spur for all officials to redouble their efforts to implement the decisions of the WPK by taking them as their lifeline, being keenly aware once again of the responsibilities they have assumed before the Party and the revolution.

The situation was unstable last year, too, due to the persistent military confrontational moves of the hostile forces, but the defence capabilities of the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK were boosted in every way thanks to the practical guidelines for bolstering up military capabilities set forth by the General Secretary.

As he visited Kim Il Sung Military University, Kim Jong Il Military and Political University,

Kim Jong Un University of National Defence and O Jin U Artillery Academy, he set up a new milestone for developing Juche-oriented military and defence education so that they could carry out their mission as "pedigree" establishments for training the best military personnel and prestigious and renowned research centres of national defence science for shaping the future of the country's defence science in conformity with their duty and features of training the commanding officers of the revolutionary armed forces.

Kim Jong Un, who has attached great importance to the position and role of the battalion in strengthening the Korean People's Army since he began to lead the army, organized the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA in November last year, stressed once again the Party's immutable idea of attaching importance to the battalions that the completion of their war preparations immediately means that 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 clarified the ways for turning them into fighting groups that have established firm military discipline and assumed the appearance appropriate to a regular army.

This year, too, the Korean people are firmly determined to fully implement the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the Party by following the guidelines for victory provided by the respected General Secretary.

Political events demonstrate absolute might of Juche Korea



Central Cadres Training School of the WPK wonderfully built as a world-class political school.

The political events that happened in the DPRK are of great significance in the development of the WPK and revolution

By Pang Un Ju PT

Last year, political events of weighty significance in developing the Workers' Party of Korea and the revolution took place in the DPRK thanks to the energetic guidance of General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

In May the Central Cadres Training School of the Workers' Party of Korea, the highest institution for training Party cadres, was built in the historic Kumsusan area. This marked a new dynamic advance for the everlasting future of

the Party.

Regarding the work to build the school well and train Party officials properly as an issue of long-range development of the Party for training the successors to the WPK and an important issue directly related to the succession to the revolution, he personally selected the site of the school and gave detailed instructions on the main design tasks, and energetically guided the work to make the school a university superior to universities.



A ceremony of commemorative march of columns symbolic of units in the Fatherland Liberation War is held in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, on the evening of July 27 2024 to mark the 71st anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

FROM PAGE 8

In the speech he made at the ceremony for the inauguration and opening of the school, which was successfully completed as a model edifice in the sectors of Juche-oriented architecture and Juche-oriented education in a year after the ground-breaking ceremony in April two years ago, he said that anyone who visits it can find clear answers to the questions of how the lifeline of the Party and the revolution is carried forward and how the Party's absolute authority and leadership are made permanent.

He clearly indicated the orientation and ways for the school to successfully carry out its mission as a glorious political school that trains the backbone of and successors to the WPK, who will reliably carry forward the sacred original ideal and spirit of the Party so as to firmly guarantee

a rosy future of the cause of Juche.

The inauguration of the school made it possible for the students of the top political school in the DPRK to be trained as competent cadres who can lead the whole Party and competent leading personnel who can steer all fields of state and social development vigorously along the track of progressive and civilized development.

Last year the Korean people significantly celebrated the 71st anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War as a political festival demonstrating the might of the great victor nation.

During a visit to the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery on that occasion, the General Secretary referred to the first defenders of the DPRK who had brought about the miracle of July 27 as genuine heroes and true patriots as they had made

a history of legendary resistance striking the entire world with admiration and opened up a bright future of the Korean revolution at the cost of their blood. And he saw to it that the sacred history and tradition of victory achieved by the victorious wartime generation were carried on through the meeting with the generation held at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium.

Through the ceremony of the grand march of the columns symbolic of units in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War held

at the plaza of Pyongyang Indoor Stadium under his meticulous guidance and the performance given at the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War, the Korean people fully demonstrated the firm will to glorify the era of Kim Jong Un as an era of fresh victory, glory and prosperity, while carrying forward Juche Korea's 70-odd-year history of the war victory forever.

The heavy rain that hit the northern border of the DPRK at the end of July last year, when the Korean people were still filled with joy of celebrating the V-day, caused serious incidents on islands in Sinuiju City and Uiju County of North Phyongan Province. Many local inhabitants were isolated in the flood-hit areas.

Soon after the crisis broke out, the General Secretary visited the flood-hit areas in the city and county to direct the rescue operations and take important measures for stabilizing the afflicted inhabitants' living and repairing the flood damage while meeting with them and consoling and encouraging

them.

Through the decision he made on the rubber boat which slowly pushed its way through deep water over the flood-hit area, a Party resolution adopted several hours later on the train that had stopped on a flooded paddy and the benevolent measures taken to make sure that the afflicted people benefited from protection by the state in the capital city, the Korean people keenly felt the noble outlook on the people and steadfast will of the WPK to make devoted efforts for the people as it thoroughly orients and subordinates all state affairs to the good of the people and spares no expenses to relieve the people of their suffering as soon as possible.

The episode of love for the people unprecedented in the world history of disaster relief was recorded in the history of the country as a noteworthy event in 2024 which fully proved once again that the programmes and policies of the Party and the DPRK government are thoroughly based on the people-first idea.

Children and students from flood-hit areas receive presents from the fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un after arriving in Pyongyang



For the buildup of armed forces

The DPRK armed forces have grown into elite ranks equipped with more advanced military hardware

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.

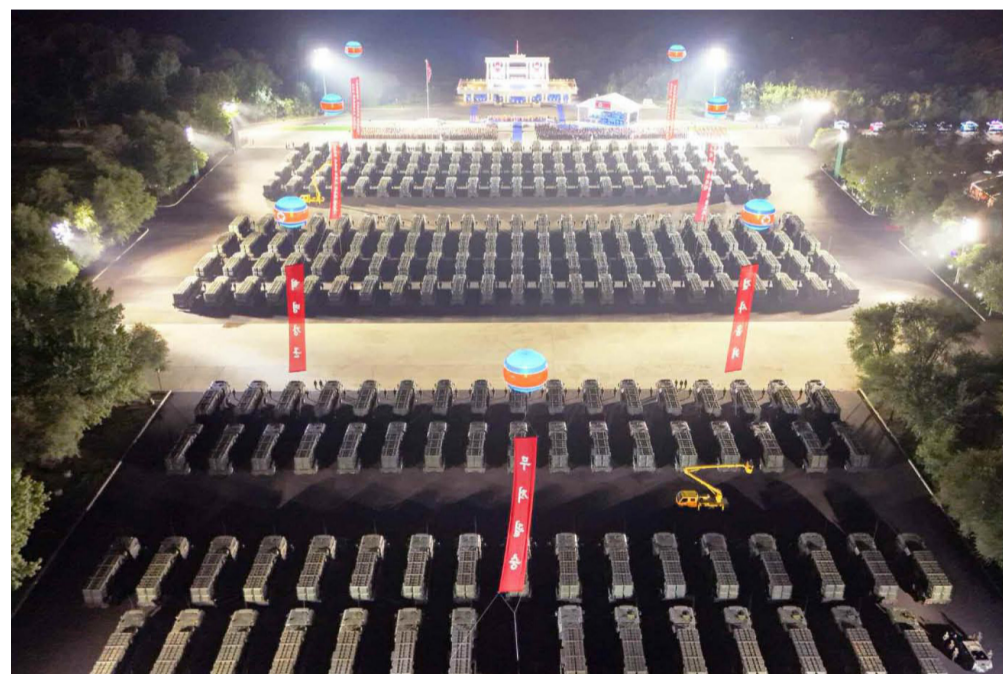
He attached great importance to the position and role of the battalion, the lowest commanding unit and major combat unit, in strengthening the Korean People's Army, organized the Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA and illuminated ways to turn the battalions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



A ceremony for transferring and delivering a new-type ballistic missile weapon system takes place in Pyongyang with splendour.

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.

2025 to be recorded as year of great victory

By Kwon Hyo Song *PT*

The Korean people are full of great confidence and vigour as they have greeted the New Year 2025, a significant year which will mark another turning point in accomplishing the cause of building a prosperous and powerful nation.

The Workers' Party of Korea clarified the fighting strategy for 2025 to be recorded as a year of great victory at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

In his important conclusion, General Secretary Kim Jong Un stressed the need to wage a massive construction struggle in the new year, too, and pointed to the need to wind up the building of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang through the fourth-stage

housing construction in the Hwasong area, complete the construction of houses in the Komdok area, and push ahead housing construction in the rural communities without letup and, in particular, channel efforts into the construction of industrial and public facilities to accelerate the great cause of regional rejuvenation and successfully build an offshore farm in another area on a trial basis by drawing on the experience gained in the construction of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm in 2025.

Let us all remain true to the heavy duty and responsibility we have assumed for the times and revolution and the country and people and wage a bolder struggle with higher confidence in the vanguard of the general offensive for a great victory and glory in 2025.

It was an order he gave himself and the will he further hardened for the Party and revolution and the country and people before his request and appeal to the officials.

In "On the new regional development policy of our Party and its future tasks", the third agenda item of the plenary meeting, he proposed to the plenary meeting that the Party's new regional development policy formally include the building of additional advanced public health facilities, scientific, educational and leisure facilities and grain management facilities in parallel with that of regional-industry factories.

This clearly proved what the fighting spirit and mettle of the WPK, a party which continuously sets a new and development-oriented goal for the well-being of the

people and stubbornly carries it out and a party which never knows satisfaction in the work for the people, are.

That is why the Korean people more keenly feel the great fortune of living under the red flag of the great motherly Party and burn their hearts with loyalty and patriotic enthusiasm to entrust their destiny to it and support its leadership with one mind.

As the Korean people united around the Party confidently advance towards a higher goal, full of confidence in sure victory and optimism, powerful Korea's history of victory will steadily continue to be carried on and the DPRK will glorify 2025 as a year of proud victory and greet the Ninth Congress of the WPK as a glorious one of victors.

Increasing trend towards independence in Africa

By Ri Myong Jun *PT*

The aspirations to independent development grew stronger on the African continent amid the complicated international situations last year.

According to an Ethiopian media outlet Ethiopian Press Agency on November 22, the African Union bitterly criticized the external interference in the African countries including the Sudanese and Libyan disputes.

On November 20, the AU commissioner for politics, peace and security clarified before the journalists again the firm stand of the union on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the continent at the fourth AU weekly event on the post-civil war reconstruction and development.

The AU is opposed to foreign interference in the internal affairs of our continent without any hesitation and ambiguity, he said, noting that such interventions have a negative impact on the troubled situation, especially the regional situations like those in Sahel and Sudan. Denouncing the outside forces for interfering in the Libya issue on the pretext of the UNSC resolution, he said that what they seek are geopolitical interests and it emerges as a new threat to the continent.

Stressing the principle of "settling African issues by Africans", he noted that the goal of Africa is to strengthen the unity of Africa and peacefully resolve disputes and conflicts.

He added that it is important for African countries to have equal representative rights in the UNSC and the UN should be reformed.

The Algerian president, in a written speech sent to the opening ceremony of the 11th high-level meeting on African peace and security held in his country on December 1, said that the meeting was an occasion for Africa to demonstrate its ability and unity in a single voice at the UN arena.

The present international order system is at a crossroads of deciding where to go after veering off the track as the confrontation policy between

big powers casts a shadow over the international justice, the idea of international order, global peace and security, he said, noting that the situation requires that the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the three African countries, the non-permanent members of the UNSC, effectively coordinate the adoption of the UN peace and security resolutions.

The director general of the Information and Security Bureau of Ethiopia referred to the need to formulate a strategy of the pan-African defence force at the first meeting of the defence ministers of Africa held in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, in October.

He said that the outside forces are posing security threats to the continent through direct and indirect interference, no one can solve the regional, diplomatic and security issues arising in Africa alone and they can be solved only through the active pan-African military and security cooperation. He demanded that African countries enhance cooperation, put an end to dependence on imports of military hardware and build their own capabilities.

Recently, Chad broke off military relations with France and decided on the French troop pullout from it. Senegal also urges the closure of the French military base stationed in its territory.

Referring to it, French TV channel FRANCE 24 on November 29 commented that African countries have decided on the withdrawal of French military bases because the French army does not play any role in settling the disputes in the countries concerned, but rather the disputes are being aggravated and expanded in the regions where the French troops are stationed. It added that it is natural for African countries to highlight the governments' efforts to defend their national sovereignty with the issue of the French military base pullout.

Amidst the growing tendency towards rejecting the intervention by big powers in Africa, Niger is working to change the names of streets showing the traces of the past colonial history.

Inexhaustible power of love for the country



Jo Hyon Il, deputy department director of the Pyongyang Construction Commission

It is every citizen's responsibility to make their country prosperous.

The dream of a most powerful country which thrives in all aspects is not achieved by the devoted efforts of only some people or by a leap forward of only a few sectors.

The foundations of prosperity are laid when all the people, masters of the country, create structures one by one, amply demonstrating the power of development peculiar to them with fervent passion and dynamic struggle.

That is why the Korean people push ahead with the building of a powerful socialist country under the slogan "Unite on the strength of patriotism!"

The successes achieved last

year fill our hearts with pride.

In January the Kwangchon Chicken Farm was newly built as a new standard and model in the development of the country's poultry farming. In March the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm rose up, furnished with over 1 050 blocks of modern vegetable greenhouses, production and public buildings and dwelling houses with a total floor space of nearly 1.2 million square metres in an area of over 260 hectares. Another 10 000 flats, more elegant and developed in architectural and aesthetic aspects, sprang up in the Hwasong area of Pyongyang and modern farming villages were completed in many cities and counties.

Particularly, the ideal

"cultured rural towns" and beautiful villages epitomizing modern civilization were built one after another in a little more than four months in the areas of North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces which had suffered severe natural damage.

In addition, many monumental structures were built, including modern regional-industry factories, the first creations of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, and the Sinpho City Offshore Farm showing the future changes in coastal cities and counties.

These are not heaven-sent things.

They are the fruition of the passionate enthusiasm and extraordinary mental strength of our people pressing on with the building of a prosperous country under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

This year we should carry out huge construction projects.

We should speed up

the fourth-stage housing construction in the Hwasong area to round off the construction project for 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, complete the building of dwelling houses in the Komdok area and keep pushing housing construction in the rural communities. In particular, we should channel efforts into the construction of industrial and public facilities for stepping up the great cause of regional rejuvenation and build another offshore farm in the other area on a trial basis by drawing on the experience gained in the construction of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm.

There can be no such word as impossible for us.

Our people have inexhaustible energy as they are united on the strength of patriotism, while performing miracles and making innovations uninterruptedly.

On this strength we will build a prosperous and powerful socialist country on this land as early as possible.

BYWORD

Prosperous powerful country

The mightiness of a country is not decided by the size of its territory, population, economic power and others.

The country with many patriots is really a powerful and prosperous country.

The DPRK people deem it their natural duty, honour and pride to devote themselves to the work for their country.

Patriotism of the Korean people, who value state affairs more than family affairs and give priority

to the civic duty of devotion over the right of enjoyment, makes the whole country seethe with the spirit of fresh innovation, bold creation and steady advance. The all-people patriotic fervour to create anything

not as a copy-based one, but as an innovation-driven one to be wonderful and perfect even after 50 or 100 years, has given impetus to the building of a prosperous and powerful country in the DPRK.

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A year of unity and cooperation

By Choe Song Jun PT

There is a saying that "Unity prevails over heaven."

Close multilateral collaboration and cooperation among different countries of the world further promoted the socio-economic development and progress last year.

South-South cooperation promotes world's multipolarization

Cooperation was enhanced among the developing countries.

Today South-South cooperation is being conducted in the political, economic, military and various other fields comprehensively, extensively and in depth. BRICS is a typical example.

Founded mainly by the newly emerging economies by reflecting the trend of the times aspiring to multipolarization of the world, BRICS is emerging as an organization for strategic cooperation, steadily expanding the scope of cooperation.

The nine-member organization intends to continuously expand itself. Many countries have already expressed their willingness to join it.

The 16th BRICS Summit

held in Kazan, Russia, in October last year clearly showed the standpoint and will of the newly-emerging economies and developing countries to resolutely oppose and reject the present international economic order which legalizes the old order, domination, plunder and the law of the jungle on which the US and the West insist, and to establish a fair and new world order based on the principles of independence, equality and mutual benefit.

The developing countries have strengthened their political and economic ties and taken a common viewpoint and attitude towards many international issues through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, ASEAN, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the "Alternative Bolivariana para la America" (ALBA) besides BRICS.

The African Union held the sixth intermediate coordination meeting in the capital of Ghana. Held on the theme of "Educate and train Africa as required by the 21st century", the meeting discussed the issues of resolving disputes, containing violence and promoting economic integration with concerted efforts.

For defence of national sovereignty, economic development

Unity and cooperation between nations are directed towards rejecting the domination and intervention by the US and the West, defending national sovereignty and developing the economy.

Iran and Venezuela have boosted close cooperation in recent years in the face of the harsh sanctions of the US. The acting foreign minister of Iran and the Venezuelan foreign minister met in June last year and discussed the issue of further expanding the bilateral relations and cooperation to counter the US sanctions. The Iranian minister of defence and armed forces logistics and the Venezuelan transport minister who are co-chairmen of the joint economic cooperation committee expressed their stand to jointly cope with the US interventionist moves in a telephone conversation.

The commander-in-chief of the Iranian army and the commander of the air and anti-aircraft force of Belarus met in Tehran, the capital of Iran, in August last year to express their will to oppose the unilateralism of the US and the expansion of NATO and bolster up the military cooperation between the

two countries. Saying that the two countries are facing a common threat, they affirmed their commitment to increased cooperation without being hampered by the harsh sanctions of the US and the West.

Multilateral cooperation for socio-economic development has also widely been encouraged between nations.

Many-sided exchanges and cooperation between the DPRK and Russia grew closer last year. The treaty on the comprehensive strategic partnership between the DPRK and the Russian Federation came into force on December 4, providing them with a legal framework for building a powerful state while lifting the bilateral relations to a new strategic height and firmly defending the security environment of the region and the world in conformity with the common interests.

In November last year the first ministerial conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum was held in Sochi, Russia. Attended by more than 1 500 representatives of 54 countries including over 40 ministers of African countries, the meeting discussed the issue of strengthening cooperation in socio-economic development, anti-terrorism campaign and others and issued a joint statement.

Tajikistan and Pakistan signed an agreement on strategic partnership and on the same day seven documents, including the 2025-2026 cooperation plan between the foreign ministries of the two countries, were inked.

The talks between foreign ministers of India and Saudi Arabia discussed the issues of promoting strategic partnership in various fields including trade, investment, energy, defence, security, culture and consular relations.

Amid the escalated tension in the Middle East, Iran actively promotes multi-faceted cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Iraq and other regional countries.

The 10th meeting of the Turkiye-Qatar supreme strategic committee, attended by the Turkish president and the emir of Qatar, held a discussion on strategic relations between the two countries covering all fields and reviewed the bilateral partnership cooperation in trade, investment, energy and others. Immediately after the meeting, the two countries signed eight agreements on information, communications, military cooperation and others.

The world's multipolarization progresses steadily thanks to the positive activities of many countries for social stability and development.

Outcries of distress from lost souls of Gaza

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The recent inhumane massacre of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the brutal human rights violations by the Israeli forces have now reached an unprecedented level beyond imagination. It is arousing the rage of the international community.

The latest article in an Israeli newspaper carried the gruesome situation, exposing facts that the Israeli army is murdering the Palestinians stealthily while labelling them as terrorists. It stated that their bodies are not disposed of properly and left to be eaten by dogs.

Furthermore, it disclosed that Israeli soldiers are competitively killing the Palestinians regarding it as an amusement, and that they interrogate the arrested

civilians after stripping them to humiliate them. It also said the Israeli troops are openly arguing that nobody in Gaza is innocent and territorial conquest is the way to achieve victory in the Middle East.

Hitler's fascist clique mercilessly slaughtered other nations advocating the idea of subjugation and domination of the "inferior race" by the "superior race". During the Korean war, the bloodthirsty US imperialists engaged in the mass murder of Koreans with overly brutal methods that would make even beasts blush with shame. The Zionist manslayers are no different to them. There is an outcry of distress let out by the many souls lost and still unburied in the Gaza Strip:

If you give in to the high-handedness and arbitrariness of the US and the West and

give up even an inch of territory, you will have to pay dearly for it with your life.

It is high time for all countries in the world aspiring to justice and peace to defend world peace by waging a resilient fight to stop and frustrate Israel's ruthless massacre of Palestinians through their united strength.

The mass slaughter and devastation in Gaza are the results of "human rights" and "democracy", over-repeatedly chanted by the US and the West. Witnessing this, the people of the DPRK reaffirm their determination and will from the outset of the New Year to defend national sovereignty and genuine international justice by further bolstering up the country's tremendous national defence capabilities and strength.

US investigation into Chinese semiconductor industry policy denounced as unilateral and protective

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The press spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce expressed strong discontent with and strong opposition to the US investigation into the semiconductor industry of his country.

Denouncing the US' 301 investigation as unilateral and protective, he said that the US' 301 tariff on China has already been judged as a violation of the WTO rules by the Organization and is faced with opposition from many of

its member states.

Originated from the intent to put pressure on China and seek its own political interests, the new 301 investigation of the US will not only destroy the global semiconductor industry and its supply chain but also harm the interests of the US businesses and consumers.

This will only result in repeated misconduct, the spokesman noted, stressing that China would keep close watch over the investigation process of the US and take all necessary measures to safeguard its rights and interests.

Briefly

Laos

President calls for striving for independent national economic development

Laotian President Thongloun Sisoulith called for making redoubled efforts for independent national economic development in a speech made on the occasion of the New Year.

He said that though the government and people faced manifold hardships in 2024, they overcame all difficulties and made an important stride in implementing the decisions of the 11th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and carrying out the five-year plan for national development on the strength of unity.

Russia

US censured for triggering special military operations

A roving ambassador of the Russian Foreign Ministry said on January 5 it is just the US that provoked special military operations in Ukraine.

US Secretary of State Blinken said in a recent interview with The New York Times that his country had delivered the anti-aircraft missile system, antitank missile and other military hardware to the Ukrainian authorities long before the special military operations started.

In connection with this, the roving ambassador noted that the US delivered military hardware to Ukraine to make it attack the Donbas region and Russia and this motivated his country to launch the special military operations.

China

Israeli atrocities criticized

The Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations censured Israel in an emergency open meeting of the UN Security Council on January 3.

Referring to the horrible catastrophe that occurred in the Gaza Strip on the eve of the New Year, he said the Israeli troops attacked a medical service facility in the northern part of Gaza, killing many people and putting the facility in flames.

Saying that this violation of international law, especially international humanitarian law, is filling people with consternation, he urged Israel to immediately stop all military adventures.

US

New sanctions applied against Russia and Iran

The US imposed sanctions against Russian and Iranian entities on December 31 last year.

The US Treasury Department found fault with an organization related to the Russian military intelligence service and a company under the Islamic Revolutionary Guards of Iran, saying they tried to create socio-political tension during last year's US presidential election and give their influence over it.

Renewed records, growing enthusiasm for sports

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Many sports games took place at home in 2024, too.

Nearly 40 records broken

Nearly 40 new records of the DPRK were established at the 2024 Spring National Sports Festival, the DPRK Championships, the 2024 National Winter Sports Games and the 2024 Indoor Athletics Championships.

Ten new national records were broken in weightlifting, shooting and track and field events at the 2024 Spring National Sports Festival.

New national records were set in the jerk and total of the men's 67kg category weightlifting and the snatch and total of the 89kg category events. And in shooting, national records were renewed in the senior-level women's 10m air rifle, 10m air rifle mixed team and youth-level 25m speed pistol mixed team events.

National records were bettered in the men's 100m and 200m races.

At the DPRK Championships, sportspeople set 25 new national records in four events, contributing to the technical development of the events.

Eight new records were established in weightlifting.

New national records were also set in the jerk of the 96kg category, the snatch, jerk and total of the 109kg category and the snatch of over 109kg category of men's weightlifting.

Seven records were renewed in shooting in the national championships. Kim Su Hyang of the Amnokgang Defence Sports Club established a new national record and national youth record in the women's 10m

moving target mixed game.

New national records were set respectively in the men's 10m air rifle and men's 50m rifle prone team events.

Players of the Defence Sports Club of the Ministry of National Defence and the Samilpho Defence Sports Club reset national records respectively in the mixed team event of skeet shooting.

Players of the Defence Sports Club of the Ministry of National Defence established a new national record in the 10m air pistol team event, while those of the Amnokgang Defence Sports Club and the Defence Sports Club of the Ministry of National Defence in the 10m air rifle mixed team event respectively.

Four national records were broken in the track and field competition.

Players of the Amnokgang Sports Club reset national records in the men's 10 000m and 5 000m races and those of the Amnokgang and Kigwancha sports clubs in the 4x400m relay respectively.

Players of the Sobaeksu Sports Team broke a national record in the 4x400m mixed freestyle relay swimming event.

Players of the Taesongsan Sports Club renewed national records in the speed skating and short-track speed skating events at the 2024 National Winter Sports Games. National records were also reset in two events at the 2024 Indoor Athletics Championships.

Growing enthusiasm for mass sports

With public interest in sports growing day after day, mass sports games were played briskly in the DPRK last year, too.

Officials of national



Scenes of mass sports games held last year.

agencies added vigour to the vibrant atmosphere of society while fully displaying techniques they cultivated in their training at the Civil Servants' Games-2024 and the bowling contest of civil servants. The Agricultural Workers' Games-2024 and the 12th National Sports Contest of Agricultural Workers added pleasure and optimism to the life of agricultural workers getting happier along with the implementation of the programme for the rural revolution in the new era.

Health workers who took part in the 11th Games of Public Health Sector showed high sports techniques and noble sportsmanship at every contest.

Workers fully displayed the sense of organization and unity of the collective at the Games of Workers in Major Industries-2024 held to mark May Day, the international

holiday of working people all over the world.

The enthusiasm for mass sports also grew in the education sector.

The volleyball and badminton contests of the national competition of university teachers and students-2024 were attended by dozens of units including Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Kim Hyong Jik University of Education and Phyongsong University of Education. The national paduk contest of the education sector-2024 took place, divided into team and individual events (kindergarten and primary school children selected from across the country participated in the contest).

Over 700 players took part in the basketball, volleyball,

tennis and field and track events in the 2024 national university students games.

The 54th sports contest of artistes was held in a distinctive way.

Divided into the sectors of cinematic art and stage art, artistes played basketball, volleyball, table tennis, tennis, tug of war, Taekwon-Do, ssirum and other sports and amusement games. The contest was fierce, and its atmosphere was revved up by the march-past of participating units and the distinctive rhythmic rooting of artistes that was conducted to the tune of upbeat and lilting music.

The National Inter-provincial Mass Sports Contest-2024 marking the 75th Anniversary of Sports Day was the largest one of mass sports games held last year. The contest brought together players selected from Pyongyang Municipality and the provinces (cities under the direct jurisdiction of the government) and involved such events as basketball (women), volleyball (men), badminton, Taekwon-Do, tug of war and arm wrestling. Pyongyang Municipality won the total rankings and South Phyongan and South Hamgyong provinces came second and third in the contest.

Various games of amateurs also took place last year.

The Spring Bowling Amateur Games took place as

bowling got popular day by day. The 2024 National Open Tennis Games were held by bringing together more than 250 tennis experts and fans and the 2024 National Open Table Tennis Games were attended by more than 200 table tennis experts and fans.

The autumn sports games of elderly persons and amateurs-2024 and the 2024 Games of Disabled Persons and Amateurs were held on the occasion of International Day of Older Persons. They showed the joy and youthful vigour of the elderly and the optimistic appearance of disabled persons enjoying a worthwhile life thanks to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state on protecting persons with disabilities.

Various national sports games were also held.

The National Taekwon-Do Amateur Games-2024 took place with more than 700 players selected from across the country in attendance amid the hot wind of developing orthodox martial art associated with the resourcefulness and spirit of the nation sweeping all across society. And the 19th Grand Bull Prize National Ssirum Contest took place in September.

As people were so enthusiastic about sports, more than 500 units across the country won the title of model sports units (including twice ones) last year.

Kapsan Siberian elm, living monument

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The tree is in Songam-ri of Kapsan County, Ryanggang Province.

It is 25m high, 7.4m round at

the root neck, 5.5m round at the chest height and 23.5m wide at the crown.

It has several branches at height of 2.8 metres, its crown forming the shape of a broad umbrella.

