

Grand construction struggle in 2025 launched to implement regional development policy in new era

Groundbreaking ceremony of hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County for Regional Development 20×10 Policy held with splendour



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The grand construction struggle in 2025 to implement the regional development policy in the new era started thanks to the grand intention of the Central Committee of the great Workers' Party of Korea to steadily carry forward the era of great rejuvenation when 20 cities and counties across the country undergo change every year, while making greater and more correct and responsible strides for epochal transformation aimed at dynamically rejuvenating the whole country to be a paradise of the people commensurate with the status and prestige of a powerful country.

The WPK, which made a breakthrough

in accomplishing the historic cause of restoring the regional economy on a completely new foundation all across the country, determined the policy orientation and action plan which have been expanded and intensified to ensure the more extensive and practical development of regions and accelerate the building of a highly civilized and powerful country. On the basis of this, it unfolded an ambitious blueprint for building public health facilities, leisure complexes and grain storage stations in parallel with the construction of regional-industry factories.

The WPK intends not only to lay modern light industry foundations in all regions, but also to create a development

environment, whose motive force is the progress of science, education and public health and which blooms with advanced civilization, so as to promote faster and more dynamically the rejuvenation and development of the country and the well-being of the people. This great ambition of the WPK is imposingly creating a proud chronicle of revolutionary turn to be specially kept in the history of the DPRK.

A groundbreaking ceremony of a hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County for the Regional Development 20×10 Policy whose construction will be powerfully propelled opening up a new realm and stage of overall development was held with splendour on February 6.

The venue of the ceremony was filled with the militant enthusiasm of soldier-builders, who are determined to keep achieving leaping successes this year, too, in the same spirit and mettle they displayed to glorify with precious entities of great change the first-year struggle for implementing the great strategic programme for regional development of the WPK, and with the great excitement of the working people in Kangdong County, who are optimistic about the hopeful future when they will be highly civilized and rich day after day along with the assets of rejuvenation to be built soon.

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Speech by respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at groundbreaking ceremony of hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County for Regional Development 20×10 Policy

Comrades,

Dear residents of Kangdong County, who have turned out as one in the first stage of struggle of the new year with soaring confidence and patriotic enthusiasm,

Officers and men of the Guards hero construction unit and the 124th Regiment and members of the non-permanent promotion committee, who will open the prelude to the heroic struggle of 2025 that should be etched as another year of great victory in history,

The construction work for 2025, a meaningful year that will further enrich the successes of the first-stage pioneering struggle for the comprehensive development of socialism, is now beginning with the

construction of a hospital and leisure complex here in Kangdong County.

This can be called a starting point of our efforts to achieve the ideals and ambition of the Party and government to guarantee the people their rights and interests, promote their health and build a brighter and rosier future for them. But as I have greeted the moment when the construction of the projects, which we have long aspired to implement for the precious people of this country and their vibrant beautiful life, has finally been put on the stage of execution, my heart beats with delight at the thought that we have decided on and made preparations for a truly worthwhile and proud task.

I feel happiest that the sincerity of our Party and government will bring another wealth to the regional people. It is also gratifying that the eye-opening changes in the new era will take place in another part of our country.

Through this historic groundbreaking ceremony, we are making a meaningful start to accelerate the building of a civilized and prosperous country by instilling hope and optimism in the people across the country that they will receive advanced medical services and enjoy a civilized material and cultural life in their own regions, as well as by bringing about substantial and new qualitative changes in the regions.

At this moment, when we are taking another giant step towards great changes, I extend great encouragement and warm militant greetings to the officers and men of the Guards unit and the 124th Regiment of the Capital City Defence Corps, who have advanced to the new construction sites by carrying forward their tradition of standing faithfully in the vanguard of the struggle for bringing about the prosperity of the country and wellbeing of the people.

I also extend militant greetings to the members of the design sector at all levels and the non-permanent promotion committee for regional development, who have contributed to making us launch into these



projects in a short span of time through a strenuous struggle, as well as to the officials and working people in the building-materials industry and other relevant sectors, who are firmly supporting the vast construction projects with unprecedented increased production, true to the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee for more expansive and substantial rejuvenation of the regions.

Comrades,

The first process of all our work has always been like this, but I want to make clear first what an important and great meaning we attach to the projects to be launched soon.

This is because herein lies the answer to why we must build them at a time when vast construction projects are underway and it is hard to enlist spare manpower and why we must complete them in a wonderful way in time and without fail at that.

Our Party's plan for regional development is to ensure that the regional people not only enjoy a material life that is enjoyed by the citizens of the capital city but also lead a life in good health and without any worry in an environment that is as cultured and hygienic as in the capital city.

In other words, it can be said that the ideal result of the regional development policy is that the whole country should be put on an even cultural level, too, by building up the regions to be as wonderful as the capital city is and transforming the environment of the regional people for a cultured life.

Now it has almost become a fait accompli that with modern light-industry factories to be built in every city and county in ten years to come, the regional people will surely be able to attain the level of urbanites in material and economic life. Yet it is more than obvious that this is not all that can eliminate the ingrained cultural lag and backwardness of the regions.

At present, cities and counties are not equipped with adequate facilities for providing proper medical services to the inhabitants, nor do they have any decent welfare

service facilities; so they hardly benefit the cultural centres in the respective regions and the cultural standards of the regional people are far lower than those of the citizens of the capital city.

The signs of backward and underdeveloped character of the regions can be found more largely in the sphere of cultural life than in that of material life, and the most serious of the gaps between the urban communities and the rural ones is to be seen in the sectors of public health, hygienic arrangement, science and education.

As it is impossible ever to eliminate this cultural backwardness of the regions if we put off the necessary endeavour for this or that reason

while refusing to accept this stark reality and simply discussing the feasibilities, the Party Central Committee made an unusual, revolutionary determination to carry out a decisive action of injecting advanced science, technology and civilization into all cities, counties and even mountain regions across the country and thus advancing forward without letup towards the already-defined goals of regional development.

There is another important point worth mentioning in our proposal for setting it as one of our immediate tasks to build modern public health facilities and multifunctional cultural amenities in cities and counties.

The principal method we should employ in developing the regions in a comprehensive way is to help them build up their own self-sustaining capability in every way while providing state guidance and assistance to them.

In other words, the state should provide sufficient material and technical foundations and conditions to the regions so that they can stand on their own feet and, on this basis, let them build up their own forces and potentials strong enough to achieve steady and sustainable development.

In view of both the lessons we have drawn from the annals of regional development which has been stagnant over the past decades, and the prospective requirements that regional development should be a powerful motive force for the development of our state, the issue of each region building their own self-supporting development capability is the key to success.

The most important factor of regional transformation is to be identified in the forces of their own, which can lead their economic and cultural rejuvenation, that is, the spiritual and cultural preparedness of the regional people.

It is necessary to have well-qualified economic and technical forces in order to ensure good operation of the modern regional-industry factories which are now

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under construction in full swing; it is also necessary to train talented personnel systematically in order for each city or county to make effective use of their own characteristics to pave varied and unique roads for their development.

The faster the regional development gets nationwide, the higher such a demand will be; what is essential and inevitable to this end is the leisure complex whose construction we are just going to launch.

We can say that the multifunctional leisure complex will, by providing the regional people with latest science and nourishment of civilization without interruption, serve as a fertile land and a cradle for training them to be proud masters capable of running modern industry on their own and for identifying and training talented people.

I am sure that when the sci-tech learning base is furnished with high-performance IT means and databases of various up-to-date sci-tech achievements, it will be of great help to the regional population, young people and children in particular, in approaching closer to modern science and civilization and acquiring the insight and qualifications needed to lead their regional economic and cultural development.

The new leisure complex will be furnished with facilities for the people to see films and enjoy sports and cultural activities, commercial outlets with a clean sanitary environment, as well as various other welfare service facilities. Needless to say, such a cultural base will be very efficient in further enlightening the people, developing richer emotional feelings in them and training them to be pioneers and creators of a new culture.

If cities and counties are to function effectively not merely as a comprehensive unit of regional development but also as a regional base leading the cultural revolution in the countryside and maintaining economic and cultural ties between urban and rural communities, they must have the means and conditions necessary for expediting the process of assimilating the peasantry to the working class and the rural areas to the urban ones by promptly absorbing modern science and technology and actively disseminating advanced urban culture.

Should they not have such means and conditions, our rural communities will lag far behind modern civilization, and they will not be able to come closer to the threshold of the new era of the socialist countryside.

The conclusion we can draw from this is obvious.

Only when we eliminate the differences in the cultural and intellectual levels between the citizens of the capital city and regional people and between the urban and rural dwellers, can our new regional development policy fully display its validity and vitality as a policy designed for ensuring the eternal prosperity of our regions both in name and in reality and removing the urban-rural gaps fundamentally and permanently.

Building modern public health facilities and multifunctional bases for cultural activities in cities and counties is a crucial and most pressing task that is of great strategic significance in accelerating the simultaneous and balanced development of all fields and all regions and bringing forward the complete victory of socialism.

This is a task that brooks no further delay.

We are facing a decisive period when we should develop cities and counties strategically, proactively and consciously.

What we should bear in mind is that our generation has shouldered the responsibility for this great cause of historic significance, which is what we must undertake now.

The eternal prosperity of our regions precisely means the permanent future of our state and our style of socialism.

Comrades,

The leisure complexes we are planning to set up in cities and counties are something that has never been conceived of in regional construction, and we should almost blaze a trail in building modern hospitals.

In particular, a hospital is a functional building that requires technical compatibility from the lowest units of infrastructure to every one of its medical equipment and devices. Building it is dozens of times as costly as erecting an apartment block or an industrial facility. Setting up an adequately-equipped hospital is not so

easy, because it requires advanced building techniques, expensive materials and large funds.

Despite this difficulty, we should build excellent hospitals in cities and counties as symbols of socialist public health in our era, which embody the Party's plan for modernizing public health and its Juche-based idea of architectural aesthetic beauty.

The fact is that hospital construction in cities and counties is an important project we conceived of and worked out much earlier than when we planned the construction of industrial factories in the regions.

As a project for guaranteeing our people's life and safety and promoting their health, this naturally takes the first priority among all other projects which our Party has planned and is pushing forward to transform our regions and build a cultured, prosperous state.

It is nonsensical to talk about the strength and development of a state and argue over the advantages of its system, if that state is unwilling and unable to take responsibility for its people's life and health.

To take as an example, the public health situation in a country affords a glimpse into its political climate and level of civilization and the quality of life for its citizens. In this sense, public health can be said to represent the absolute values of a nation.

In the present era, laying solid foundations for the public health sector has presented itself as a matter that has a direct bearing on the security of a country and its future, and the demand for life protection and health promotion has grown rapidly. This being the case, our view and stand is that public health should naturally develop well ahead of the sectors related to the material and economic life.

Making our public health sector modern and advanced is the top priority of our Party and government.

Setting up modern hospitals in all cities and counties to bring advanced medical service facilities closer to the regional people and enable all of them freely to enjoy the benefits of modern medicine, at the same time as building a first-class general hospital in the capital city as befits the pivot and hub of our country's public health sector so that its techniques, experiences and exemplary practices can spread across the country—this is the Party's plan for the modernization of public health.

To put the reconstruction of hospitals in cities and counties in parallel with the construction of the general hospital in the capital city is in keeping with the mission of the socialist public health to take responsibility for the life and health of the entire population; it is also in full accord with the new regional development policy, and this is just the road to the fastest development based on the advantages of our system.

Today's groundbreaking ceremony marks the starting point of this great road, a decisive step forward and a major watershed for the future.

So, this time I entrusted the country's best group of designers with drawing up designs for city and county hospitals; I pointed to the necessity of meeting the specialized technical requirements in designing all the elements, ranging from the selection of sites, structural layout, distribution of buildings to arrangement of the line of flow, in ways that will be convenient for such medical services as diagnosis and treatment of patients and will preclude the occurrence of abnormalities including in-hospital infection.

I would like to add that the new hospitals to be built in cities and counties will be divided into four categories according to the population of each region. This year hospitals will be built here in Kangdong County and in Ryonggang County and the city of Kusong, one in each region and all these three of different sizes, on a trial basis.

This year we should build these hospitals as model facilities and accumulate experience in doing so. Then, starting next year, we are planning to set up hospitals in 20 cities and counties, one in each region, on an annual basis.

By the close of this year a modern hospital will go up here, and in the coming ten years, excellent medical service facilities will appear in all cities and counties. To think of this, I feel infinitely proud of our really worthwhile and valuable struggle.

The Party Central Committee will do its best to ensure that the regional population can receive advanced treatment at modern hospitals.

Kangdong County, ministries, national agencies and

other relevant units should work in a responsible manner under a detailed plan to build up the ranks of medical workers and service staffs and enable new facilities to render a substantial contribution to promoting the residents' health and well-being and developing the regional culture.

Responsibly making preparations for operation to ensure advanced services for the regional people should be done in parallel with the building work.

The most serious problem is that our public health workers have a limited understanding of a comprehensive modern medical facility and lack experience in operating its equipment, and that their academic qualifications and medical skills are not adequate enough.

It is important to organize technical sessions for medical workers so effectively that they can work properly after the inauguration of hospitals and ensure that technicians and skilled workers are well versed in their specialist fields.

In particular, it is necessary to make a strong demand on medical workers so that they stay up to date on diagnostic and therapeutic methods that are in keeping with the modern trends in medical development, improve their technical skills and qualifications, and increase their knowledge of foreign languages.

All officials, including leading cadres of the Party and government, should take a creative stand and attitude befitting masters in the effort to cement the foundations of the country's public health sector, clearly find what they are obliged to do and play their due role in this regard.

Comrades,

We are faced with an important task of breathing a fresh life into our socialist public health.

The rapids of a new revolution in public health have risen to join the waves of the regional industry revolution which will soon sweep the whole of the country.

I affirm that our public health sector will newly develop as the soil for cultivating the strength of life of this country and as the strong roots of regional rejuvenation.

This year 2025 should be recorded in our country's history as the first year of the public health revolution.

Let us remember this moment of today when our socialist public health has set sail for the new horizon of development.

Dear soldier-builders, who are courageously advancing in the vanguard of the construction revolution in our era,

The Party has always placed unshakable trust in the People's Army's outstanding revolutionary character and creative spirit.

Officers and men of the Guards hero construction unit have built wonderful monumental edifices representative of the era, supporting our Party's sincerity for the people through their heroic and resourceful labour. In the same spirit as they displayed in doing so, they should fully demonstrate the mode of creation and versatile skills unique to them also in building the Kangdong County Hospital.

The commanding officers of the 124th Regiment should work in a sweeping way and with scrupulous care in the course of planning and directing the construction processes, so that the soaring morale of the soldier-masses can bring about great successes in construction. Then they can dynamically push ahead with the whole construction work according to the schedule.

Your unyielding offensive spirit and militant work style will encourage all the people to display patriotism and strive for increased production to glorify the 80th anniversary of the Party and its Ninth Congress.

I hope that all the soldier-builders, highly conscious that they are responsible for the frontline posts of the regional revolution, will work with utmost sincerity to ensure perfect quality of building work, and thus complete all the structures as excellent creations whose levels of specialization and functional qualities are fully guaranteed.

Let us never forget that the heavier burden our army bears, the earlier the new era of regional transformation will come and the greater benefits our beloved parents, brothers and sisters will enjoy.

My beloved comrades-in-arms,

Generals, officers and men of the People's Army,

Let us all fight more courageously and more vigorously to achieve the great ideals of our people and the victory of our cause!

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

When he arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants raised stormy cheers.

They paid the highest tribute and glory to Kim Jong Un, the great pioneer of socialist civilization and great master of creation who set the realization of the people's ideals as the supreme principle of activities of our Party and state and is ushering in a new era of transformation unprecedented in the history of the country when the whole country changes and prospers, in the spirit of passionate service and with the steadfast revolutionary will.

Present at the ceremony were Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, and other senior Party, government and military officials, members of the non-permanent committees at all levels for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, service personnel of the Korean People's Army involved in the construction and officials and working people in Pyongyang Municipality and Kangdong County.

Kim Jong Un made a significant speech in celebration of the ceremony.

Noting that the construction work for the meaningful year 2025 starts with the construction of the hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County, he said he felt happy and was gratified that the sincerity of our Party and government would bring another wealth to the regional people and that the eye-opening changes in the new era would take place in another part of the country.

Referring to the urgency of the improvement of regional people's cultural living environment in fundamentally and permanently removing the urban-rural gaps, he said it is the ideal result of the regional development policy to put the whole country on an even cultural level.

He said that it is the top priority of the Party and the government to make the public health sector modern and advanced, clarifying the WPK's plan and absolute will to newly develop the sector into the soil for cultivating the strength of the life of the country and into the strong roots of regional rejuvenation and thus make the year 2025 recorded in the country's history as the first year of the public health revolution.

Building modern public health facilities and multifunctional bases for cultural activities in cities and counties is a crucial and most pressing task that is of great strategic significance and which brooks no delay in accelerating the simultaneous and balanced development of all fields and all regions and bringing forward the complete victory of socialism, he said, affirming that the eternal prosperity of the regions precisely means the permanent future of the state and Korean-style socialism.

Saying that today's groundbreaking ceremony marks the starting point of the great road, a decisive step forward and a major watershed for the future, he ardently called for fighting more courageously and more vigorously to achieve the great ideal of our people and the victory of our cause.

All the participants broke into cheers in

great excitement, looking up to the great father who has outlined a new world of socialist civilization and enlightenment, where all the long-cherished desires and ideals of the people are translated into life and reality, and the future changes that will surely be effected through the Korean-style creative struggle.

The commander of the construction regiment made a speech of pledge on behalf of the builders.

Referring to the excitement of soldier-builders to be involved in the construction of essential objects which marks the meaningful start of substantial and qualitative change in accomplishing the grand epochal cause of regional transformation, he said that they are filled with confidence as they have cultivated the genuine outlook on the people, developed the indomitable pioneering spirit and acquired great creative ability under the care of the respected Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un.

He solemnly pledged to build splendid monumental structures symbolic of the new era of regional development in Kangdong County, where a large-scale greenhouse farm had been built thanks to the great loving care of the Party, as a model for the whole country and thus glorify this year marking the 80th birthday of the WPK with great victory and glory.

Kim Jong Un dug the first spadeful of earth to signal the start of the construction project.

The venue for the groundbreaking ceremony seethed with unbridled joy as the historic scene unfolded to be specially etched in the history of victorious development of the dignified DPRK.

When Kim Jong Un pressed the button for blasting, there was a loud sound of detonation signalling the start of the project.

Fireworks were displayed amid the vivid manifestation of boundless reverence for and trust in the great Party Central Committee, which is cultivating the flower garden of all blessings to be enjoyed by all generations to come on this land, based on the idea of "The people are God", regarding it as its absolute mission to achieve national prosperity and promote the people's well-being.

Kim Jong Un extended warm encouragement to the soldier-builders replete with the militant morale with which to more courageously display the spirit of unconditional implementation and high executive faculty, peculiar to the KPA, in the great revolutionary work to promote the overall rejuvenation of the country.

He expressed expectation and belief that they would remain intensely loyal to their honourable duty as pioneers of transformation for the country and the people and defenders of happiness in the outpost of the struggle for realizing the cherished desire of the Party.

The splendid groundbreaking of the construction of the hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County is a clear proof of the WPK's firm will and matchless executive capability to most thoroughly and perfectly achieve the epochal regional transformation, the most sacred and just change demanded by the times and expected by the people, the validity and bright prospects of our cause and unwavering confidence in it.

Inaugural ceremonies of regional-industry factories for Regional Development 20x10 Policy held in different counties

Modern factories rise up in succession to contribute to improving material and cultural life of people in the counties of Orang, Jangphung, Kumya and Tongsin



An inaugural ceremony of regional-industry factories takes place in Orang County on January 31.

Wonderful regional-industry factories have also been built in Orang County

in the northern tip of the country on the shore of the East Sea of Korea. The completion of a modern marine product-

processing factory, foodstuff factory and daily necessities factory which were built distinctively has laid a solid foundation for the sustainable

improvement of the people's living. The people of Orang County celebrated the inauguration of the factories

in splendour on January 31. The venue of the inaugural ceremony was crowded with people who greeted with deep emotion and joy the day

of the great auspicious event when the asset of happiness came into being.



An inaugural ceremony of regional-industry factories is held in Orang County.

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Officers and men of the construction regiment entered the venue in fine array holding high their colours of honour, with the pride of having carried out the plan of the Workers' Party of Korea most thoroughly and

perfectly by fully displaying the might of the revolutionary army in the vanguard of the grand drive for creation for the people.

Kim Yong Hwan, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK, delivered an inaugural

address. He said that the eye-opening reality in the new era is a clear demonstration of the steadfast will of the WPK to make the capital envy the provinces, the regional development represent the advance and development of the state and the ideal

appearance of the regions the true picture of Korean-style socialism, and its power of precise execution as well. Upon authorization of the WPK Central Committee, he extended warm greetings to the officers and men of the construction regiment and

officials and working people of relevant units, who built the regional-industry factories as the precious fruition of the people-first idea and politics of the Party and a symbol of pure conscience of the service personnel defending the people's well-being and caring for

them with the transparent spirit of defending the Party's policies and patriotic devotion. He said that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un gave detailed instructions on the tasks and ways for improving

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There takes place an inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories of Jangphung County on February 1.



An inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories is held in Kumya County on February 3.

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the county people's living standards on his visit to Orangchon Power Station Unit 5 in July 2018, despite the midsummer heat, and today provided them with new factories equipped with modern facilities.

He warmly congratulated once again the county people, saying that victory in the regional development revolution is certain as long as there are the wise leadership of the great Party Central Committee and the single-hearted unity, the absolute might of socialist Korea.

Kim Chol Ho, chief secretary of the Orang County Party Committee, made a speech.

He said he would make sure that the factories mass-produce famous goods and commodities favoured by the people so that the Party's affection and warm care can reach the county people constantly.

The owners of the new workplaces cut the inauguration tape.

Various balloons flew up

to add to the delight at the inauguration.

Then the participants looked round the newly built regional-industry factories.

A performance was given in celebration of the inauguration of the factories and spectacular fireworks were set off to beautifully decorate the nocturnal sky over Orang County.

The people of Jangphung County, Kaesong Municipality of the DPRK, splendidly celebrated the inauguration of the regional-industry factories.

The regional-industry factories built in Jangphung County according to the noble intention of the Workers' Party of Korea are a fruition of loving care associated with the Party's sacred ideal and view on Korean-style development.

There took place an inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories of Jangphung County for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy on February 1.

Attending the ceremony were officials and working

people in Kaesong Municipality and Jangphung County, soldier-builders and the employees of the newly-built factories.

Kim Yong Gyu, chief secretary of the Kaesong Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, addressed the ceremony.

He said that the successive appearance of the first valuable entities of the new regional-industry revolution is a proud outcome of the energetic leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un based on the noble idea of "The people are God" and devoted service for the people and an inspiring event proving that a great stirring period in which the regions change and prosper has come in reality.

He said that the scientific and revolutionary policies on a rapid development of the regions were shaped and the positive measures for accelerating their implementation taken and the fresh phase of regional rejuvenation could be further expanded under the energetic thinking,

extraordinary leadership and meticulous guidance of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un who is ushering in a brilliant heyday of comprehensive national prosperity on this land.

He ardently called upon all officials, Party members and other working people in the municipality to go all out for the implementation of the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and thus make a tangible contribution to glorifying this significant year marking the 80th founding anniversary of the WPK as a year of great victory to be specially recorded in the history of the comprehensive development of the state.

Hong Song Il, chief secretary of the Jangphung County Committee of the WPK, made a speech.

He expressed his determination to make sure that the regional-industry factories associated with the great loving care of the WPK for the people keep production going at a high

rate and thus become a solid fortress and precious asset for guaranteeing the improvement of the living standards of the people of the county.

Owners of the new factories cut the inauguration tape.

After the ceremony, the participants went round the factories fully equipped with modern production lines.

An art performance was given to celebrate the inauguration of the factories, revving up the festive mood.

That evening fireworks were displayed in the nocturnal sky over Jangphung County, adding pleasure and emotion to the people.

Modern regional-industry factories have been built in Kumya County of South Hamgyong Province under the guidance of the great Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee.

The venue was full of officials and working people from the province and county with national flags and bouquets in their hands.

The officers and men of the construction regiment entering the venue while

flying the glorious colours were warmly greeted by crowds of people.

There was an inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in the county of Kumya for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy on February 3.

Ri Jong Nam, chief secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK, addressed the ceremony.

The splendid inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories proves that the people's cherished desire for regional rejuvenation is being translated into reality, he said, noting that the DPRK people are the only people in the world who enjoy the benefits of the great state policies, genuinely people-oriented ones, all of which are oriented to promoting the people's well-being.

He congratulated the residents of Kumya County who would live a better life through the full operation of the regional-industry factories, after calling on all

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officials and working people to wage a dynamic struggle to successfully implement the regional development policy of the WPK and bring earlier the future of a rich and civilized, prosperous and powerful country with greater confidence and courage.

In his speech, Ri Ho Bom, chief secretary of the Kumya County Committee of the WPK, extended on behalf of the people in the county the highest tribute and glory to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who has made untiring and painstaking

efforts to lead the historic ground-breaking ceremony to the joyful inauguration ceremony.

Owners of the new factories cut the inauguration tape.

After the ceremony the participants went round modern regional-industry factories with admiration.

There were an art performance and cheerful dance party in celebration of the great auspicious event of the county.

That evening, the sky of Kumya County was aglow with fireworks wishing the people in the county bright future.

The people of Tongsin County celebrated the inauguration of regional-industry factories on February 5.

The venue of the ceremony was crowded with people who were delighted to greet the auspicious day.

Pak Song Chol, chief secretary of the Jagang Provincial Committee of the WPK, addressed the ceremony.

He said that the factories showing the new development of the regional industry are a precious creation which will bring about a change in the life of the people in the county and

firmly support the regional economic development.

The proud entities springing up in the country under the great revolutionary leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who has worked heart and soul to provide the best life to all the people, more deeply instill into our mind the iron faith that today's happiness and rosy future are provided and guaranteed only under the care of the WPK, he stressed.

The historic cause of regional rejuvenation will surely be achieved thanks to the wise leadership of the great Party Central Committee

and the inexhaustible strength and wisdom of the people closely rallied as one around the Party, he said, calling upon all officials and working people to strive to bring earlier the civilized and prosperous future.

Ri Jae Hyon, chief secretary of the Tongsin County Committee of the WPK, in his speech expressed the determination to direct primary efforts to securing raw materials and supplying materials to the regional-industry factories, given that the definite conditions were provided to improve the people's living standards and develop the

regional economy, and to manage equipment well and steadily enhance the role of technicians and skilled workers and thus prove the validity and vitality of the Party's regional development policy in practice.

The managers of the new factories cut the inauguration tape.

After the ceremony, the participants went round the factories equipped with modern production lines.

An art performance was given to celebrate the inauguration of new factories and fireworks were displayed to bless the future of Tongsin County.



The people of Tongsin County celebrate the inauguration of regional-industry factories on February 5.

On the occasion of 83rd birth anniv of Chairman Kim Jong Il



A national photo exhibition opens at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on February 3 to mark the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

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A national photo exhibition "By strengthening our revolutionary armed forces into the invincible army" was opened with due ceremony at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on February 3 to mark the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il. On display there are photos showing the revolutionary exploits of the Chairman who firmly defended the dignity

and sovereignty of the country and people, and those of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un who is ushering in the golden age of strengthening the Juche-oriented revolutionary armed forces. There are also photos dealing with the noble life of Kim Jong Il who had further developed the Korean People's Army into the invincible army since he started his leadership over the revolutionary armed forces.

Some of those photos show the devoted efforts of the peerlessly great man who continued his journey to the front for defending the country and laid a solid foundation for the development of the Juche-based defence industry with his firm faith that the victory of the socialist cause and the happiness of the people are guaranteed by the powerful arms. The photos tell the personality traits of the

Chairman as a great man who trained the People's Army as a shock brigade in socialist construction and creator of the people's happiness and took warm care of the servicepersons' life.

They also show the personality of Kim Jong Un as the great man who is guaranteeing the security of the country and its people and the future of everlasting prosperity with his independent decision and steadfast will to defend the sovereignty and interests of the country.

There are also photos proving that the DPRK could become a full-fledged military power thanks to the leadership of the great brilliant commander who developed the armed forces of the DPRK into elite combat ranks with matchless military muscle.

Present at the opening ceremony were Ju Chang Il, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Su Gil, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK, Kim Myong Hun, vice-premier of the Cabinet, officials concerned and working people in Pyongyang.

The Ice Sculpture Festival-2025 in Celebration of February 16 (the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il) goes on in the city of Samjiyon on the occasion of the greatest national holiday of the DPRK.

On display there are hundreds of ice sculptures created and presented by officials and working people in Ryanggang Province out of their reverence for the Chairman.

The venue of the festival is visited by officials, working people, youth and students in the province and study tourists of revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu.

Looking up with deep

emotion at the portrait of the Chairman put up in the centre of the venue, visitors remembered the revolutionary career of the peerlessly great man.

Snow ice sculpture *Best Wishes* and others reflect the deep yearning for the Chairman.

The exhibits include sculptures visually reflecting the changed appearance of the city of Samjiyon and the happiness of local people.

Spectacular are other sculptures on various themes and decorative visual aids going well with the distinctive illuminations around them, making the scenery of the modern mountainous city more conspicuous.



The Ice Sculpture Festival-2025 in Celebration of February 16 goes on in the city of Samjiyon.

Premier Pak inspects various sectors of South Phyongan Province



Premier Pak Thae Song inspects the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex.

KCNA
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, inspected various sectors of South Phyongan Province.

He visited the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex to encourage the officials and workers of the coal mine who are putting spurs to their drive for increased

production to implement the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK. And he underlined the need to secure enough reserve coal cutting faces by giving precedence to prospecting and tunnelling and ensure the stable and sustained production growth by steadily enhancing the transport capacity.

At the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory, he learned in detail about the production of ammonium phosphate fertilizer for this

year's farming. He noted that it should direct efforts to the readjustment and reinforcement of processes and systems to keep the production going at a high rate and positively introduce advanced production methods at the same time.

Going round the Sunchon Catfish Farm, he called for taking thoroughgoing measures to ensure the appropriate water temperature of fish ponds and supply feed for each stage of growth in keeping with the winter conditions so as to increase the productivity and thus glorify the leadership exploits of the Party with increased production.

The field consultative meetings took measures after discussing the issue of accelerating the technical upgrading of coal-dressing processes at coal mines, the issue for the relevant units to supply enough raw and other materials to the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory and the issue of introducing advanced fish farming technology at the Sunchon Catfish Farm.

Working people's organizations hold enlarged plenary meetings

KCNA

The enlarged meeting of the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) took place on January 31.

Members and alternate members of the Central Committee of the GFTUK attended the meeting and trade union officials in Pyongyang and local areas were present there as observers.

The meeting discussed the issue of thoroughly implementing the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the issue of amending some contents of the Rules of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea.

Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, made a report.

He analyzed and reviewed the successes and experience, deviations and lessons drawn in the work of the union in 2024 and referred to the ways for the GFTUK to fulfil its mission and duty in effectively pushing forward the preparatory process

for the next development stage while successfully carrying out the five-year plan for national economic development.

He referred to the fact that each sector and unit should actively organize various mass movements conducive to attaining the goals of the struggle for increased production and economy this year as intended by the Party so that the working people's patriotism can continue to produce proud results.

He called on all officials of the trade unions to faithfully discharge their duty in the struggle for implementing the decisions of the Party Central Committee.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

Relevant resolutions were adopted there.

The enlarged meeting of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea took place on January 31.

The enlarged meeting discussed the issue of thoroughly implementing the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the issue of

revising some contents of the Rules of the UAWK.

Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the UAWK, made a report.

He specified detailed tasks for all union organizations to actively launch the organizational and political work inspiring all union members to implement the five-year plan for national economic development.

The enlarged meeting of the 13th Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea took place on February 4.

Jon Hyang Sun, chairwoman of the SWUK Central Committee, made a report.

The reporter analyzed and reviewed the successes and shortcomings made and revealed in the work of the women's union last year and set forth the tasks for radically improving its work this year.

She called on all women to fulfil their responsibility and role as mothers in bringing up their children to be reliable pillars of socialist construction and actively find out and do good things conducive to putting the country's educational foundation on a new high.



1948 - 2025

Korean People's Army remains firm in defence of people and sovereignty

By Ri Sung Ik PT

February 8 is the 77th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

The greatest feat shining in the long heroic course of the KPA is that it has firmly protected the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK and its people from the imperialists' military threat and blackmail and the danger of war and ensured peace and stability, true to its original mission of defending sovereignty.

It was the KPA that performed the military miracle in the 20th century of defeating the arrogant US imperialist aggressors in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25 1950-July 27 1953).

Lots of military miracles it worked during the war are still on every Korean's lips like legends. In particular, the KPA beat off the enemy's armed invasion through an immediate counterattack, occupied the enemy's capital in 72 hours after the war broke out, destroyed the Smith-led special attack unit, sank the enemy's heavy cruiser *Baltimore* with only four torpedo boats, damaged a light cruiser, held up the enemy's landing on Inchon as many as three days with only four artillery pieces, although the enemy mobilized 50 000 troops and a large number of warships and aircraft in the landing operation, and won the battle to liberate Taejon which is recorded in history as a stunning



A military parade is held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Korean People's Army in February 2023.

example of modern siege warfare.

The history of victory of the KPA has continued as it has resolutely frustrated the enemy's moves for aggression to defend the sovereignty of the country and the safety of the people with honour.

Over the past seven decades the enemy has persistently clung to lots of moves, big or small, to spark another war of aggression, but the

KPA has driven the provocateurs into the abyss of ruin on the principle of power for power and head-on contest, while responding to nukes and frontal confrontation in kind.

The KPA was not only loyal to the mission of defending sovereignty and the people in the confrontation with the enemy.

There are also the pages of

gigantic creation and construction for the country and the people in the brilliant annals of the armed forces of the DPRK that have staunchly defended national security and sovereignty.

In the long course from the day when the postwar reconstruction began up to now, socialist construction has been a primary revolutionary task of the KPA,

which is as important as the defence of national sovereignty, and has never been diminished or postponed even under grave and stressful situations.

The KPA service personnel have left their footprints in all parts of the country where the sound of development and creation rang out, including the iron and steel production bases and coal and ore mines, which constitute the foundations of the national economy, railways and roads that are the arteries of the country, and farm fields and reclaimed tidelands for enriching the people's life.

The spirits of the times, which will remain in the history of the country forever, and the monumental structures set up on the strength of these spirits have all been created by the KPA.

Even at present, the KPA is taking the lead in the gigantic struggle for the construction of dwelling houses for the people and for regional development.

That is why the Korean people celebrate the founding anniversary of the KPA as their holiday in splendour.

Bearing deep in mind the great expectations of the Workers' Party of Korea, the leader and the people, the KPA service personnel will safeguard the inviolable sovereignty of the DPRK and the honour of its people and bring earlier the overall development of a prosperous and powerful country.

National defence capabilities evolve on upward track

By Pak Song Min PT

2024 was a year in which radical successes were made in the effort to build the strongest national defence capacity in the DPRK.

Last year, Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, visited the Ministry of National Defence and the headquarters of the 2nd Corps and visited the training bases of the special operation units of the Korean People's Army in the western region to give precious instructions on holding fast to a revolution in training, ideology and armaments. He also guided the shelling exercises of large combined units, a training match between large combined tankmen's units, a drill of paratroop units and a combined tactical drill simulating a nuclear counterattack to make them important occasions to increase the actual war capacity and improve the posture for mobilization of the army.

The naval forces have been transformed into a powerful service group.

Guiding the test-fire of Padasuri-6 ground-to-sea missile to be furnished for the Navy and the test launch of the submarine-launched strategic cruise missile Pulhwasal-3-31, the General Secretary made sure that the country's coastlines and sea

borders were reliably defended, that the Navy was armed with nuclear weapons and that the sphere of operation of the state nuclear deterrent was expanded in a diversified way. He also ushered in a new period of development of the shipbuilding industry and saw to it that a signal stride was made in implementing the Party's line of increasing the power of the Navy while guiding the work to establish a modernized and multifunctional naval base on the spot.

The country's defence industry took another leap forward.

While inspecting the munitions factories including a major

factory producing military erector launchers, the General Secretary saw to it that the capabilities for self-defence and overwhelming nuclear war deterrent were continuously built up. And he personally guided the tests of different weapon systems, including the test launch of new-type intermediate-range hypersonic missile, test-fire of shells of guided multiple rocket launchers, test-fire of tactical ballistic missile based on new guidance technology and performance test of various kinds of drones, to make sure that consecutive success in the tests of the ultra-modern strategic weapon systems demonstrated the boundless

development of the national defence capabilities and a great leap forward in building a powerful and modern army.

As a result, there took place the ceremony for delivering new-type tactical ballistic missile systems to hand 250 new-type tactical ballistic missile erector launchers produced by major munitions enterprises over to the frontier units of the DPRK.

The test-fire of the latest ICBM Hwasongpho-19 was successfully conducted. While guiding the test-fire on the spot, the General Secretary made sure that the DPRK's nuclear combat force displayed its absolute might and

clearly demonstrated to the world that the dominant position the country secured in the development and manufacture of nuclear delivery means of the same kind is absolutely irreversible.

There took place the grand military hardware exhibition *Defence Development-2024* which brought together the latest creations by the country's group of defence scientists and technicians with the main emphasis on the strategic and tactical weapons.

The exhibition demonstrated the grandiose development and bright prospects of the country's defence capabilities.



The grand military hardware exhibition *Defence Development-2024* is held in November 2024.

National economic plans for January overfulfilled

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea called on all the officials and working people to turn out this year, the last year of implementing the Five-Year Plan, in the new increased production drive and patriotic struggle to successfully attain the fighting goals set forth by the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

In hearty response to the call of the Party Central Committee, new standards and new records were created one after another in all sectors of the national economy.

Workers of the Sangwon Cement Complex held high the torch of innovation.

They set an ambitious goal to produce cement 10 times more than their increased output in 2024 and stood at the forefront of the all-people general advance.

From the beginning of the new year they registered the highest monthly production results since its inauguration with a collective innovation movement to carry out the January plan by January 28.

The workers of the Sunchon Cement Complex produced thousands of tons of more cement than planned in the first 20-odd days of the new year by bringing about an unprecedented upswing in production and the Chonnaeri Cement Factory carried out its increased plan without fail.

The Sunchon Limestone Mine and the Manpho August 2 Cement Factory successfully carried out the 200 000- and 100 000-cubic-metre blastings, providing a sure guarantee for producing more cement.

The key industrial sectors, the main control lever of the national economy, brought about a great improvement in production.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex put the management and operation of oxygen blast furnaces on a scientific and technological



The Sangwon Cement Complex carries out its plan for January by January 28.

basis and introduced advanced melting methods to produce over 400 tons of more pig iron on January 5 alone. The Chollima Steel Complex raised the output of molten iron per charge to the highest level in over 10 years and carried out its daily plans at more than 110 percent.

In the same spirit they displayed last year when they built a new-type oxygen blast furnace, officials, workers and technicians of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex fulfilled their production plan in January while taking appropriate measures to put the Juche-based iron production process on a normal track.

The daily concentrated iron ore production increased 1.2 times at the Musan Mining Complex and the production of samhwa iron, ferrosilicon, electrodes and refractory also rose at the Posan Iron Works, the Puryong Ferroalloy Factory, the Hungnam Electrode Factory, the Jangsan Mine and others.

The workers in the field of metallurgical industry worked hard to hit the

production targets of pig iron, rolled steel and other major indices for the first month of the year.

The flames of increased production also flared up in the chemical industry sector.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex produced thousands of tons of more fertilizer in the first ten days of the year.

The national nitrogenous fertilizer production target for January was exceeded by 11 percent. The success was attributable to the patriotic spirit of the workers of the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex who recorded the daily production results of over 110 percent out of the desire to supply more fertilizer to the agricultural sector.

A vigorous campaign was conducted in the field of electric power industry to put the production of electric power on a normal footing at a high level and reliably guarantee the stable development of the national economy and the material and cultural life of the people, resulting in the fulfilment of the national electric power

generation plan for January.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex finished the project for restoring the performance of and updating generator No. 3 to increase the productivity, while drastically reducing the consumption of coal as against before. The power producers of the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station and the Sunchon Thermal Power Station operated equipment as required by standard operating methods and technical regulations.

Workers and technicians of the Suphung, Hochongang, Jangjingang and other hydroelectric power stations across the country also put water control on a scientific basis and ensured high-water level and high-efficiency operation of equipment to revitalize production.

The coal mining industry carried out its national coal production plan at 104 percent in January.

The workers of the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex mined

thousands of tons of more coal in a month by expanding the achievements in tunnelling and increasing the transport capacity. The Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex also produced hundreds of tons of more coal every day than the same period of last year from the beginning of the new year.

The Hamnam Area Coal-mining Complex, the Chonnae Area Coal-mining Complex, the Kangdong Area Coal-mining Complex, the Kujang Area Coal-mining Complex and other complexes also increased the output of coal.

The production plan for the first month of the year was also carried out on all indices in the field of the machine-building industry.

Workers and technicians of the Ryongsong Machine Complex achieved amazing results in the production of custom-built equipment as they doubled the productivity of castings over the past by drawing on the experience gained in casting materials continuously by the method of casting with combustion pattern. And the Taean Heavy Machine Complex also expanded the successes achieved in production from the first day of the new year.

The workers of the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 overfulfilled their daily production plans of cables to be sent to the construction projects in the capital city and major sectors, and the workers and technicians of the Anju Pump Factory increased the production over 1.2 times on a daily average.

The Ministry of Mining Industry successfully carried out the national economic plan for the first month of the year.

The employees of the Kwangmyong Pit of the Unpha Mine carried out their January plan far ahead of schedule by making strenuous efforts surpassing the normal level, capacity and limits.

The Jungsan and Phungnyon mines more than trebled and the Hyesan Youth Mine and Yongyu Mine more than doubled the production in the first ten days over the same period of last year.

The rail transport sector exceeded the national freight transport target for January by 4 percent.

Officials and workers of the Hamhung Railway Bureau, who set the highest record of freight transport in the Ministry of Railways from the beginning of the year, carried tens of thousands of more tons of freight than the same period of last year.

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau made effective use of its existing capacity to bring about a significant improvement in the transport of materials. The Kacchon, Chongjin and Rason railway bureaus carefully organized the work to quickly make up trains according to sections and directions and increase the transport and traffic capacities.

The national monthly timber production plan was overfulfilled by 3 percent in the forestry sector.

A dynamic increased production drive was staged in the light industry sector.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill carried out its production plan in January through a mass increased production movement. In the first ten days of the new year alone, more than 90 workers hit their monthly targets ahead of schedule and over a dozen workers of the mill fulfilled their first quarterly plans.



The Chollima Steel Complex, Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 and Chollima Tile Factory overfulfil their production plans.

Press release of Institute for Disarmament and Peace of DPRK Foreign Ministry

KCNA

The Institute for Disarmament and Peace of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made public the following press release titled the "US scheme to build a new missile defense system is a new 'Star Wars' plan seriously destroying the global security balance" on February 2:

The new US administration's hegemony-seeking attempt to maintain its military supremacy and stifle independent and sovereign states through reckless arms buildup has been clearly manifested from the first day of its office.

The US scheme to build a new missile defense system is a new "Star Wars" plan seriously destroying the global security balance

A typical example is that the US made public shortly ago a plan to further expand the missile defense system under the signboard of ensuring the security of the mainland and its allies from the ever-increasing "strategic threats" from its so-called rivals.

The US' new missile defense system plan sets a target for aggression to put spurs to the development and deployment of the next-generation missile defense network and space-based missile interception system capable of detecting and intercepting various kinds of missiles at the ascending stage and further strengthen the regional missile defense system in collusion with its allies.

The new missile defense system idea, suggestive of the departed soul of the dangerous "Star Wars" scenario mapped out by the US in the Cold War era, is dangerous in that it justifies arms buildup on the pretext of coping with "threats" from its rivals, far from being feasible.

In the 1980s, the US invented the "Strategic Defense Initiative" under the pretext of coping with the nuclear threat from the former Soviet Union, driving the whole world into a crucible of nuclear arms race. In 2002 it unilaterally withdrew from the ABM treaty under the pretext of "security of the mainland" and made frantic efforts to build a

missile defense system targeting the independent and sovereign states including the DPRK.

Afterwards, the US has spent an astronomical sum of money on the development of next-generation interceptor missiles and ground-based intermediate-stage interceptor missiles. It deployed various missile defense systems in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region and has sought a sinister intention to operate them in an integrated way.

The present US administration's attempt to modernize the missile defense system is also aimed to provide perfect conditions for launching preemptive nuclear attack on the rivals without any worry about retaliatory attack by them and to turn outer space, a common wealth of the whole mankind, into a war theatre and militarize it and thus realize the US military hegemony on a global scale.

The present US administration has called for further strengthening the regional missile defense system with the allies, talking about the threat of attack by nuclear-armed rivals. This indicates that the US moves for modernizing the missile defense system can be further intensified in the Asia-Pacific region where nuclear powers are concentrated.

It is as clear as noonday that the US will get more pronounced in its moves to accelerate the development of hypersonic interceptor missiles being pushed forward with its allies including Japan and deploy more ultra-modern military hardware like THAAD in various regions including the ROK. This will inevitably touch off the security concerns of the regional countries.

The evermore-worsening global security environment urgently requires the DPRK to steadily develop its self-defensive capabilities with nuclear deterrent as the pivot capable of reliably defending the security and development rights of the state to cope with the ever-increasing US attempt to hold military hegemony.

The DPRK will as ever counter the ever-increasing military threat of the hostile forces with the bolstering of military muscle free from limitations and defend global peace and build a more stable regional security environment by dint of the powerful self-defensive strength.

KCNA commentary on US arms support to puppet ROK

The US, the world's biggest war merchant, is getting more frantic in its arms sale to its vassal states than ever before.

According to the "Fiscal Year 2024 US Arms Transfers and Defense Trade" recently announced by the US Department of State, the US foreign military sales aimed at arms support to its allies in the last fiscal year reached US\$117.9 billion, a 45.7 percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

In this regard, the US Department of State loudly claimed that it is the highest record of the annual foreign military sales to the allies.

That is very likely.

Last year the US provided the Zelenskiy clique with a large amount of ultra-modern equipment, including long-range strike means, in order to reverse the military inferiority in the Ukrainian battlefield and expand the war in a sustainable way. It also handed over weapons of mass destruction to Israeli Zionists to instigate them to bloody massacres in the Gaza Strip.

If the weapons sold out by the US to its allies in private, avoiding the eyes of the world people, are put together, the sales will reach an astronomical figure.

In retrospect, the US has earned its geopolitical profit from turning various countries and regions

of the world into hotspots and disputed areas by instigating its followers and worked at arms trade on a large scale under the pretext of "preventing disputes" to fill its money bags. It is the US' stereotyped method and selfish calculation method of killing two birds with one stone.

What merits attention is that the US is getting ever more undisguised in its arms sale to the puppet ROK, top-class stooge and the first war servant.

A ceremony of handing over the US latest sea-patrol planes took place in the puppet ROK in July last year. The US approved the sale of latest attack helicopter AH-64E and related goods worth 3.5 billion US dollars to the puppet ROK in August and the sale of AWACS worth 4.92 billion US dollars in November. All the facts go to prove that the US moves to arm the ROK puppets with its weapons and drive them to confrontation and war with the DPRK are far beyond the danger level.

Such moves are going on in the new year, too. The US officially notified the puppet ROK of two arms sales recently.

According to them, the arms sale includes the equipment worth a total of 170.6 million US dollars including latest drones to be delivered to the puppet navy

and the weapons parts worth 350 million US dollars.

In this regard, the US has tediously advertised that the introduction of these weapons would make the puppet ROK "bolster up the deterrence and defense capabilities against threats" in the region.

The US is getting more zealous in its huge arms support to the puppet ROK while talking about the so-called "improvement of security" and the "enhancement of military capabilities". Lurking behind this is the US sinister intention to wreck the balance of strength in the region and consolidate its hegemonic position.

The puppet ROK has been turned into a thoroughgoing anti-communist advanced base by the US, the most reactionary state entity regarding anti-communism as an invariable state policy. This reality clearly tells us which direction we should take, and what and how to do.

Any arms support of the US cannot save the puppet ROK from the destiny of the strategic inferiority, and the US' shameless and outrageous ambition for killing two birds with one stone which is getting ever more undisguised with each passing day will never be realized by the just strength of the DPRK.

Coexistence of ceasefire and killing can never be tolerated: KCNA

Killing and destruction go on in the Middle East where the truce was declared.

Days ago, the Israeli military conducted a large-scale military operation in Jenin, a northern city of the West Bank of the Jordan River on the pretext of "anti-terrorism", killing a large number of Palestinian refugees and destroying dwelling houses and infrastructure.

In the border area south of Lebanon, the murderers attacked villages with tanks and bulldozers, causing well over a hundred civilian casualties.

Under international arbitration, Israel and Hezbollah, in November last year, reached a ceasefire agreement and in January this year truce between Israel and Hamas took effect, but as seen above, Israel's massacre has not stopped.

The reckless military action which is being conducted almost daily behind the curtain of the ceasefire is making everyone doubt whether Israel has a will to restore stability and peace in the region and is escalating the concern of the international community about the fragile ceasefire.

It is also necessary to pay attention to the backstage forces that tolerate and instigate the violent breach of the truce by the Jewish state and the present situation which is neither war nor ceasefire.

The Israeli prime minister in his video statement on the cease-fire agreement with Hamas said that if they were forced to resume war, they would conduct it with powerful strength and new methods. He said

that even the US fully supports the possible resumption of war by Israel if the negotiations are "futile".

His remarks reminded everyone of the dark shadow of the US, which has repeatedly vetoed the resolutions of the UNSC demanding immediate ceasefire and shielded and encouraged the bloody massacre by arming the Israeli military with a huge amount of lethal weapons.

In its statements on the cease-fire in Gaza, the US has taken double-dealing attitude by positively welcoming the release of Israeli hostages while remaining silent as regards the release of Palestinian prisoners. It is still keeping mum about the wanton violation of ceasefire agreement by the Jewish state.

Some days ago, the US went the length of making an unjust proposal for moving the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to Egypt and Jordan. And it is unhesitatingly blocking the fair settlement of dispute and inciting the aggravation of the

situation by allowing continued offer of large bombs to Israel which had been withheld for fear of the international community's criticism.

The coexistence of ceasefire and killing can never be tolerated.

All facts clearly prove that the US strategy for dominating the Middle East to fish in troubled waters in the aggravated situation is unchanged just as Israel's ambition for territorial seizure to forcibly displace Palestinians and expand Jewish settlements remains unchanged.

Unless the root cause of dispute is removed, there can be no durable peace.

It is still uncertain whether the fragile ceasefire in the region would lead to permanent and durable peace.

The prospect of the implementation of the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip will highlight once again the true colours of the world's peace and anti-peace forces.

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“Being small and young does not mean you are a loser. I felt confident as I thought there was no reason to fear and I was determined to win at any cost. Our country is small but strong.”

Kim emerges as Asian table tennis star

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Last year, the DPRK player Kim Kum Yong emerged as a table tennis ace in Asia.

Needless to say, her international success delighted many people.

After her matches were broadcast on TV, questions about her residence and her parents were on everyone’s lips.

Kim Kum Yong grew up in Unjong District, Pyongyang. Her father is a lecturer at a

university and her mother is an ordinary housewife. There is no sportsman in her family except that her father likes playing table tennis.

She took up table tennis as a little girl whose eyes were barely visible when she stood in front of a table tennis table. At that time, an instructor couple taught the young girl, who had to stand on a stool to hit the ball, at a sports school in Unjong District.

Thanks to their painstaking efforts to nurture the distinctive features of the

short, left-handed girl, Kum Yong entered the rankings at a national table-tennis tournament several years later and was selected into a sports club. There, under the guidance of coach Kim Yun Mi, she acquired unique, sharp and strong attacking skills, rapid movement and close-range defence capability.

“As the saying goes, a little body often harbours a great soul. Kum Yong is a bold player and well prepared in psychology,” said the coach.

She was the first to play among the DPRK team participating in the women’s team event against China at the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships. Her opponent was holding the first place in the world rankings.

She was not in the least upset by her lack of international experience and thrashed the opponent 3-1 by mounting safe defence and strong counterattack. Media outlets of various countries praised her outstanding

ability, high psychological quality and defensive and counteroffensive techniques. They reported that Kim Kum Yong defeated the Japanese opponent in the women’s singles final by demonstrating her technical and tactical superiority and retained the leading position in the Asian table tennis world, adding that her victory was not only a personal victory but also the manifestation of the mental power of the DPRK table tennis team who are fighting strenuously and advancing

courageously in unity. Kum Yong, on the day of her triumphant return with the trophy and gold medal, received lots of bouquets of congratulation. The champion of short stature and childlike looks said to those who expressed their surprise holding her small hands that being small and young does not mean you are a loser and that she felt confident as there was no reason to fear and was determined to win at any cost, adding the DPRK is small but it is strong.

Three renowned calligraphers of Korea

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Kim Saeng, Han Ho and Kim Jong Hui are known as three best calligraphers of Korea.

It is said that Kim Saeng (711-?), a representative calligrapher in the middle ages, began to learn how to write in his childhood and kept on writing with brush until he was over 80.

As he was proficient in various writing styles, he

developed a reputation as the best calligrapher in his own lifetime and was highly praised by posterity and even by foreigners.

Han Ho (1543-1605) showed amazing talent in handwriting in his boyhood, but his difficult living conditions permitted him only to practise calligraphy, writing characters on the ground and rocks. He was also called Kyonghong, or Sokpong or Chongsa.

With extraordinary enthusiasm, Han made persevering efforts to familiarize himself with scripts of famous calligraphers and further polish them, thus developing his unique style.

Han’s handwritings were known throughout the country, and also to China and other countries.

Kim Jong Hui (1786-1856), together with Han Ho, formed two pillars in calligraphy. He

was also called Wonchun, Wandang or Chusa.

He created a unique writing style, known as chusa, and was well versed in history, astronomy, geography, music, painting and others.

On the basis of his experience in calligraphy and detailed study of preceding calligraphic styles, he wrote many papers on basic theories of calligraphy and calligraphic techniques.

Chonju Falls in Puyon-ri

By Song Jong Ho PT

Chonju Falls in Puyon-ri is located in a deep valley 14km away from Puyon-ri, Sinhung County, South Hamgyong Province.

The falls flow along the cliff consisting of

two steps of granite. They first cascade along the cliff with an incline of 80 degrees and then along the one with a gradient of 70 degrees. The waterfall is 60 metres high, two metres wide in the dry season and ten metres in the rainy season.

