

Groundbreaking ceremony of Ragwon County Offshore Farm held with splendour

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attends the groundbreaking ceremony and digs the first spadeful of earth in celebration of the event



KCNA

A modern large-scale offshore farm is to be built in Ragwon County of South Hamgyong Province according to the regional development plan for 2025, decided at the historic Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Last year the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un saw to it that the Sinpho City Offshore Farm was built as a model for offshore farming in the new era, opening up a bright prospect for boosting the economic independence of cities and

counties on the coasts. And at the enlarged meeting of the plenary meeting, he set forth the honourable task of building an offshore farm, which is advanced and conforms to the local conditions, in Ragwon County and building houses in parallel to turn the fishing village area into an ideal people's village symbolic of new socialist civilization, with a more development-oriented goal of restoring the fishing industry of the country with aquaculture as its major sphere and fundamentally improving the material foundations of the regional economy and people's livelihood.

The grand construction campaign for implementing the regional development policy, which is being expanded day by day while making a more dynamic advance thanks to the steadfast will of Kim Jong Un to provide the regional people with a great happiness as early as possible, is a clear manifestation of the ennobling political ideals, legendary creativity and practical abilities of our great Party and socialist state pursuing the grand programme of the people-first principle.

A groundbreaking ceremony of the Ragwon County Offshore Farm took

place on February 14.

The venue of the ceremony was filled with the soaring spirit of the soldier-builders to prove the validity and vitality of the Party's policy with the development of the regional economy and happy laughter of the regional people by creating a distinctive structure of regional transformation, another fairyland in Ragwon County by the East Sea, through continuous devoted efforts for the eternal prosperity of the country and the promotion of the people's well-being, and

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with the delight and joy of the inhabitants in Ragwon County feeling a new vibrant life.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

Present there were Jo Yong Won, Pak Jong Chon and No Kwang Chol and officials and working people in South Hamgyong Province and Ragwon County and soldier-builders.

When Kim Jong Un arrived at the ceremony venue, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers, extending boundless gratitude to the prominent leader of the revolution and the great father of the people, who continues the long journey of devoted service for the people, to be eternally etched in the history of the country's prosperity, and steadfastly advances the epochal cause of regional rejuvenation for a simultaneous and balanced development of the whole country.

Waving back to the cheering crowds, Kim Jong Un sent warm blessings to all the inhabitants and officials in Ragwon County who are greeting the historic occasion that heralds a greater happiness for them.

He said that the construction of the second modern offshore farming base would start today after the first of its kind in the city of Sinpho under the WPK's policy on effectively exploiting and utilizing the regional natural and economic resources. After deciding the construction of the Ragwon County Offshore Farm at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, the Party Central Committee had a lot of issues including the designation of its appropriate place and its architectural design discussed and examined since the outset of the year and relevant measures

taken to this end, he said, adding that this site was the one he had chosen personally.

This place is free from unfavourable marine meteorological effects and convenient for building a wharf and breakwater as it is enclosed by land on three sides and it is very close to the offshore farming ground, rich in aquatic animal and plant resources and superior in the aspect of marine ecology and, therefore, it is the most suitable site for building the farm, he noted. He said with pleasure that he would present the most beautiful fishing village in the world to Ragwon County by building a modern offshore farm in the area and even flats sustaining the characteristics of the coastal area, and that it would be a good idea to call the fishing village Ragwonpho in the future.

Noting that the prospect of the development of this county, which is one of the smallest counties in the country and has weak economic foundations, lies in making good use of the sea, he said it is his desire to lay a solid foundation for development and create a model socialist paradise we can be proud of so that the county could prosper forever to suit its name Ragwon (Paradise).

He proudly said that if the farm that will be more distinctive and wonderful than the Sinpho City Offshore Farm and a spectacular fishing village that no one has yet witnessed are built, it will directly demonstrate the validity and prospect of the regional development policy pursued by the Party and serve as a model symbolic of the future change of the county, and a brilliant page will be recorded in the history of the county.

He noted that the inauguration ceremonies of regional-industry factories have been held with splendour in the areas of one-tenth of the country's

territory almost every day for more than one month from the end of last year as a proud fruition of the one-year struggle for implementing the Party's regional development policy. This proves that the scope of our struggle has remarkably expanded and a powerful motive force, capable of advancing our cause, has been created, he added.

He said that our Party will be more thoroughgoing and steadfast, in the future, too, in defending the demands, rights and interests of the people, stressing that to see in this context, today's groundbreaking ceremony serves as an important occasion for reaffirming and reclarifying the steadfast principled stand of the Party and the government that perform absolute service for the people.

Saying that aquaculture in our country is a sphere of resources development, whose profitability and prospective nature have already been proved, and a sure guarantee for the development of cities and counties located in the coastal areas, he indicated the orientation and ways for the coastal cities and counties to effectively exploit and utilize marine resources on the basis of a scientific study and analysis of the natural and geographical conditions and marine ecological environment.

The future of Ragwon entirely depends on its inhabitants, he said, calling on the officials and working people in the county to turn out, regarding the maritime industry as their vital issue, and thus open up a new sphere of aquaculture unique to the county.

He said that it is necessary to dynamically advance, through our resolute struggle and constant creation of miracles, the new era of comprehensive prosperity, a period of new development, that will be welcomed by all the people enjoying a rich life improved in quality, expressing once again his firm will to forcefully push

forward with the great cause of regional transformation for realizing the people's long-cherished desires.

Kim Jong Un dug the first spadeful of earth in celebration of the ceremony.

The venue was swept with the absolute trust in our great Party and deep emotion, and thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!" broke out again amid the fireworks being setting off, beautifully decorating the sky of February.

Expressing his respect for the warm sincerity and courageous efforts of the service personnel who are devoting themselves to the people's happiness true to the Party's plan, Kim Jong Un expressed belief and expectation that the officers and soldiers of the People's Army will build an ideal fishing village of Korean style to be admired by the world with boundless loyalty, courageous disposition and creative mettle unique to them and proudly bring about a new miracle of regional transformation.

All the soldier-builders, bearing deep in their mind the glorious mission and duty as makers of a great revolution, hardened their will to fully display the noble name of our army in the vanguard of the struggle for realizing the sacred cause of regional development in the new era guided by our Party.

The groundbreaking ceremony of a modern offshore farm and fishing village, held with splendour in Ragwon County, serves as a significant occasion for demonstrating once again the steadfast will of our Party to turn all the cities and counties across the country into highly-civilized and rich places, self-supporting and developed in a diverse way and good to live in, and the spirit and stamina of Korea that is making a steady leap forward towards a prosperous future with ennobling ideals and a grand ambition.

Groundbreaking ceremony of largest-ever greenhouse farm and vegetable science research centre held with splendour

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un digs the first spadeful of earth in celebration of the event and presses the button for blasting



KCNA

There started another important undertaking for regional development to be specially recorded in the new era of great transformations, when the people-first ideal of the Workers' Party of Korea is being comprehensively realized.

In December last year, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the inauguration ceremony of a modern country city in the Sinuiju area, whose

looks had undergone a radical change after eradicating the aftermath of the severe flooding. At the ceremony he declared a grand new construction plan for greater regional change and bestowed great favour of personally dispatching the construction workforce for the project.

Thanks to the warm sincerity of the dear father, who is unfolding a brighter future in the people's cradle built on the road of his devoted efforts for the flood victims, a largest-ever modern greenhouse farm and

a vegetable science research base will be built in Hadan-ri in Sinuiju, a gateway city in the country, and in Soho-ri in Uiju County, as structures, symbolic of the lively and bold progress in regional rejuvenation.

A groundbreaking ceremony of a 450-hectare greenhouse farm and vegetable science research centre took place with splendour on February 10.

Officers and men of the navy and air force units of the Korean People's

Army and commanding officers and other members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade to be involved in the undertaking for the gigantic regional transformation lined up at the venue of the ceremony.

Kim Jong Un attended the ceremony. When Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers in reflection of their

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highest tribute to the benevolent father of the great socialist family, who has pioneered the unprecedented sacred revolution, called the comprehensive regional development, of successfully achieving the long-cherished desire of the people across the country, and is ushering in a new era of high civilization and prosperity shining with the people's laughter and the promotion of their well-being.

Pak Thae Song and Jo Yong Won, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other senior Party, government and military officials were present at the ceremony together with the builders.

Pak Thae Song, premier of the DPRK Cabinet, made the groundbreaking speech.

Noting that grand greenhouse farms on a modern, intensive and industrial footing have been built one after another in the era of transformations led by the great Party, and thereby a new path of improving the people's living standards is being hewed out, the premier said that the edifices of the times built in different parts of the country are the crystallization of the ennobling desire and bold leadership activities of the Party that orients everything towards providing the people with a more affluent life and ushers in a golden age of construction, self-sustenance and self-respect unprecedented in history.

Construction of the greenhouse farm, the fourth of its kind in recent years, is an important state affair to be carried out thanks to the ennobling intentions of Comrade Kim Jong Un to turn this island area, where only sandy dust floated by the strong river wind, into a socialist paradise where the people will lead a highly

civilized and affluent life, he noted.

According to his plan and intentions, not only different types of vegetable greenhouses, vegetable processing factory and storages but also a vegetable science research centre, trial cultivation greenhouses, hundreds of flats, hostels and neighbourhood-serving amenities will be built simultaneously here in this area vaster than that of all the large-scale greenhouse farms built in recent years put together, he noted.

If the large-scale greenhouse farm which will be put on a scientific and IT footing is built with the modern houses standing in rows showing the true picture of socialism on the shore of the Amnok River as the background, this island area will enjoy fame as a new model of regional development with its own strong potentials of development and as a brilliant symbol of prosperity in our era, he stressed.

Noting that the current construction project is a link in the whole chain of the struggle to turn Sinuiju into an advanced city which will vividly show and represent the development and might of socialist Korea and an important political undertaking for displaying the advantages of our Party's policy on regional development, the premier affirmed that the large-scale project will be certainly and triumphantly concluded thanks to the clear-cut policy of the construction revolution indicated by the great Party, our strong conviction and indomitable fighting spirit and the army-people unity.

Kim Jong Un made a rallying speech.

The speech reads as follows:

"Officers and soldiers of the Navy and Air Force units of the Korean People's Army, which are famed for their ardent spirit of patriotism and brilliant exploits,

"Officers and other members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade with the most honourable name,

"I extend my warm encouragement to you, who have come to the important construction site with a high ambition of playing a major role in implementing the Party's far-reaching plan.

"As I have already clarified, our Party and government are planning to implement a new, promising regional development project on the shore of this Amnok River, where damage caused by a natural calamity was removed and a new socialist life has settled.

"The site for the construction of a large greenhouse farm, on which we are now standing, will symbolize our cause of rejuvenating the whole country through a continuous, accelerated struggle, and it will provide another clear picture of the higher stage and processes of development of the regional and rural rejuvenation as has been designed by our Party.

"I take pride in launching this ambitious regional development project, yet I feel more proud of the fact that I have entrusted the important task of carrying out this project to our most faithful large



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Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un pays congratulatory visit to Ministry of National Defence on Day of KPA Founding

KCNA

The heroic Korean People's Army, which has remained faithful to its sacred mission of firmly defending the

sovereignty and security of the state and safeguarding the well-being and happiness of the beloved people with the image of the dignified Workers' Party of Korea embroidered on its glorious

colours, is now greeting its proud 77th founding anniversary along with its undying honour, while recording another year of victory and miracles in the history of army building.

The KPA, the ever-victorious elite ranks, is a source of the most powerful strength and great pride of our Party and

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combined units of the services of the revolutionary armed forces and the youth brigade whose members are in a soaring spirit to wage an unyielding struggle.

"Wherever miraculous successes are achieved and legendary tales of construction are created, I can see the officers and soldiers of the Navy and Air Force units. This is by no means coincidental, and I believe it is an inevitable relationship between you and me, as we always share purpose.

"I am convinced that the officers and soldiers of our Navy and Air Force and the officers and other members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade will give full play to their qualities as befits the elite ranks that are carrying forward the great pioneering spirit with great creations and transformations, and thus present the most splendid and satisfactory structure to our country and people.

"Comrades,

"We are filled with confidence and courage great enough to change the times because we believe in our own strength, and we have the army and young people who are infinitely loyal to the Party's leadership. And we are pushing our way uninterruptedly

towards a powerful country along the path that nobody else in the world has ever trodden because our heroic army and young people are performing feats of labour.

"What you will build is a large-scale greenhouse farm, and yet what surpasses it by far is the prestige of our dignified state, a beautiful life of our beloved people and a lofty ideal we are going to achieve.

"I pay high tribute to the days of creation, which you will glorify with vibrant youth and enthusiasm, and the traces, which you will leave with your strenuous efforts reflective of your ennobling spirit and vigorous steps.

"Along with our ever-prospering times, the happy future of our parents and siblings will always encourage you.

"Let us all advance forward,

"For the high prestige of our army and young people,

"For the transformation of this region to be envied by the world,

"For the eternal prosperity of our motherland!"

When Kim Jong Un finished his rallying speech, all the builders raised the stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" with the single-minded pledge of loyalty looking up with soaring emotion to the great artist of creation and construction, who find all

honours and prides of the revolutionary Party in the people's happiness and is bringing earlier the comprehensive rejuvenation and realistic changes with his ardent spirit of serving the people and great revolutionary will.

Kim Jong Un dug the first spadeful of earth in celebration of the ceremony and pressed the button for blasting.

There was a loud sound of detonation signalling the brilliant future, and fireworks were set off.

The groundbreaking venue was filled with the ardent reverence for the great Party Central Committee that is turning the island afflicted by disasters through generations into an urbanized and modern ideal village of civilization and efflorescence.

Meeting and encouraging the commanding officers of the large combined units of the services of the KPA and the commanding officers of the youth shock brigade, Kim Jong Un gave a series of important instructions related to the project.

Repeatedly appraising that the KPA has always supported the plans and intentions of the Party Central Committee without an inch of deflection and with unconditional practice, he advanced the militant task for the army to push forward dynamically, in parallel with the

greenhouse farm construction, with the dike project qualitatively to provide an eternal security guarantee in the island area on the lower reaches of the Amnok River and reliably defend the happy life of the people from any natural disaster.

All the builders were full of burning enthusiasm for invariably displaying the fame as staunch defenders and thoroughgoing executors of the Party's policy by dedicating themselves to the revolutionary work for promoting the people's wellbeing, cherishing in their pulsating hearts the deep trust and expectation of Kim Jong Un, who put them forward in the vanguard of the struggle to carry out the historic cause unprecedented in the building of the state, and of the Party Central Committee.

Construction of the extra-large greenhouse farm to be launched in the northwestern border area of the country is a great demonstration of the matchless guidance and inexhaustible fighting efficiency of the great WPK, which has put forward the regional development policy in the new era as an oath and pledge it solemnly made for history and the people and is stepping up the huge tasks of the epochal transformation in a most scientific, revolutionary and prudent way.



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people as, mindful of the creed and faith “for our great Party, for our great state and for our great people,” it has won a brilliant victory after another for the country and revolution with the characteristic outlook on the revolution, thoroughgoing patriotic spirit, matchless heroism and devoted service of pursuing the greatest honour and glory only on the road of remaining faithful to the creed and faith.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, paid a congratulatory visit to the Ministry of National Defence of the DPRK on February 8, the 77th founding anniversary of the Korean People’s Army to encourage the service personnel.

The participants were filled with great emotion and joy of meeting the great illustrious commander, who has trained the KPA into a large contingent of brave warriors invariably shining in the vanguard of the era and is steadily leading them to victory and glory with his firmest trust and affection, at the highest command organ of the armed forces of the DPRK on the significant army founding day.

Colours of victory, symbolic of honour of all services and corps, combined units and units at all levels of the KPA, were lined up for the glorious moment.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the Ministry of National Defence, the service personnel of the KPA broke into stormy cheers of “Hurrah!” looking up to the invincible and iron-willed commander who has ushered in a golden age of bolstering

up the revolutionary armed forces with his outstanding ideas of army building and matchless commanding art and is glorifying the noble name of the KPA with victory and glory.

A solemn ceremony of greeting the head of state took place.

After receiving a salute from the head of the guard of honour of the KPA, Kim Jong Un reviewed the guard of honour and the glorious colours of the three services.

He was greeted by No Kwang Chol, Jong Kyong Thack, Ri Yong Gil and other leading commanding officers of the ministry and military and political cadres of the KPA large combined units.

There took place a march-past of the guard of honour of the KPA.

Kim Jong Un met military and political commanding officers at all levels of the Ministry of National Defence and the KPA and made a speech in celebration of the army founding day.

Paying deep respects to the heroic mettle and noble revolutionary spirit of the KPA, which is proudly recording the history of fierce struggle with every eye-opening event and miracle in all parts of the country, flying the ever-victorious and glorious colours, he extended warm congratulations and militant greetings to the generals, officers and soldiers of the KPA who are unsparingly devoting their precious blood and sweat to carrying out the huge important tasks of the revolution.

He highly appreciated the great reputation and glory of the KPA, which has recorded the decades of legendary victories and miracles with its unique spirit and noble soul always remaining true to its sacred appellation of the army

of the Party and the leader, and praised the distinguished services and feats of the service personnel of the KPA, who are striving to firmly defend the happiness and peace of the country and build a greater future.

Outlining the features of the worldwide changes in the political, military and geopolitical structure including the surrounding environment of the state, he stressed the need to more highly develop the war response posture of the DPRK’s armed forces to proactively cope with any variable security situation.

He continued:

The US nuclear strategic means constantly deployed on the Korean peninsula, the US-led bilateral and multilateral nuclear war simulation exercises staged on the level of actual war, the US-Japan-ROK tripartite military alliance system established according to the US regional military bloc scenario and the formation of the Asian version of NATO as its axis constitute a basic factor that causes military imbalance and a new conflicting structure on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia, and they are raising a grave challenge to the security environment of our state.

It is a correct answer to tell those who worship supremacy of power with the language only they can understand. The DPRK does not want unnecessary tension in the regional situation but will take sustained countermeasures to ensure the regional military balance out of the aspiration for preventing the outbreak of a new war and ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

The Middle East crises including those in the Gaza Strip and Syria and the issue

of Ukraine, which were scenes of global geopolitical conflicts and confrontation last year, are expected to flow as the main current of the tense international situation trend this year, too. The geopolitical crises caused by the US in different parts of the world are further increasing the danger of the outbreak of a new world war and having a serious impact not only on international peace and security but also on all other spheres of human activities.

Standing in the centre behind the war machine, which is stirring up the tragic situation in Ukraine that has lasted for three years amid a serious concern of the world people, is the US, an entity that is carrying the fixed name of the wrecker of global peace and stability, hallucinated by a wild ambition for establishing unipolar hegemony. The reckless behaviours of the US and the Western group of intentionally fostering the prolonged war from the unrealizable dream of dealing strategic setbacks to Russia are arousing a serious concern.

It is the invariable stand of the DPRK government to oppose and reject any acts of denying the international justice and disturbing global peace and security, and our army and people will invariably support and encourage the just cause of the Russian army and people to defend their sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, in keeping with the spirit of the treaty on the comprehensive strategic partnership between the DPRK and Russia.

The dark shadows of the US, which appear without fail behind the world’s big and small disputes and tragedies of bloodshed at present, prove that the line

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of our Party and government aspiring to the building of an unlimited defence capability is most just. Our revolutionary armed forces should always and practically be faithful to their supreme duty to defend the Constitution of the DPRK and the state and people.

Referring to a series of new plans for rapidly bolstering all deterrents including the nuclear forces, Kim Jong Un clarified once again the unshakable policy of more highly developing the nuclear forces.

The future of the KPA, the pride of our great people and symbol of the honour and strength of our state, depends mainly on its commanding officers. The KPA should consistently hold fast to and more thoroughly carry out the task of making itself politically, ideologically and morally strong, before anything else, and in this regard it is particularly important to train our service personnel into the fighters strong in ideology and faith, filled with a correct understanding of the enemy and indomitable will to fight with the enemy.

Kim Jong Un set forth important tasks which will serve as the guidelines for further strengthening the KPA into a matchless revolutionary army, including those of making this year a year of training by further kindling the flames of the training revolution on the principle of increasing the combat capability of the KPA to the highest level, making war preparations more thoroughly as required by modern warfare and waging a fierce struggle to establish steel-like order and sound military discipline.

Expressing belief that the glorious history of struggle and feats of the heroic KPA boundlessly loyal to the Party, the country and the people will record more exciting and noble events in the course of the development of our eternally powerful state, he ardently called for continuing to fight courageously for the dignity and great might of the DPRK and for the peace and happiness of our beloved people.

The speech by the great brilliant commander, which clarified ambitious measures for army building that will lead the brilliant history of the revolutionary

armed forces to eternal victory and glory, made the military and political commanding officers' hearts beat with boundless emotion.

When Kim Jong Un finished his speech, the participants raised the enthusiastic cheers of "Hurrah!"

All the commanding officers were filled with the firm faith and militant enthusiasm to remain faithful to the mission and duty as the army of the Party, the army of the leader and the genuine army of the people to the last for the great Comrade Kim Jong Un, for the prosperity of our great state and for the happiness and peace of our great people.

Kim Jong Un had a photo session with the commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence, soldiers of sub-units under it and military and political commanding officers of units of the services and large combined units at all levels of the KPA and combined units and units under them as a token of his visit to the ministry.

When he appeared at the venue of the photo session, all the participants paid the highest glory and tribute to the great brilliant commander who is training the KPA into the most powerful entity in the world overwhelmingly winning any formidable enemy ideologically and mentally, militarily and technically and into a patriotic vanguard advancing bravely, shoulder any missions for the prosperity and development of the country, through his continued, immortal guidance over the army.

He said that although the days of army founding and war victory to be specially recorded in the history of the struggle of the revolutionary armed forces are becoming far distant with the passage of time, we should always remember the spirit and soul of the revolutionary

forerunners, who provided the origin of the tradition of eternal victory of heroic Korea, an independent power, and laid the cornerstone of building a rich country with a strong army through an ever-victorious tradition, adding that we should proudly write an honourable new chapter of history of our generation by performing miraculous feats and creating wonderful legendary tales beyond precedents and limits, staking the honour of our times and our army.

He expressed expectation and belief that the commanding officers of the KPA, mindful of their important task for glorifying the great pioneering with greater succession, will always demonstrate its undying fame in the sacred war for defending the Party and the revolution and safeguarding the territory and people with their unique sense of pride, a strong sense of self-respect and indomitable fighting spirit of guaranteeing the most just cause in the world with arms.

Resounding far and wide in the sky of February were the shouts "Kim Jong Un" and "Death-defying defence" raised by all the participants in reflection of their firm pledge to steadily glorify with distinguished services of their generation the heroic history and tradition of the KPA which has performed brilliant feats in the history of the country following the great Party.

Kim Jong Un's visit to the Ministry of National Defence will be recorded in history as a sacred one which further highlighted the ennobling mission of the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK to firmly guarantee the sure victory of the DPRK with arms and vigorously propel the grand all-people advance for comprehensive national rejuvenation with the ardent pioneering spirit and indomitable mettle.



Nation celebrates anniv of Korean People's Army

KPA commanding officers visit Kumsusan Palace of Sun



Commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence and commanders of the KPA services and large combined units visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on the occasion of the Day of Army Founding.

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On the occasion of the 77th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army, all the service personnel and people of the DPRK paid the highest tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who achieved the great cause of building the army by dint of self-reliance with his far-sightedness and original military idea for self-defence and outstanding commanding art and devoted their

whole lives to training our revolutionary armed forces into the renowned elite army of the Workers' Party of Korea. Commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence including No Kwang Chol, Jong Kyong Thack and Ri Yong Gil and commanders of the KPA services and large combined units visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche, on the occasion of the Day of Army Founding. The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where the eternal

leaders of our powerful and dignified Party, state and people are preserved in their lifetime appearance was wrapped in the most solemn atmosphere. A flower basket in the name of the KPA was laid before the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. The participants paid high tribute to them at the statues in reflection of the unanimous mind of all the service personnel of the armed forces of the DPRK. At the halls where the great leaders lie in state, the participants paid homage to

them in humblest reverence. All the participants solemnly pledged to glorify the ever-victorious history and tradition of the Korean People's Army for all ages, firmly defend the inviolable sovereignty of the DPRK, our glorious country, and the honour of the Korean people and guarantee an era of comprehensive prosperity of our state with heroic struggle and brilliant feats, true to the idea and leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the greatest brilliant commander.

Koreans pay floral tribute to great leaders

KCNA

Officials, service personnel, working people, students and schoolchildren visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il throughout the DPRK to lay baskets of flowers and bouquets to mark the 77th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army. Flower baskets were placed at the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang in the name of the organs of the Workers' Party of Korea, the government and the armed forces, ministries, national agencies, the units of the KPA and the Public Security Forces, factories and universities. The visitors made a bow at the statues. Floral tributes were also paid at their statues in different parts of Pyongyang including Kim Il Sung University in the name of KPA and PSF units, institutions and enterprises. KPA service personnel, working people, students and schoolchildren in local areas across the country also paid their respect to the peerlessly great men at their statues in localities.



Service personnel pay high tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at their statues.

KPA commanding officers hold sports competition

KCNA

Commanding officers of the Korean People's Army held a sports competition on February 8, the 77th anniversary of the KPA. The event was seen by No Kwang Chol, Jong Kyong Thack, Ri Yong Gil and other commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence and military and political commanding officers and other service personnel of KPA units at all levels. It was held divided into Kumsungsan and Ryongaksan teams. A volleyball match was played first. The Ryongaksan team won the tight game 2-0. Then there was a demonstration of martial arts and power breaking performed by KPA combatants. There were also various amusement games including the crossword puzzle after hurdles. The Kumsungsan team won at tug-of-war. And the Ryongaksan team was the overall winner of the competition.



KPA commanding officers hold a sports competition in celebration of the Day of Army Founding on February 8.

People's delegations visit KPA units

KCNA

People's delegations composed of senior Party and government officials, officials of ministries, national agencies and local Party and power organs visited units of the Korean People's Army on the occasion of the Day of Army Founding. Service personnel gladly greeted the members of the delegations who brought the warm sincerity of all the people for the sons and daughters in the posts who are spending the days of

honourable service on the defence line of the country and major worksites of socialist construction. The members of the people's delegations warmly congratulated the service personnel on the founding anniversary of the KPA. They informed the soldiers of the news of their hometowns undergoing changes day by day. They also told about the labour feats of the people in the rear who are dynamically waging the patriotic movement and the drive for increased production for implementing

the decisions of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party Korea. Seeing the reliable and stout servicepersons who are stepping up the combat and political training to glorify this year marking the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea and the 80th anniversary of national liberation as a year of bringing about a decisive turn in bolstering up the military capabilities and rounding off the combat preparations, they cherished once again that the safety of the country and the

happiness of the people are firmly defended thanks to the powerful revolutionary army remaining absolutely loyal to and obeying the Party's orders and instructions. Feeling the warm sincerity of the members of the people's delegations, the service personnel of the KPA renewed their will to perform proud feats in the sacred struggle for the eternal prosperity of the state and the well-being of the people, always remembering the expectations and requests of the country and the people.

Reception given to celebrate anniv of KPA

KCNA

A reception was given on February 8 to mark the 77th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army. Present there were No Kwang Chol, Jong Kyong Thack, Ri Yong Gil and

other commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence and military and political commanding officers of units at all levels of the Korean People's Army. Speeches were made there. Speakers said that it is the great honour and happiness only revolutionary soldiers

with arms in hand can enjoy to celebrate the Day of Army Founding under the warm loving care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un this year, too, after last year. They called on all the participants to faithfully carry the honour of our generation and army

on their shoulders with epaulettes shining with stars of noble trust and make courageous advance and struggle toward the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea as befit the core elements of the revolutionary army trained by the great Party.

Nation celebrates anniv of Korean People's Army

Music and dance performance given

KCNA

Music and dance performance was given at the April 25 House of Culture on February 8, the 77th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army (KPA).

Among the audience were officials of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, service personnel and officials

and persons of merits in Pyongyang who set an example in aiding the army.

Put on the stage of the performance given by artistes and students of art troupes and art education institutions of the army were preludes "Look at Us" and "Song of the Korean People's Army", female trio "The Country I Am Defending", instrumental music and song "Our Trench

and narrative poem "For the Country and the People".

The performers sang in praise of the militant might of the KPA which has grown into a matchless army and patriotic vanguard unit.

The performance ended with final songs "My Powerful Motherland" and "Seventh Regiment Is in the Van of Us Today, Too".

KPA founding anniversary celebrated across country



Many people visit the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery and art performances are given at different places of the capital city.

KCNA

All the people across the DPRK significantly celebrated the 77th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Many people, who visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state, entered the plaza park and looked back upon their revolutionary careers.

Officials, working people, service personnel, youth and students visited the statues of the great leaders and mosaics depicting their images on Mansu Hill and

in different parts of the country, laid flower baskets, bouquets and flowers before paying tribute to them.

At the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, working people, youth and students recollected the fighting spirit of the victorious wartime generation who created the history of heroic war victory under the guidance of the President.

Many people visited the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery.

The national flags fluttered at major places in Pyongyang and provincial capitals, city and county seats and institutions, enterprises, factories and

farms across the country, and visual aids were displayed to rev up the festive mood.

Art performances were given at theatres and different places of the capital city and in different parts of the country.

Public catering establishments in Pyongyang and different parts of the country, the Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum, the Munsu Water Park and other leisure centres were crowded with working people. The spectacular nocturnal electric light decoration in different parts of the capital city including Songhwa, Hwasong, Rimhung and Jonwi streets added to the pleasure of the people.



A music and dance performance is given at the April 25 House of Culture on February 8, the 77th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

Dance parties of youth and students held

KCNA

Dance parties of youth and students took place across the country on February 8, the 77th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Youth and students

danced with reverence for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Amid the playing of "Arms and Youth" and "Train to the Front", they danced with the enthusiasm to hold arms in their hands, wipe out all the aggressors

and fly the flags of war victory again when the moment of a decisive battle comes.

On the same day, dance parties of youth and students took place in provincial capitals, cities and counties, too.

Working people's organizations hold meetings with DPRK heroes, war veteran

KCNA

Meetings with DPRK heroes and a war veteran took place at working people's organizations on February 6 on the occasion of the 77th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

DPRK Hero Pak In Ho, a lecturer at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, told about the feats performed by the sailors of the Korean People's Army in January 1968 when they captured the US imperialist armed spy ship Pueblo which intruded into the territorial waters of the DPRK.

Ho Ryong, a lecturer of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, said that he could lead a worthwhile life as a hero pilot



Workers and trade union members meet with Ho Ryong, DPRK Hero and lecturer of Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

well-known to the whole country under the care of the peerlessly great men.

The story about his military feats in the battle to repulse the US imperialists' strategic reconnaissance plane, which intruded into the sky over the economic waters of the East Sea of Korea, touched the heartstrings of the participants.

War veteran Kim Juk Song

told about the words of the letter of pledge adopted by the sailors before the naval battle in the sea off Jumunjin and the days when she was engaged as a head nurse in intense medical treatment in the battlefields to save the lives of her comrades-in-arms during the Fatherland Liberation War.

Present at the meetings

were Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Jon Hyang Sun, chairwoman of the women's union central committee, officials of the youth league, GFTUK and women's union, youth and students, workers and trade union and women's union members in Pyongyang.

Agricultural workers hold study session on virtues of great leaders

KCNA

A study session on the reminiscences of virtues of the peerlessly great men was held by agricultural workers and members of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea at the Songsin Vegetable Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, on February 7 in celebration of the 77th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Present there were Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the UAWK, officials concerned, officials of the union and agricultural workers.

Ri Yong Chol, vice-

chairman of the UAWK Central Committee, explained the main contents of the reminiscences of virtues, entitled "The Korean People's Revolutionary Army develops into regular revolutionary armed forces under the warm care of Comrade Kim Il Sung".

He referred to the undying feats President Kim Il Sung performed as he founded the Korean People's Army, the Juche-type revolutionary regular armed forces, in less than three years after the liberation of Korea with his outstanding ideas and energetic leadership.

Then speeches were made.

Inaugural ceremonies of regional-industry factories for Regional Development 20×10 Policy held in different counties

Modern factories rise up in succession to contribute to improving material and cultural life of people in Unsan, Ichon and Kim Hyong Jik counties



An inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories takes place in Unsan County on February 7.

KCNA

Modern regional-industry factories have successfully been built in Unsan County, North Phyongan Province, under the energetic leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The factories built in the mountainous county are a valuable creation that will provide the county's inhabitants with a rich life and firmly support the regional economic development.

An inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories in Unsan County for the

Regional Development 20×10 Policy took place on the spot on February 7.

Kim Chol Sam, chief secretary of the North Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, made an inaugural address.

The speaker said that the great historic cause of the comprehensive development of regional industry was decided as the most important political task of the Party and the state and its brilliant entities have appeared. It is a great revolution that can be made

only by the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un who regards it as his whole life to devote himself to the people, he noted.

He extended greetings to the service personnel of the construction regiment who successfully built the regional-industry factories, expressing belief that they would demonstrate the honour of the vanguard taking the lead in carrying out the Party's far-reaching plan in a new construction site, too.

Sin Myong Son, chief secretary of the Unsan County Party Committee,

in his speech expressed his determination to become a true servant of the people who takes the lead in carrying out the Party's plan for bringing about regional rejuvenation and thus turn Unsan County into an ideal village full of happy laughter, always bearing in mind the heavy responsibility as an official in direct charge of implementing the Party's policy on regional development.

The owners of the new factories cut off the inauguration tape.

At the end of the ceremony, the participants made the

rounds of the modern regional-industry factories.

A colourful art performance and a cheerful dance party were held to celebrate the grand auspicious event of the county.

That evening, a stunning display of fireworks lit up the nocturnal sky over Unsan County, blessing the bright future of the people in the county.

A ceremony for inaugurating the regional-industry factories in Ichon County, Kangwon Province, took place with splendour on February 9.

The ceremony venue was full of joy of officials and working people in the province and the county and soldier-builders greeting the significant auspicious event.

Pack Song Guk, chief secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the WPK, addressed the ceremony.

It seems yesterday that the people were moved to hear the news about the appearance of wonderful regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County under the



A ceremony is held on February 9 to inaugurate the regional-industry factories in Ichon County, Kangwon Province.

FROM PAGE 10

loving care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, and today Ichon County celebrates the inauguration of modern regional-industry factories with splendour, the speaker said, adding that this gigantic change symbolic of the new era of regional rejuvenation is a miracle of history that can be brought about only by the great father

of the people.

Calling on all the officials, Party members and other working people in the province to work harder with the firm conviction that the victory of the regional-industry revolution in the new era is sure to win thanks to the wise leadership of the great Party Central Committee, he warmly congratulated the people in Ichon County who would lead a beautiful

life with precious wealth of prosperity and happiness.

An Chol Min, chief secretary of the Ichon County Committee of the WPK, said in his speech that positive efforts would be made to develop and use the regional economic resources and potentials to the maximum and effectively and the production of condiments and consumer goods would be normalized on a high level to ensure that the validity of

the Party's policies can be displayed as a highly-civilized and affluent material and cultural life of the people.

Amid the cheers for joy and excitement at the birth of new factories, their owners cut the inauguration tape.

After the ceremony, its participants went round the newly-built factories.

Beautiful fireworks were displayed in the nocturnal sky of Ichon County to bless

the future of the county to be turned into a richer and more civilized one.

The first year task for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy has successfully been finished with the inauguration of regional-industry factories in Kim Hyong Jik County.

An inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories in Kim Hyong Jik County took place with splendour on

February 11 amid the limelight of the whole country.

Present there were officials and working people in Ryanggang Province and Kim Hyong Jik County and soldier-builders.

Addressing the ceremony, Ri Thae Il, chief secretary of the Ryanggang Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said that

SEE PAGE 12



An inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories takes place in Kim Hyong Jik County on February 11.

A proud step for regional construction in new year for expanding and promoting overall development

Groundbreaking ceremony of regional-industry factories and hospital held in Ryonggang County



A groundbreaking ceremony of regional-industry factories and a hospital for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy takes place in Ryonggang County on February 9.

KCNA

On February 9, there took place a groundbreaking ceremony of regional-industry factories and a hospital in Ryonggang County for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

Present at the ceremony were Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, and other senior Party, government and military officials, service personnel of the Korean People's Army involved in the construction and officials and

working people in Nampho Municipality and Ryonggang County.

Pak Thae Song addressed the ceremony.

He said that a model hospital as well as regional-industry factories would be simultaneously built in Ryonggang County, too, this year that has entered a new stage at which the regional development policy is further expanded and implemented in accordance with the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the

Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The construction of modern city and county hospitals according to the noble plan of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un is an important undertaking which brooks no further delay as it is a very important affair related to the life and safety of regional people, and it is essential work for the comprehensive and sustained development of regions, he noted.

It is Comrade Kim Jong Un's intention that though the

tasks to be carried out are heavy and huge, the construction projects promised to the people can never be postponed and a solid prospect for regional development in the new era should be provided with better successes than last year, he said, calling on the soldier-builders to regard the quality of construction as the primary criterion and direct all the processes of the project to it, and, in particular, to display the responsible and meticulous

work style in the construction of the hospital whose every factor of process, sequence and construction work requires very high quality in health and hygienic and architectural aspects.

The most just and sacred mission and the most noble and important consciousness are further accelerating the historic struggle for regional rejuvenation in the new era, the premier said, calling for making precious successes in succession in the struggle to achieve regional rejuvenation

for the happy laughter of the people across the country and for the future of the beloved country which will prosper forever.

A blasting was conducted to declare the start of the construction project.

Emotion-charged cheers resounded with the echo calling for advance toward the greater new revolution and the more innovative stage of development and toward the attainment of expanded higher goal in the huge creative struggle.

FROM PAGE 11

the present inauguration ceremony is building up confidence in the validity of our cause and optimism about the victory in the new stage. He expressed warm militant

salute to the brave service personnel of the construction regiment and congratulations to the officials of relevant units and the province and the county and all the residents of the county full of enthusiasm and confidence for creating a

new life.

Then, Yun Chang Sik, chief secretary of the Kim Hyong Jik County Committee of the WPK, made a speech. He extended thanks to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who provided

the wonderful entity all the county residents had been waiting for so much.

He expressed the firm determination to fully display the spirit of absolute service to the people so that the Party's warm love and

benevolence reach the county residents and to turn the county associated with the revolutionary activities of the peerlessly great men into a rich land well-known to the whole country.

Owners of the new factories

cut the inauguration tape amid the participants' enthusiastic cheers and applause.

An art performance was given to add to the joy of the participants significantly celebrating the great auspicious event.



Locals are happy as they see products from regional-industry factories in Kim Hyong Jik County.

Long journey for the good of the country and people

By Ri Sung Ik PT

On February 16 1942, Chairman Kim Jong Il was born. He was the great leader who led the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people along the road of victory.

He made a long journey of field guidance day and night throughout his revolutionary leadership. The total length of his field inspection tours was over 669 844 kilometres, the distance long enough to go round the earth nearly 17 times. During his high-intensity forced march he visited more than 14 290 units.

His energetic field guidance brought about miracles and innovations in the 1960s when a landmark of epochal change was provided in the building and activities of the WPK and the 1970s and 1980s characterized by creation and transformation.

In the 1990s when everything was in short supply, he unveiled a grand plan for building a thriving nation which was unimaginable in common sense and continued the high-intensity forced march for defending the country, building an economic giant and improving the



Chairman Kim Jong Il's birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp.

people's living standards.

In the last three years of his revolutionary life alone, he went on a long train journey to inspect nearly 1 000 units and sow the seeds of prosperity and happiness.

He provided field guidance also in December 2011, the last month

of his great life.

The intensity of the forced march for field guidance made by the Chairman, who devoted his all solely to the happiness of the people, is unimaginable with ordinary senses.

Born to Kim Il Sung, commander

of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, and Kim Jong Suk, woman general of the revolutionary army, he led a guerrilla-style life from the moment of his birth.

The house where he was born was a log cabin of guerrillas, and those who blessed his future were guerrilla

warriors. Women guerrillas gathered bits of cloth and patched them together into a quilt for him and male guerrillas carved pistols out of pieces of wood and gave them as presents to him on his first birthday.

He grew up hearing the gunfire of the anti-Japanese war like a lullaby and the songs he learned for the first time were the war songs of guerrillas.

It is said that hardship and ordeal make the best school.

While the arduousness, complexity and fierceness of the anti-Japanese armed struggle made all the guerrillas heroes and indomitable fighters who did not yield to any hardships and ordeals, the hardships and ordeals he experienced in his childhood and the spirit of the anti-Japanese guerrillas he cherished as blood and flesh served as nourishment for his growth to be a great man and the driving force of his great hectic life for the people.

That is why he travelled more than 669 844 kilometres for on-the-spot guidance in a guerrilla style to build up the socialist country, the genuine embrace for the people, on this land.



'I keenly felt the world of great love for and devotion to people'

On October 7 2011, Chairman Kim Jong Il visited our factory and dropped in at the production site, saying he came to look it round after hearing a report that the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory had wonderfully been developed into a production base capable of mass-producing various kinds of essential plastic goods.

As he saw honoured disabled soldiers operate machines skillfully, he praised them for not only having overfulfilled the national economic plan every year by normalizing production without even a day's interruption during the Arduous March but also helped the service personnel well, saying they had done a good job.

At the time we did not know why he was so satisfied on the visit to a small factory where honoured disabled soldiers worked, not a large factory of national significance.

He was told that the honoured disabled soldiers and employees had renovated the factory in keeping with the requirements of the new century while

simultaneously pushing ahead with production with disabled bodies, he said, noting it could be done only by honoured disabled soldiers who live with the single desire to give pleasure to the Party at the cost of their blood and sweat. Hearing his high praise for us, we were moved to tears as we keenly felt his great love for and devotion to the people.

Everyone would know that the Chairman continued his high-intensity forced march for field inspection of many units across the country.

Many revolutionary anecdotes and legendary stories were told about his high-intensity forced march and they still touch the heartstrings of the people.

But after looking round the factory, he was very satisfied that the honoured disabled soldiers and employees of the factory had revamped the production process with modern cutting-edge equipment and provided a cultured way of production and life on a high level by their own efforts and technology, giving the factory a remarkable facelift.

Bearing in mind the great expectation of the Chairman who hoped that the honoured disabled soldiers would live a worthwhile life like soldiers in active service without putting off their military uniforms in mind, I told him that we wish we would have him at the factory once again when it would mass-produce various kinds of vinyl goods favoured by the people in the future.

That day he granted the request we made without reserve and had a photo session with us, and repeatedly asked us all to work well in good health.

I still remember the benevolent image of Chairman Kim Jong Il who asked us repeatedly to work well in good health, without caring for his health.

We will keep in mind the earnest request he made that day that we, honoured disabled soldiers, carry on the revolution, and work hard to put production on a normal footing.

Kang Nam Ik, *manager of the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory*

Revolutionary anecdote

Chairman's birthdays

Consultative meeting

Chairman Kim Jong Il was engrossed in his work on February 16 1984.

Some officials suggested he should have a little rest as it was his birthday.

However, he said how he would rest when he had so much work to do, and called a consultative meeting on the issues of improving the people's standard of living.

The speech "On Further Improving the Standard of Living of the People" made by the Chairman at the consultative meeting served as important guidelines for improving the people's living standards.

Potato dishes

On February 16 1999, Chairman Kim Jong Il oversaw the training of the People's Army soldiers and took warm care of their living and returned from his field inspection tour when it was already dark.

Then he sat at the dinner table with some officials.

At the table with just a few potato dishes on it, he said that he spent the day with the People's Army soldiers, it was his pleasure to spend a day for the soldiers and people and that was his holiday, and that he would live for none other than the soldiers and people.

He offered the officials to come closer to the table and taste the potato dishes together and said that he had those dishes served that evening to find a way to bring about a revolution in potato farming and improve the people's diet, while tasting the dishes made of potatoes.

Hostel food

It was the morning of February 16 one year.

Chairman Kim Jong Il had an official go to a hostel and bring several helpings of the foods served to the lodgers.

Though he did not know the reason, the official went to the hostel and brought several servings of breakfast.

But he could not even think of the Chairman having that plain hostel meal on the morning of his birthday.

Later, the Chairman told an official concerned that as he wanted to mark his birthday with the people and learn about the eating conditions of the hostellers, he brought the foods from a hostel and had them with his family. He added that even the boiled rice did not taste so good and that he would bring and taste meals from another hostel next time. It was only then that the official understood the reason why he had asked to bring the hostel food.



Korean folk holiday Jongwoldaeborum

By Pang Un Ju PT

Jongwoldaeborum, or the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar, is one of the folk holidays celebrated by the Korean people along with lunar New Year's Day and Chusok.

The holiday starts on January 14 by the lunar calendar as the small full moon day and the following day was called the big full moon day.

From olden times, the Korean people held various ritual functions on the holiday reflecting their simple desire for a good fortune and rich harvest in the New Year.

On the small full moon day, ears of rice, sorghum, millet and foxtail millet were hung on the stack poles with banners inscribed with letters praying for good harvest below them. Then, children sang and danced going round the poles. And there was a custom of applying manure to the fields early that morning.

On the evening of Jongwoldaeborum, all villagers climbed a high mountain or hill in their village and enjoyed the sight of the rising moon, which was called welcoming the first full moon.

People believed that luck was given to those who saw the rising moon first, and

they predicted the success or failure of the year's farming by the shape of the full moon.

Various folk games were played on the holiday.

Typical of them are kite-flying, pinwheel-spinning and tug-of-war.

The Koreans made traditional dishes on the holiday and shared them with each other.

Typical dishes of Jongwoldaeborum are ogokpap (boiled rice mixed with four other cereals) and nine kinds of dried herbs.

The custom of eating ogokpap and nine herbs is associated with the Korean people's love for their native land as they have created their own eating habits and developed their food culture with various ingredients abundant in their own localities.

It also reflects the idea of the healthcare principle that health is ensured by a balanced diet of five cereals and various kinds of edible herbs.

Thanks to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on protecting national heritage, Jongwoldaeborum and the custom of welcoming the full moon were registered as national intangible cultural heritage elements and the folk holiday is still a part of the Korean people's life.

This year's Jongwoldaeborum falls on February 12.

First full moon day celebrated

KCNA

All the people in the DPRK enjoyed their folk holiday of Jongwoldaeborum, the first full moon day (15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar).

The citizens of Pyongyang visited the Rangnang Museum in the Rangnang area and spent a pleasant time playing archery and other

colourful folk games.

Various kinds of national foods were served at public catering establishments in the capital city and other regions of the country decked in a festive attire.

The Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum, the Munsu Water Park and other amenities were crowded with working people, youth and students.

The happy scenes of

housewives making national foods and dishes with sincerity at homes, working people playing chess and yut games and cheerful children enjoying folk games revved up the holiday atmosphere.

When the full moon came up, conspicuous scenes of citizens enjoying it were seen in Moran Hill, Ryongwang Pavilion, Songhwa, Hwasong, Rimhung and

Jonwi streets of Pyongyang and in all other parts of the country.

Enjoying the folk holiday, the people in the country heartily wished the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who is cultivating a grand flower garden of love for the people with his immense passion and warm affection, good health and hoped for national prosperity and the happiness of families.



People throughout the country celebrate the folk holiday of Jongwoldaeborum (the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar). PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Colourful and delightful winter vacation

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Students are now on winter vacation. What do they do during the vacation?

It is difficult to say in a word, they organize their life during the vacation in a diverse way.

They review and prepare lessons, study at hobby groups to cultivate talents and have a pleasant time as they visit different places and see art performances.

In the period, extracurricular groups at

schools and children's palaces across the country are operated more actively.

There are various kinds of hobby groups according to subjects and art and sports groups teaching vocal music, the accordion, dance, football, volleyball and so on.

It is the students' goal during vacation to improve their performance in subjects they like or those in which they lag behind others and to acquire more than one skill.

The Sci-Tech Complex

and the Natural History Museum are the favourite haunts of many students with a strong desire for learning and consolidating what they learned.

There are university students and schoolchildren wearing red ties.

Meanwhile, in the children's dream hall of the Sci-Tech Complex, schoolchildren are busy trying to grasp the scientific principles of the phenomena they often encounter in everyday life.

A primary school teacher

reminded her pupils the problems discussed in class in the hall. Leaving the hall, she said to the guide that she keenly felt once again the advantages of visual education.

With immense curiosity about nature millions of years ago, students visit the Natural History Museum and the Central Zoo almost every day.

Meanwhile, students spend a good time with their family members or friends at theatres, cinemas, the Munsu Water Park, Yangdok Hot

Spring Resort, Masikryong Ski Resort and other leisure centres built in different parts of the country.

Parks are crowded with children flying kites, spinning tops, playing shuttlecock, skipping ropes and playing other folk games. And at outdoor ice rinks they do skating or ride sleigh till late at night.

Vacation is a precious period for students to cultivate patriotism and acquire noble moral traits.

Schoolchildren visit factories, enterprises and grand socialist construction sites, which are seething with innovations to implement the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, to assist working people with their work and give art performances. Workers give them big hand and lavish praise on the people, visualizing a brighter future of the country through their faces.



Schoolchildren enjoy themselves during the winter vacation. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Press statement of spokesman for DPRK Ministry of National Defence

KCNA

A spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence of the DPRK on February 11 issued the following press statement, titled "We will make clearer our choice of action and mode of counteraction against the US":

The Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarine Alexandria of the US Navy entered the Pusan operation base of the ROK on February 10 on the pretext of the rest of the crew and replenishment of munitions.

A clear expression of the US invariable hysteria for

confrontation with the DPRK, the first overt emergence of a US nuclear submarine in the Korean peninsula this year is an undeniable threat to the security environment of the DPRK and an instable factor further escalating the military tension in the region.

The US is openly ignoring the security concern of the DPRK.

We express grave concern over the US dangerous hostile military act that can lead the acute military confrontation in the region surrounding the Korean peninsula to an actual armed conflict and strongly warn that the US should stop provocations stirring up the

instability any longer.

The practical reality clearly indicates why the new step for strengthening the nuclear capability and self-defensive power clarified by our head of state recently is just and which way we should inevitably advance.

We will not flinch even an inch from the conflicting structure with the outrageous rival state.

To thoroughly contain only with corresponding strength the US, the hegemonic entity believing blindly in domination by strength, is the answer the reality is giving and the responding principle we have already maintained.

Our armed forces are strictly

watching the frequent appearance of the US strategic means on the Korean peninsula and are ready for using any means to defend the security and interests of the state and the regional peace.

We will make clearer our choice of action and mode of counteraction against our rivals.

The armed forces of the DPRK always faithful to the constitutional duty to defend the security of the state will do acts of deterring the factors threatening the regional security environment and unhesitatingly exercise the legitimate right to punish the provokers.

KCNA commentary on anti-DPRK remarks of NATO and EU

Shortly ago, NATO and the European Union let loose sophism without common sense ignoring the reality to make the world laugh at them.

Spokespersons for these groups which have developed into anti-DPRK confrontation ones that are faithful to the US grumbled that the DPRK "cannot be recognized as a nuclear weapons state", making anachronistic remarks that "it should dismantle its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and all other WMDs and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible way."

No one has ever called for "recognition" but the "noble gentlemen" are talking nonsense from old broken-down gramophone, evoking sympathy as they became poor creatures with their eyes and ears closed to the newly changed reality.

It cannot but be a right occasion for making the people look back once again upon what this force, which is advocating global "peace" and "security" more vehemently than anyone else, has brought to mankind and what its purpose is in making a string of incoherent remarks.

The world is now spending days and months of bitter pains it has never suffered in any times owing to the acts of destroying peace by the US-led Western forces.

It has already been well known that the Ukrainian crisis has steadily been expanded and the vicious cycle of war has been repeated in the Middle East owing to the US and the West's shameless pursuit of geopolitical interests.

Moreover, the old gangster-like groups are making desperate efforts to wreck peace even on the Korean peninsula which is geographically far away from them.

Last year alone, huge forces of the West including NATO and EU member states were dispatched to the vicinity of the DPRK at the US order and conducted provocative military drills premised on the outbreak of a nuclear war.

NATO set up a so-called full-time mission before anything else

this year to intensify aggression moves by alluring the most bellicose forces in the region around the Korean peninsula under the pretext of "strengthening security cooperation".

All facts go to prove that such remarks as the "irretrievable verification" made by NATO and the European Union pretending to be an "apostle of peace" have nothing to do with the global "security" and that if there is any, they only revealed the wild ambition of the confrontational maniacs to disarm the DPRK and thus achieve their sinister political and military purpose smoothly.

Herein lies the reason why the justness of the DPRK's policy on bolstering up its nuclear forces without any limitation is highlighted.

The DPRK makes it clear once again that its nuclear weapons are neither an "advertisement" for winning somebody's "recognition" nor a "bargaining chip" for a few pennies.

The nuclear forces of the DPRK are the immutable ones for real war to promptly smash the origin of any attempt of the hostile forces to infringe the sovereignty of the country and the security of its people and threaten regional peace.

At this opportunity, we advise the UN, which chimed in with the grumbles of the anti-peace forces, to cool-headedly recognize what forces are causing the vortex of war in different parts of the world and to remain faithful to its purpose and mission, before commenting on the just measures of a sovereign state for self-defence.

What is more obvious at the present time is that the hostile forces seeking sinister intention are feeling great fear and uneasiness before the nuclear forces of the DPRK.

The hysteric symptoms of the anti-DPRK groups which are making a fuss with no particular view will promptly disappear when they are accustomed to the important events being made by the DPRK in response to the hostile forces' frenzy.

US is ferocious robber that seizes territories and sovereignty of other countries: KCNA

The world is now seething over the US "bomb declaration".

The present US administration on February 4 declared that if Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are displaced to other parts, the US will take it over.

On February 9 the US again blustered that it would buy, own and administer Gaza and that it may be divided into regions to be rebuilt by other countries.

The whole world has been stunned by the outrageous outbursts which wantonly trample on the slightest expectation of the Palestinians aspiring to regional peace and a stable life at a time when the domestic and international concern about the fragile truce in the tear-and blood-stained Gaza Strip is growing.

Not only Palestine, Iran and other Middle East countries but also even the Western allies of the US denounce this as an "act of deporting people in Gaza", "wanton violation of the UN Charter and international law", "disregard of the right to self-determination of Palestinians", "major obstacle to the two-state solution" and "act that can never be tolerated".

The US natural character of existing through massacre and plunder and its hegemonic and aggressive ambition for world domination are clearly proved by the present days of Gaza, not by the past history.

The world people clearly remember who patronized and fostered the inhuman atrocities and vetoed several times the resolution of the UNSC which reflected the demand for an immediate truce, talking about Israel's "right to self-defence", and who gave the murderers cutting-edge lethal weapons and invited the war criminal to Congress to applaud him.

A voice was openly heard within Israel that the war cannot be waged without the US and world media commented that the US policy towards the Middle East is the main cause of the Gaza crisis. Such facts clearly prove the criminal acts of the US, active

participant and supporter of the massacres.

Far from feeling even a bit of reflection at wretched Gaza which turned into a grave of masses and debris, the US openly blustered that it would displace Palestinians and administer the land, only to reveal by itself that its brigandish intention based on the jungle law to finally occupy the Gaza Strip and expand a new springboard for carrying out the strategy for dominating the Middle East is the bottom line of fanning the ambition of the territorial expansion of its minion.

This is the US, a ferocious robber that seizes the territories and sovereignty of other countries and nations, not content with wantonly violating their life and rights for its own interests.

It is by no means a problem belonging only to the Gaza Strip.

As soon as the present US administration took office, it has mocked at international law and principles by attempting to make Greenland part of the US, advocating jurisdiction over the Panama Canal and renaming the Mexico Bay the "American Bay".

The sovereignty, right to self-determination and territorial integrity of the countries and nations can never be a bargaining chip or a mockery of the US.

The present era is not the old age when Anglo-Saxons crossed the sea and were keen on developing the West by exterminating the American aborigines and plundering them of their cradle of life. And the unipolar era when the United States lorded it over as the "only superpower", making international rules and order as it pleases, has already gone.

The US should awaken from its anachronistic daydream and stop at once the act of encroaching upon the dignity and sovereignty of other countries and nations.

Briefly

Russia

President refers to tasks facing educational sector

Russian President Vladimir Putin referred to the tasks facing the education sector in a speech at a meeting of the Science and Education Council on February 6.

He emphasized that the school curriculum for natural science subjects should be comprehensively updated and that what is most important is to make the curriculum understandable and interesting to students.

He pointed to the need to remove outdated contents from the university curriculum for training technical talents and draw up individual teaching plans for students to be engaged in the fields of specialization.

Iran

Negotiations with US rejected

Seyed Ali Khamenei, leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, rejected negotiations with the US in his remark delivered to the service personnel of the air force on February 7.

As regards the fact that the US recently clarified its intention to negotiate with Iran, he blamed the current US administration for having broken its promise in the past.

It is not wise to hold negotiations with the US, as no problem can be solved through them, he said, noting that they had already such an experience.

China

US, Japan criticized for interfering in internal affairs

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected the US' and Japan's act of interfering in its internal affairs in a press conference on February 10.

In connection with the recent joint statement of the US and Japan involving China-related contents, the spokesman said that the statement openly interfered in China's internal affairs, debased it and tarnished its image.

Ninth Winter Asian Games open

The Ninth Winter Asian Games opened at the Harbin International Conference, Exhibition and Sports Centre in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, China, on February 7.

A delegation of the DPRK Olympic Committee led by Minister of Physical Culture and Sports Kim Il Guk were present at the ceremony.

Speeches were made there.

The opening of the games was declared and the flag of the council hoisted, followed by a ceremony of lighting the torch.

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Top 10 players and coaches for 2024 announced

TOP 10 PLAYERS



Choe Il Son

Jon Il Chong



Kang Hyon Gyong

Kim Il Gyong



Ri Song Gum

Jo Jin Mi



Kim Mi Rae

Kim Kum Yong

KCNA

Sportspersons, who fully demonstrated the dignity and might of Juche Korea in international and domestic games and contributed to the development of the country's sports techniques last year, have been selected as the top 10 players and coaches of the DPRK for 2024.

Top 10 players are Choe Il Son, a footballer of the April 25 Sports Team, Jon Il Chong, a footballer of the Amnokgang Sports Club, Kang Hyon Gyong, a weightlifter of the Amnokgang Sports Club, Kim Il Gyong, a weightlifter of the April 25 Combat Sports Team, Ri Song Gum, a weightlifter of the April 25 Combat Sports Team, Jo Jin Mi, a diver of the Sobaeksu Sports Team, Kim Mi Rae, a diver of the Pyongyang

Sports Club, Kim Kum Yong, a table-tennis player of the Hwaeppl Sports Club, Ri Jong Sik, a table-tennis player of the Amnokgang Sports Club, and Wang Myong Guk, a Taekwon-Do player of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do Team.

Top 10 coaches include Ri Song Ho, a coach of the Wolmido Football Team, Song Sung Gwon, chief coach of the Naegohyang Women's Football Team, Ri Song Hui, a weightlifting coach of the Amnokgang Sports Club, So Un Hak, a weightlifting coach of the April 25 Combat Sports Team, Kye Song Il, a weightlifting coach of the April 25 Combat Sports Team, Sin Jong Rim, a diving coach of the Sobaeksu Sports Team, Kim Yun Mi, a table-tennis coach of the Hwaeppl Sports Club, Kang Hyong Rak, a

table-tennis coach of the Amnokgang Sports Club, Ri Chol Rim, a Taekwon-Do coach of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do Team, and Kim Mun Il, chief Greco-Roman wrestling coach of the April 25 Combat Sports Team.

A meeting took place at the Weightlifting Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang on February 11 to announce the top 10 players and coaches of the DPRK for 2024.

The vice-premier of the Cabinet awarded to the sportspersons selected as top 10 players and coaches the certificates and sportswear emblazoned with the letters reading "DPRK's Top 10 Player for 2024" and "DPRK's Top 10 Coach for 2024".

At the end of the meeting, a performance was given to congratulate the best players and coaches.

TOP 10 COACHES



Ri Song Ho

Song Sung Gwon



Ri Song Hui

So Un Hak



Kye Song Il

Sin Jong Rim



Kim Yun Mi

Kang Hyong Rak

Ri Chol Rim

Kim Mun Il

DPRK players bag gold medals in Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup 2025

KCNA

The DPRK shooters won gold medals in the Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup 2025.

The tournament, which started in Thailand on February 11, brought together more than 100 excellent men and women

players from over 20 countries and regions including the DPRK, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

DPRK shooters Ho Un Song and Kim Hyon Suk defeated the Kazakhstan team 16-14 in the final match and won gold medals in the 10m air pistol mixed

team junior on February 12.

Rim Ryu Song of the DPRK won a gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol shooting event of the Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup 2025.

Earlier, Rim Ryu Song, Kim Song Guk and Kim Myong Un took first

place in the men's 10m air pistol shooting team event by scoring 1 741 points.

Ho Un Song earned a silver medal in the junior men's 10m air pistol shooting event and Kim Hyon Suk got a bronze medal in the junior women's 10m air pistol shooting.

DPRK players finish runners-up in winter Asian games

KCNA

DPRK skaters Ryom Tae Ok and Han Kum Chol took the second place to win silver medals at pair figure skating of the Ninth Winter Asian Games held in China.

Kangso Temple

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The Kangso Temple built in the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392) is in Kanghori, Paechon County, South Hwanghae Province.

It was originally called Ryongun Temple and later renamed Kangso Temple in the period of Koryo in the meaning that it is a temple located in the west of the Ryesong River.

The Tachung Hall of the

temple is a gabled building 16 metres long and 8.62 metres wide.

The whole building is gorgeously decorated in kumtanchong.

The interior and exterior of the building show pictures of dragon, phoenix, crane, lion, landscape, etc. and they are unique in portrayal and excellent in technique.

Particularly, the façade of the interior shows six phoenixes hovering around a lotus flower that are so graceful, soft and lifelike.

The Tachung Hall of the Kangso Temple is a precious legacy showcasing not only architectural beauty but the specific character of tanchong, or colourful painting at that time.

