



For eternal prosperity of country, safety of people



Kim Jong Un pays congratulatory visit to Ministry of National Defence on Army Day

KCNA

The DPRK significantly celebrated the founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army which has glorified its noble name as the staunch defender of the cause of the Workers' Party of Korea and genuine people's army for over 70 years, defending the lifeline of the Juche revolution which has won victory after victory under the leadership of the great Party and

firmly supporting the invincibility and mightiness of the state.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, paid a congratulatory visit to the DPRK Ministry of National Defence on the occasion of the 76th founding anniversary of the KPA.

He was accompanied by his respected daughter.

He was also accompanied by

secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK.

The service personnel were full of great excitement, joy, boundless glory and happiness upon having the honour to meet the great father, for whom they have longed in the days of loyal and honourable service, on the significant founding anniversary.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the Ministry of National Defence on the afternoon of February 8.

The service personnel of the KPA raised stormy cheers, looking up to Kim Jong Un, the symbol of mightiness and heroism of Juche Korea and the representative of the great

dignity and brilliant honour, who has put the prestige of our great state on the highest stage in the century and ushered in a new era full of unprecedented miracles and great changes in which the people's ideal is fully realized, with his far-sighted strategy, steel-strong courage and pluck and tireless efforts and devotion.

A ceremony of greeting Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, took place.

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

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FROM PAGE 1

He was presented with fragrant bouquets by KPA officers.

Major commanding officers of the KPA including Kang Sun Nam, Jong Kyong Thack and Ri Yong Gil and the commanders of the large combined units greeted him in the humblest reverence.

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

Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with

the KPA generals to be recorded in the army-building history.

The commanding officers of the army paid the highest tribute to the great brilliant commander who has developed the KPA into the powerful and matchless revolutionary armed forces and the patriotic vanguard which reliably guarantee the defence of the sovereignty and enhancement of the prestige of the country and has put them forward to be the vanguard of the times with his outstanding army-building

idea and energetic leadership.

Kim Jong Un made a significant speech in congratulation of the heroic KPA officers and men celebrating the Day of Army Founding.

Paying his noble respects to the course of heroic development of the KPA which has led the great turn toward a prosperous country with a powerful army while firmly defending the security and interests of the country and people and the ideology and cause of the Party by loyally undertaking the sacred mission entrusted by the times and history for 76 years since its foundation, he extended warm congratulations to the service personnel of the entire army on the Day of Army Founding on behalf of the Party Central Committee, the DPRK government and all the people across the country.

The history of the struggle of the army has recorded on the wall of history the truth that only the state and people advancing with an army in the van of the revolution can achieve unwavering and steady development and prosperity despite any challenges and crisis, he said, highly praising the great feats of the revolutionary armed forces firmly defending the sacred sovereignty of the country and the honour of the people with their steadfast revolutionary faith, transparent patriotic spirit, matchless heroism and mettle and devoted service.

He declared that the WPK, which has an absolute mission before the country and people, would bring earlier a rosy future of the DPRK, always relying on the bravery and loyalty of the revolutionary armed forces in the future, too, and ardently called upon the service personnel of the entire army to strive for the eternal prosperity of the country and the well-being of the people

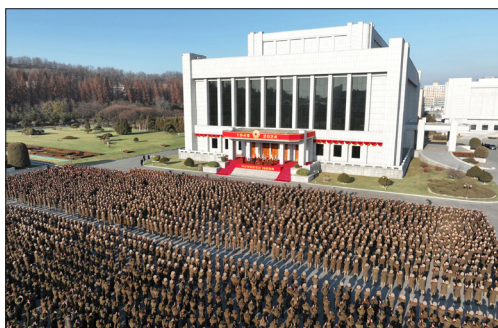
with one mind, full of confidence in and optimism about a new great victory.

The participants were deeply moved by his passionate speech full of ardent feelings and trust in the service personnel of the KPA who regard loyalty to the Party, government and people as their foremost lifeblood and supreme honour, devotedly defend the lineage of the Juche revolution and the ideology and cause of the WPK and reliably guarantee the existence and development of the DPRK and happiness of the people.

When Kim Jong Un finished his speech, stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" resounded in the sky of February.

All the participants loudly shouted the slogans of "Kim Jong Un" and "Devoted defence", full of ardent enthusiasm to share the ideology, intention and destiny with the Party Central Committee forever and to fully display the might and mettle of the powerful revolutionary army for eternal peace on this land and prosperity and happiness of posterity, cherishing the trust of the great brilliant commander as their greatest honour.

Kim Jong Un's congratulatory visit to the Ministry of National Defence which was made on the Day of Army Founding shining as the pride of the Party, state and people, will be brilliantly recorded in the annals of the country as an occasion in which the invincible and heroic KPA, which is great both in foundation and succession, gives full play to its prestige in the grandiose course of building a dignified and prosperous socialist power and heightens its noble sense of mission and spirit of exertion to powerfully lead a new era of the Juche revolution under the leadership of the Party Central Committee.



Kim Jong Un makes speech on a congratulatory visit to the Ministry of National Defence

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made a speech on a congratulatory visit to the Ministry of National Defence on February 8.

The following is the full text:

Officers of the Ministry of National Defence, the highest command organ of the armed forces of our Republic, and non-commissioned officers and men present here, celebrating in grand style the founding anniversary of our glorious army,

Trustworthy officers and men of the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th corps, who are devoting themselves now to defending the frontline on the border of our country,

Officers and men of the Pyongyang-defending corps, who are reliably performing their honourable mission of defending the capital city,

Officers and men of all the other corps and mechanized infantry, tank and armoured units, who are firmly defending the territory and waters in the eastern and western regions of the country,

Officers and men of the 12th Corps on the northern border and the Border Guards,

Courageous officers and men of our other services,

All other officers and men of the Korean People's Army,

On the 76th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, a proud holiday of our state and our people, I extend warm congratulations and greetings of encouragement to you.

Availing myself of this meaningful opportunity, I offer my heartfelt tribute to the revolutionary forerunners, the KPA martyrs and the respected war veterans, who glorified the initial days and decades of great victories in the history of building the Juche-oriented army with imperishable feats of meritorious service and miracles.

My warm thanks also go to all the people including soldiers' families across the country, who are absolutely supporting our Party's cause of building a powerful army.

As I stand here, I cannot find enough words to express my thanks to the officers and men of our army, who are making more painstaking efforts than anybody else shouldering greater tasks day after day, and to appreciate their outstanding feats.

Whenever I recall the words People's Army, my heart grows warm and I feel moved as I am reminded of its heroic image.

It has indeed been glorious 76 years for the army, which tell numerous tales and which are filled with victories and feats though there have been manifold trials.

It would be endless to recount the great feats it has performed for the people's safety and wellbeing while defending the most righteous ideas and cause, faithfully shouldering the sacred mission the times and history entrusted to it from the first days after its founding to this day, and the uncountable feats it has performed in those days.

The most brilliant feat our army has performed in its history of heroic struggle is that it has remained boundlessly faithful to its inherent mission of defending sovereignty and thus reliably safeguarded the right to independence and dignity of the country and the people and ensured their peace and stability in the face of military threats and blackmail by the imperialists and the danger of war.

Our revolution wrote an unheard-of chapter in history, in which the cause of founding an army was accomplished before the founding of a state. This was because sovereignty itself is something that can be defended and exercised only by means of revolutionary violence capable of frustrating imperialist tyranny, in other words, only when one wins the fight against it.

Our People's Army was a gain our people achieved through their protracted struggle to win back their lost rights to existence and development, freedom and rights, and its most important and sacred mission was to firmly defend sovereignty which had not to be deprived or violated again.

Shouldering the historic duty of safeguarding the national sovereignty, which could never be defended easily, it has undauntedly hewn out for the long 76 years the arduous path of fierce political struggle, class struggle, of deciding who prevails over whom.

While following the untrodden path decade after decade, our People's Army service personnel have performed countless battle feats and other heroic achievements at the cost of their blood and lives.

As our People's Army has resolutely foiled all manner of challenges and threats by the hostile forces wherever our national sovereignty is exercised, reliably defending the



fences of the country, the security, rights and interests of the country and people and the ideas and cause of the Party could be thoroughly safeguarded. And thanks to its ennobling sacrifice and history of heroic victory, our people, with state power firmly in their hands, could strongly exercise their rights in the political, military, economic, cultural and diplomatic fields and effect a great turn in building a prosperous country with a powerful army.

The absolute might, prestige and dignity our state has won as we see now are based on the valuable feats and victories our People's Army has achieved at the cost of blood, sweat and sacrifice.

Our Party's objective in aspiring to a more powerful and prosperous state is to win back and squarely exercise all its rights to independence, and the foremost task here is to obtain the eternal security of the state for sure.

To this end, we must possess absolute might which defies any provocation, might strong enough to control the enemy.

After reviewing the history of division and confrontation of our nation recently, our Party and government designated the puppet Republic of Korea as our most dangerous and first enemy state and invariable archenemy that stands in our way, and decided it as our state policy to occupy and subjugate its territory in time of emergency. This is an absolutely right measure for our state's eternal security and its peace and stability in the future.

By doing so, we have ridden ourselves on our own initiative of the fetters of unrealistic developments, in which we, taken captive by the rhetorical expression fellow compatriots, had to endeavour for dialogue and cooperation, even if they were for form's sake, with the ROK puppets, who are scheming to bring down the government of our Republic and dreaming of unification through absorption. As we have clearly defined the puppet ROK as a state hostile to us, we are legally entitled to strike and annihilate it at any moment if it dares to provoke us. And now we can defend the prestige of our country as an independent and sovereign state, a socialist state, and deal with our surrounding environment in a more thoroughgoing way to attain our national interest while building up our military strength and maintaining a harder-line stand for response.

This policy switch and our staunch attitude towards the enemy were decisions of weighty importance, which could be made as we have the army fully prepared in terms of both the will to defend the national sovereignty and the military and technical potentials.

It is an everyday occurrence in the present world that national sovereignty and territory are violated ruthlessly and bloodshed takes place owing to the imperialists' policy of supremacy and violent moves of aggression. In this situation it is our revolutionary armed forces alone led by the Workers' Party of Korea, which are honourably defending the dignity of the country and the people while achieving undeniable victory at every stage of the anti-imperialist confrontation.

The chapters of the glorious history of the Republic's armed forces, which have been developed and strengthened into an invincible army and firmly safeguarded the security and sovereignty of our state, have always been written together with the chapters of their gigantic creation and construction for the country and the people.

Our country and people always feel thankful to the army for its painstaking efforts and celebrate the army founding day as their own national holiday. This is because the People's

Army has performed remarkable exploits greater than others could manage to do not only in defending national sovereignty but also in building socialism and promoting the people's welfare.

The loyal and reliable ranks that share weal and woe with the Party, readily accept its orders and directives whether they are military missions or economic tasks, and always carry them out without any delay and in the most perfect and thoroughgoing way—this is our People's Army.

Long explanations have never been necessary for our soldiers.

Our army reads by heart the Party's worries without the help of any explanation and, aware of the arrival of historic moments when it has to come forth, goes without hesitation to the theatres of struggle, where it has to experience greater hardships.

All the colours of our army units have these not so long letters For the Eternal Prosperity of the Country and Safety of the People, but the role and mission entrusted by these letters were weighty, and inscribed

on these colours were not only military feats.

In the protracted course from the first days of building the country anew on the ruins after the war until today, socialist construction has been a primary revolutionary task, as important as defending the sovereignty of the country, for the People's Army, and this task has never been lightened or deferred in any harsh and severe circumstances.

The metallurgical-industry bases and coal and ore mines, which constitute the foundation of the national economy, the railways and roads, which constitute the artery of the country, and the crop fields, irrigation waterways and reclaimed tidelands which serve the promotion of the people's living—all the development and creative projects conducted throughout the country are associated with the exploits of our army.

The spirits of the times, which would remain in history forever, and the monumental structures set up on the strength of these spirits have all been created by the People's Army.

Our officers and men have devoted with no regrets all the precious things of their life—dignity, glory, honour and happiness—true to the proud name People's Army.

Following the genuine and beautiful traces that our army left with revolutionary and steadfast mettle and patriotic enthusiasm, the appearance of our country has been transformed, cradles of people's life have been created, and a happy laughter of the people has resounded.

Last year alone, our service personnel were forerunners in performing great feats in making breakthroughs on all fronts and in all theatres, ranging from housing construction projects, which were conducted in a three-dimensional manner in the capital city, Komdok area and various other parts of the country, to the construction projects for irrigation and border barricades and the struggle to increase grain production and to recover from natural disasters.

All our generals, officers and their wives, and men took the lead in overcoming the food shortage created on the outset of the year by cutting their rations; they carried out without fail the tasks the Party entrusted to them by waging a more progressive and offensive struggle, thus recording the year as the most glorious one in the history of the army's development full of legendary feats and miracles.

But for the outstanding role and contribution of the People's Army, we could not have reviewed the work of last year with pride or created a definitely favourable situation for comprehensive rejuvenation, as full of high spirits and confidence as today.

The year 2023 can be called an epitome and a most brilliant page of the long-standing and glorious history of victory written by our country and people on the strength of the vanguard role of the army, which is elite in ideology and the most powerful in fighting efficiency.

Now our army has launched the unprecedentedly sacred and gigantic struggle of ten-year revolution to radically transform the regional industry in response to the call of the Party, and its honourable colours are fluttering vigorously, calling for a fresh upswing of revolution throughout the country.

These colours, permeated with the red soul and innumerable feats of the People's Army soldiers, add more brilliance and force to our fluttering national flag and present before our eyes how the future will be transformed.

It is a source of great pride and immense strength for our

Banquet given to celebrate 76th KPA anniv

KCNA

A banquet was given on February 8 on the occasion of the 76th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army.

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, was present at the banquet.

Present there at invitation were commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence, commanders of the large combined units and other generals of the KPA.

The hall of the banquet was filled with boundless gratitude to Kim Jong Un, the great father who always keeps the service personnel in his mind and shows all sorts of love and trust for them and glorifies the honour of the army at the highest peak.

When Kim Jong Un appeared at the hall together with his respected daughter, all the generals of the army broke into enthusiastic

cheers, paying the highest tribute to Kim Jong Un, peerlessly brilliant commander who has developed the KPA into an invincible revolutionary army which has recorded proud victory and performed only brilliant feats in the 70-odd-year militant journey.

Jo Yong Won, Ri Il Hwan, Pak Jong Chon, Jo Chun Ryong, Jon Hyon Chol and Pak Thae Song, secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK, and other cadres of the Party Central Committee attended the banquet.



An art performance was given before the banquet.

The national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.

Listening to the songs of the revolutionary army showing the unusual pride, honour and the militant spirit of the most righteous and powerful KPA, which has held the peerlessly brilliant commander in high esteem as its supreme commander and father, the generals of the army keenly felt again that the prestige and spirit of the army are fully displayed

to the whole world under the outstanding leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Pak Jong Chon made a speech at the banquet.

He warmly congratulated the generals on significantly spending the Day of Army Founding in boundless glory in the presence of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who visited the building of the Ministry of National Defence and warmly congratulated the service personnel of the entire army with high appreciation and encouragement on the

significant birthday of the army.

Only when the army regards the immutable truth of history that an army which absolutely obeys the orders and instructions of the Party can win as the fundamental lifeline for army building and the first moral obligation of army existence, can it be always faithful to the idea and spirit of army founding which is at the service of the country and the people, he stressed.

He expressed belief that all the commanding officers of the army would honourably keep to the important mission and duty of the KPA by cherishing the trust and privilege bestowed by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to them and by displaying the ability of correct and unconditional practice without even a 0.001mm deviation from the intention of the Party Central Committee whenever they work out an operation plan and a strategy and give a command.

All the participants toasted the good health of Kim Jong Un who has built the strongest revolutionary armed forces in the world and led them to the ever-victorious path and vigorous development and immortal feats of the heroic KPA shouldering the destiny and future of the state and people.

The banquet hall witnessed the significant moments of emotion and joy when the world of special affection and obligation between the great brilliant commander and his soldiers was recorded again in the history of the Korean People's Army.



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Party that it has an army in which it can place the greatest trust and to which it can entrust the vanguard role of the revolution in peaceful and good times and in the days when the country goes through harsh trials.

Even though they took greatest pains, with their belts always tightened, on the two fronts of national defence and socialist construction, the faithful officers and men of the People's Army have exerted themselves single-heartedly and without any vacillation, cherishing the outlook on the revolution and life that they have nothing to desire but a praise from their Supreme Commander and regard the pride of being one mind with him as a source of their greatest happiness. I always gain great strength and courage from them.

The heroic struggle of our army left in history the truth that only the state and people, which advance with their army in the vanguard of the revolution, can achieve steadfast and continuous development and prosperity in the face of every manner of challenges and crises.

Availing myself of this meaningful opportunity, I, on behalf of the Central Committee of our Party and the government of our Republic and along with the hearts of all the people, would like to extend once again congratulations and thanks to all the service personnel of the heroic KPA on the occasion of the army founding day.

Comrades,

Lying above all those feats and achievements associated with your painstaking efforts are the nation's dignity you have to safeguard with your lives and the people's ideals you have to attain at any cost.

The WPK, which has assumed an absolute mission for the country and people, will always rely on the bravery and faithfulness of the revolutionary armed forces and hasten the advent of bright future of our Republic with you.

However grave the situation is and however manifold the difficulties are on our way, we feel assured as long as we have the army, and however formidable and gigantic the revolutionary tasks are, we feel confident of the coming victory as long as the army undertakes to perform them—this is the feeling of the people of this country.

You should live up to their trust and, through your strenuous struggle and its perfect result, thoroughly defend their faith that Party policy is immediately a science and reality.

Comrades,

Our army should have greater strength and prevent war and safeguard peace without fail with this invincible strength.

Peace is not something to be begged for or bartered for through negotiations.

Across our border, the mutations, having seized power, are now running amok with war hysteria and threatening the security of our state with their guns levelled at us.

Let us remember once again that war breaks out without advertising in advance.

We should always be ready for war.

If the enemy dares to have recourse to armed force against our state, we will make a bold decision to change history and enlist all the super-powerful means in our hands unhesitatingly so as to annihilate the enemy.

Comrades,

All the service personnel, who have always supported the Party's ideas and cause in the vanguard, should reliably defend the inviolable sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, our glorious motherland, and the honour of the Korean people with staunch revolutionary faith, steadfast patriotism, unparalleled heroism and mettle and devoted service, and demonstrate to the full the spiritual characteristics and stamina of the KPA in the ongoing sacred struggle to hasten the comprehensive development of a prosperous country.

Our Party, state and people with invincible ranks, elite revolutionary armed forces, will always emerge victorious.

For the eternal prosperity of our country and safety of our people, let us fight vigorously with great confidence in and optimism for a great fresh victory, sharing the mind and intention.

Eternal glory to our proud revolutionary armed forces!

Long live the heroic Korean People's Army!

Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County

He sets forth requirements to be met and tasks to be carried out in building regional-industry factories

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County on February 7.

Accompanying him were Jo Yong Won, Ri Il Hwan, Pak Jong Chon, Kim Yong Su, Kim Yo Jong and Kim Hwa Song, senior officials of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by Kim Myong Chol, chief secretary of the Kimhwa County Committee of Kangwon Province of the WPK, and leading officials of the relevant factories.

He said that he came to the spot to learn once again about the renovation, management and the architectural styles of the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County, which were built on a trial basis, to confirm the detailed orientation of the construction of regional-industry factories to be newly

built on a full scale in different parts of the country from this year, the first year of the promotion of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

He went round the foodstuff and daily necessities factories and paper mill to learn in detail about the situation.

He said that looking round the factories, he felt it is good that the regional-industry factories in the county,

which were built on a modern basis, are well managed and they are making a tangible contribution to improving the material living standards of the locals by raising the quality of products. But there is a series of problems to be resolved, he added.

He noted that each factory has shortcomings in designing and distributing production lines, but

officials in charge of economic guidance have neither found them properly nor taken any measures as they do not have their own clear view of the shortcomings. He said that trying to execute the Regional Development 20x10 Policy by mechanically copying the regional-industry factories in the county in this situation shows their wrong attitude toward the Party's policy and inadequate preparations for implementing it.

Pointing out that considerable mistakes are revealed in the architectural designs of those regional-industry factories including the foodstuff factory as they are not rational from a practical point of view nor in conformity with the characteristics and purposes of the factories, he gave his detailed opinions on the designing of industrial buildings.

As was emphasized at the recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, it is important

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to take into full account the building of raw material bases, their conditions and the possibility of supply of raw materials before launching the construction of regional-industry factories, he said, specifying the issues to be reconsidered, re-deliberated and decided by relevant sectors in implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

Stressing that it is an urgent task arising in improving the material living standards of the locals at present, and also a political issue related to the character of our revolution, to build regional-industry factories in a modern way and revitalize production, he set forth the principled requirements to be met and important tasks to be carried out in building regional-industry factories.

Reminding the officials of the decision

of the Party Central Committee on setting the architectural styles and the level of modernization of the regional-industry factories to be built from this year higher than those in Kimhwa County, he stressed the need to steadily introduce new things with an innovative and creative attitude and display a sense of responsibility while overcoming shortcomings in implementing the new regional development policy, instead of mechanically following and emulating the experience gained in modernizing the regional-industry factories in the county.

He said that the specific conditions of cities and counties, including the detailed characteristics, economic potential, prospect for development and number of population, should be fully taken into consideration and the size, production capacity and construction

site of a regional-industry factory should be set under scientific calculation and, on this basis, designs of its buildings should be improved from a practical viewpoint and its construction should be carried on under a well-thought-out plan.

After going round the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County, he clarified important tasks including those of making sustained efforts to improve quality by building product analysis rooms as required by regulations and establishing a proper product inspection system, of improving the qualifications of technicians and skilled workers, and of building up solid raw material bases and supplying raw materials needed for production in a responsible manner. He also specified principled issues to be tackled in using funds allotted for the construction of city and county regional-

industry factories.

He also indicated the tasks to be fulfilled in the management of regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County.

He said that we should surely open up a new era, in which regions change, into a reality without fail through correct execution of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy this year. In this way we can make a breakthrough in attaining the prospective 10-year goal and fully demonstrate the advantages of the Korean-style socialist system, the validity of the Party's policy and the inexhaustible potentiality of our state for development, he added. He then ardently called on all the leading officials, commanding officers and soldier-builders to turn out in the struggle to achieve what the Party has long aspired to and bring about a great change in the regional development without fail.

On occasion of Day of Army Founding

KPA commanding officers pay homage to great leaders at Kumsusan Palace of Sun



Commanding officers of the Korean People's Army visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay homage to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

KCNA

Kang Sun Nam, Jong Kyong Thack, Ri Yong Gil and other commanding

officers of the Ministry of National Defence and commanders of the services and large combined units of the Korean People's

Army visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche, on the occasion of the Army Founding Day.

A flower basket in the name of the KPA was laid at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The participants paid homage to the President and the Chairman before their statues in reflection of the unanimous feelings of service personnel of all the DPRK armed forces.

They hardened their resolve to reliably guarantee the victorious advance of the cause of Juche through a heroic struggle and with praiseworthy military merits, always standing in the van of the revolution in absolutely loyal support of the ideas and leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the symbol of the dignity and mightiness of socialist Korea and the banner of invincibility.

Floral tribute paid to great leaders

KCNA

Service personnel, working people, youth and students visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il across the country on the occasion of the significant anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

Placed before their statues on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang were flower baskets in the name of the organs of the Workers' Party of Korea, the government and the armed forces, ministries, national agencies, units of the KPA and the Public Security Forces, and flowers as well.

Lots of people made bows at the statues of the great leaders, telling them that the Korean revolutionary armed forces are further

demonstrating their might as the elite revolutionary army and the great historic cause of building a rich country with a powerful army is being successfully accomplished as they are led by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Baskets of flowers were also placed at the statues of the great leaders and the portraits of their smiling images in different places in Pyongyang like the Mansudae Art Studio in the name of units of the KPA and the PSF, institutions and enterprises.

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

People's delegations visit army units

KCNA

People's delegations of Pyongyang Municipality and each province visited army units in their localities on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army to celebrate the holiday together with service personnel.

Service personnel of the units welcomed with kindred affection the people's delegations who came with congratulations sent to all KPA service personnel.

Members of a

delegation on a visit to the construction site of the second-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area of Pyongyang conveyed to soldier builders sincere greetings the people sent to KPA service personnel who are steadily carrying on a golden age of Pyongyang in the new era as they make miracles and innovations true to the Workers' Party of Korea's grand plan for capital construction.

Members of similar delegations and service personnel also shared warm feelings of kinship at other

units of all services and arms of the army.

Members of those delegations conveyed news of the rear, where everyone is out in the vigorous advance for securing a clear practical guarantee for the implementation of the five-year plan, and handed over relief materials at the army units whose officers and soldiers were filled with enthusiasm for reliably guaranteeing the security of the country and the victorious advance of the revolution with the invincible arms.

Young people hold dance parties

KCNA

Young people and students held dance parties in different parts of the country on February 8 to mark the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

The venues of dancing parties in the capital city, including plazas of Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and the Arch of Triumph, were seething with young people who were celebrating the significant anniversary of the army in great excitement and joy.

The parties began with the playing of Song of the Korean People's Army.

Similar events were held in the provincial capitals on the same day.



A dance party is held by youth and students at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph in Pyongyang.

On occasion of Day of Army Founding

Nation celebrates 76th anniversary of the Korean People's Army

KCNA

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

Entering the park on the plaza of the palace, the visitors looked back with deep reverence on the sacred revolutionary lives of the great leaders who set forth the original idea on building the regular armed forces and devoted their all to the development of the Korean People's Army.

Service personnel of the KPA, working people, youth and students visited the statues of the great leaders and portraits of their smiling images on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in different parts of the country to lay flower baskets, bouquets and flowers and pay tribute to them.

Many working people, youth and students visited the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum to

recollect the great spirit and exploits of the KPA martyrs who honourably defended the dignity and sovereignty of the DPRK in the war against the US imperialists' armed invasion.

National flags and red flags were hoisted and various visual aids put up in major places and at institutions, enterprises, factories and farms in Pyongyang and provincial capitals, cities and county seats.

Colourful performances were given at theatres and outdoor stages in Pyongyang.

The central artistic information team for increased production, the artistic information team of the women's union central committee and others gave splendid outdoor performances at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre and other places in Pyongyang.

Art troupes and schoolchildren also gave performances to celebrate the significant holiday at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, Changjon Crossroads and other places.

People of all social standings visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun (right). Colourful performances take place across the country (below).



Celebrations by working people's organizations

Women's union members praise undying exploits of the great leaders

KCNA

Officials and members of the women's union held a meeting at the Hall of Women in Pyongyang on February 6 in celebration of the 76th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Present there were Kim Jong Sun, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union

of Korea, officials of the women's union and members of the women's union in Pyongyang.

The speakers highly praised the undying revolutionary exploits of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who developed the KPA into an invincible army.

They called for turning

out as one in the patriotic movement to thoroughly implement the resolutions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and contribute to bolstering up the military capabilities of the country with the conviction that the victory of the Juche cause is sure to be accomplished as it is led by Kim Jong Un.

Trade union members meet with lecturers of Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum

KCNA

Workers and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) met with lecturers of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum at the Central Hall of Workers in Pyongyang on February 6 to mark the 76th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Present there were Pak

In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, officials of the GFTUK and workers and TU members in Pyongyang.

Pak Yang Thae, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, made congratulatory remarks.

Then, speeches were made by Pak In Ho and Kim Jung Rok, lecturers of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

They requested all the workers and trade union members to more brilliantly record the history of victory of Juche Korea by carrying forward the soul of the preceding generations, expressing their will to fully perform their duty as good educators who inject fresh vigour of national defence into the ranks of successors in the spirit they displayed when they were soldiers.

Artistic information team of youth league central committee gives performance

KCNA

The artistic information team of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League gave a performance "Leader, Just Give Us Your Order" at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on February 7 to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Put on the stage were songs of the revolutionary army which resounded in the course of the KPA and colourful numbers reflecting the honour and pride of being young vanguard of a powerful country.

The performers sang highly of the exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman

Kim Jong Il who set an epochal example in building the revolutionary armed

forces and provided a sure military guarantee for the prosperity of socialist Korea.



The artistic information team of the youth league central committee gives a performance at the Central Youth Hall on February 7.

Agricultural workers meet with DPRK hero

KCNA

Agricultural workers met with a DPRK hero on February 7 to celebrate the 76th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Present there were Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea, officials of the union and agricultural workers in Pyongyang.

DPRK Hero Ho Ryong who performed feats in the battle to repulse the US strategic reconnaissance plane which intruded into the sky above the economic waters on the East Sea of the country, spoke

at the meeting.

He referred to the fact that the US imperialists perpetrated aerial espionage acts against the DPRK more than 180 times by mobilizing strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes of all missions and staged madcap war games against it, while making the situation extremely tense under the pretext of the so-called "nuclear issue" in February 2003.

Chairman Kim Jong Il mapped out a superb operation to humble the arrogant US imperialists keen on espionage acts despite our repeated warnings and guided the

operation in the van, he said, and went on:

Under the care of General Secretary Kim Jong Un, the airmen of the DPRK have grown into death-defying corps in the sky possessed of heroic fighting spirit, skilful aeronautics and perfect ability for actual war, and the Air Force of the Korean People's Army has been strengthened into the core service of the DPRK, greeting the heyday of its development.

He asked all the officials of the union and agricultural workers to perform fresh miracles and innovations in the struggle to attain the goal of grain production this year set by the Party.

Efforts continue to be concentrated on attaining 12 major goals

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea stressed the need to continue to attach importance to the 12 major goals and concentrate efforts on achieving them.

The DPRK especially set the 12 major goals for economic development last year which was of key significance in implementing the five-year plan that was put forward at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

They include the goals for production growth in key industry sectors and production for improving the people's living standards. They cover the production of electric power, coal, rolled steel, nonferrous metals, nitrogenous fertilizer, cement, grains, cloth and marine products and the construction of

houses.

Last year, the Korean people successfully attained the 12 major goals with strenuous and daring exertions.

The overfulfilment of the plan for grain production, a dominant height, gave great encouragement to all the people and added vitality to the overall national economy.

Remarkable production growth was witnessed in key industry sectors and many readjustment and reinforcement projects were completed. Particularly, the flames of joint innovation that flared up in the coal mining industry triggered an increased production drive in the national economy as a whole.

As a result, the overall economy showed an upward trend of activity and growth, while significant and precious achievements were made in improving the people's living standards.

This year, the Korean people face more difficult and enormous tasks than last year and there are formidable obstacles and serious difficulties in their way.

Only when they continue to attach importance to the 12 major goals and concentrate efforts on achieving them this year, too, can they maintain the stable growth trend of the overall economy, provide a sure guarantee for the fulfilment of the five-year plan and pave the way for a leap to the next stage.

Key industry sectors are particularly important in this regard.

To give definite precedence to these sectors is a lawful requirement of economic development and it is the firm determination of the WPK to propel the national economy as a whole through their development.

Key industry sectors forming the backbone of the national economy should redouble efforts to contribute

to economic growth and the improvement of the people's living standards in order to create a new victorious history again in this year which can be claimed to be decisive of the destiny of the decisions of the Party Congress.

From the beginning of the year, the key industries are bustling with increased production activities to make a breakthrough in attaining the 12 major goals.

The metallurgical industry is striving to ensure normal production at the establishments that have been put on a Juche-oriented and modern basis and a timely supply of raw materials, fuels and other materials in order to increase production of iron and steel. The chemical industry has taken scrupulous economic and technical measures to consolidate the existing production foundations and is effectively conducting work for accelerating the completion of

the incomplete readjustment and reinforcement projects and ensuring their normal operation.

Electric power, coal, mining and other key industries are increasing production while putting steady spurs to technological upgrading and normal management of production lines and equipment.

From the beginning of the year, the agricultural sector is endeavouring to develop grain production at a high level and in a stable way and the light industry sector is working hard by taking it as the primary task to improve the quality of products.

Amid the vigorous campaign to attain the 12 major goals, all the people give full play to their loyalty, patriotic enthusiasm, spirit of exertion and devotion and the comprehensive rejuvenation of the country will be stepped up by that irresistible force.

National economic plan for January overfulfilled

KCNA

The Korean Central News Agency on February 2 released a report on the overfulfilment of the January national economic plan in the DPRK for attaining the major goals for the new year.

According to the report, the production goals for the first month for attaining the major targets of the national economic development were successfully achieved thanks to the concerted efforts and strong working spirit of the members of the Workers'

Party of Korea and other working people.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un indicated the most scientific path and definite plan for the rejuvenation and development of the DPRK and the promotion of the welfare of the people at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, the Tenth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly and the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

Officials of the Cabinet

and economic guidance organs intensified operations and guidance so that the national economic plans could be carried out without fail daily and every ten days by focusing on increasing in every way the ability to command and guide the overall state economic work.

The workers in metallurgical and chemical industries gave full play to their patriotic enthusiasm in order to glorify this year with fresh and significant successes.

In the first month of the year, the plan for rolled steel

production throughout the country was carried out at 130 percent and the nitrogenous fertilizer production plan at 102 percent.

Electricity producers put spurs to power generation at every power station.

The nationwide coal production plan for January was overfulfilled by 9 percent.

The workers in the machine-building industry also increased production.

The plan for the production of nonferrous metals for January was carried out at 105 percent and the timber-

production plan at 106 percent.

And workers in the sector of rail transport carried out the freight transport plan for January at 103 percent.

A vigorous campaign was conducted to create a new construction speed and legend at the sites of grand construction.

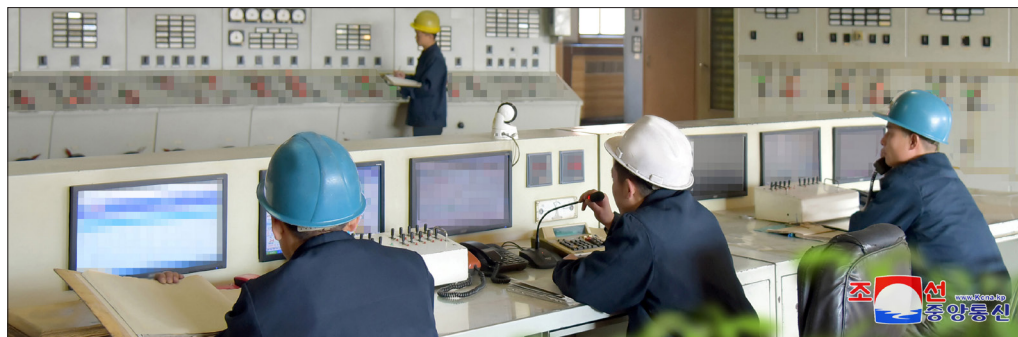
Amid a dynamic drive for increased production by the workers in the sector of building-materials industry, the cement production plan for January was fulfilled at 105 percent throughout the country.

Officials of agricultural

guidance organs across the country scrupulously organized work for the preparations for the immediate farming processes in order to put the country's agricultural production on a sustainable and stable track.

Public atmosphere and tendency of supporting the countryside were further enhanced across the country.

Workers in the light industry sector, too, carried out their cloth production plan for January and fishermen in the fishery sector made signal success in fishing and offshore culture.



The major sectors of the national economy seethe with activities to successfully attain production goals for the first month of the year.

At the forefront of educational revolution in new century

Pyongyang Teachers Training College takes the lead in the educational revolution as academic research centre and dissemination centre for putting the education of pre-school and primary school children on a new scientific basis

By Pang Un Ju PT

Pyongyang Teachers Training College, which underwent a radical change as befits the “pedigree farm” for educators, is known to the whole country as the frontrunner in the educational revolution in the new century. “After the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited our college in January six years ago, its lecturers and researchers created many profitable and superior educational methods for putting the education of pre-school and primary school children on a scientific basis, made hundreds of pieces of educational science achievements and disseminated and generalized them to over 1 800 units,” said Pak Kum Hui, rector of the college.

True to the instruction of Kim Jong Un, who clarified the way ahead of the college, they oriented all the work toward creating new teaching methods that suit the modern trend of educational development and pedagogical requirements.

More than 300 new textbooks and reference books have been written according to the programme of the universal 12-year compulsory education

and various education support programs, superior teaching methods and educational forecasting techniques applied to give impetus to the development of education.

In order to constantly develop the VR teaching experience system, the lecturers and researchers added over 100 teaching situations that may occur in the course of primary school lessons and an audio recognition technology to the teaching experience system and made 70-odd electronic visual aids incorporating both artificial intelligence and AR (augmented reality) technologies.

“These successes have positively been introduced into teaching practice, thus making it possible to remarkably reduce the gap between mock and real lessons and further improve practical teaching abilities,” said Jo Sun Ok, chief of the classroom instruction department.

Thanks to their painstaking efforts to create teaching methods that suit the features of children, a robot education method conducive to generally improving the intelligence of primary school children has been created, while a play guidance method using

the virtual play apparatuses and a system for evaluating the application abilities of intelligence development methods conceived by students have been applied to teaching.

A children’s intelligence development method based on abacus play, a foreign language study method based on image memory and a method of operating extracurricular groups that can give full play to students’ nature and aptitude and other new testing methods capable of generally analysing their intellectual faculties have been researched, and educational robots have been developed in the Korean way to conduct different forms of extracurricular group activities in cooperation with lecturers.

A powerful drive for creating new teaching methods fired students with enthusiasm for competitively improving their scholarly performance, and thus over 8 500 superior methods of developing the children’s intelligence were invented and well over a thousand 3D teaching aids incorporating VR technology made and applied to teaching activities.

The college has successfully played the role of academic research centre and

dissemination centre by diffusing and generalizing educational science achievements.

It has contributed to the development of educational science and technology by conducting national short courses, academic discussion and re-education effectively in keeping with the actual requirements and writing dozens of reference books and books for developing children’s intelligence.

Last year alone, it made over a hundred kinds of robots for children’s education and sent them to Mangyongdae and Kang Pan Sok revolutionary schools, Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans, teachers training colleges and other schools across the country, and distributed hundreds of study support books and educational programs.

Amid the flames of the educational revolution, well over a hundred lecturers won the title of October 8 model lecturer, got the certificate of registration of new teaching methods and earned lots of certificates at national presentations and exhibitions and the college became one of the top 10 informatization model units in 2022 after 2018.

Significant sci-tech achievements promote development of space industry

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

It has been eight years since the DPRK successfully launched the earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong 4 on February 7 2016.

During this period, academic and social interest in the building of space industry has unprecedentedly increased and a number of significant scientific and technological achievements have been made to promote the development of the industry.

Space sci-tech workshops, exhibitions and exchange activities have been under way and many relevant papers have become the focus of attention of the academic circles.

Typical proposals include the “research on surface potential sonde”.

It attracted the attention of experts as it deals with the way to make a surface potential sonde to prevent solar panels—main power generation devices—of a satellite from discharging electricity due to electric charge by high potential in plasma during its flight in space and the way to detect on the ground the charging characteristics of solar panels in plasma.

There are also research findings conducive to increasing agricultural production.

According to experts, it is of great significance in putting farm work on a scientific basis and increasing grain crop yield to evaluate field districts of farmland as the land is managed with the field as a unit.

The “research for using satellite images to estimate the rezoning of fields into districts” applies taxonomy to satellite images from different aspects to obtain the consequent classified images and synthesize them by vote, making it possible to assess the accuracy of each rezoned field in a scientific way.

The “method of using a satellite image analytical technique to estimate the areas of wheat and barley fields and yields from the fields” provides a methodology for creating a digital map that reflects the areas of wheat and barley fields by rationally using data on cultivation characteristics of the crops, field survey data and satellite images and for estimating the areas of the fields and yields from them with high accuracy.

The “research for making an atlas by means of a technology of space information interpretation” is of significance in using the advanced satellite remote sensing, GIS and GPS technologies to comprehensively systematize the results of the research on topography, geology, climate, hydrology, soil, plants, animals, ocean and natural resources and make an e-atlas.

The “research for the method of using satellite and meteorological data to decide areas prone to wildfires” describes a method of predicting with high accuracy the areas prone to wildfires with the help of NDVI and other meteorological and topographical factors.

Besides, there are significant proposals that provide solutions to urgent problems arising in developing and operating artificial earth satellites, including a technology for manufacturing and testing satellite devices, technology for satellite navigation and trajectory and attitude control, technology for developing satellite cameras, satellite communications and observation technology and cosmic environment and basic science and technology, which help the country develop its space industry.

‘We will make a sacrifice of ourselves for the future of the country’



It has already been six years since Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea, gave field guidance at our newly-rebuilt Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

Still vivid in my memory is the benevolent image of the General Secretary who was satisfied with the successes achieved by the college, praised it for them and specified the importance of duty the college assumes as he looked round several places of the college for a long time in spite of the

midwinter cold.

When he said that the Party attaches importance to teachers training colleges, the “pedigree farms” for the training of teachers for the education of children, and so it saw to it that Pyongyang Teachers Training College was rebuilt in a modern way with great effort, I keenly realized once again how important our college was in his mind.

Saying that teachers training colleges take on an important duty in bringing honour to the country as that of education

and a talent power by bringing about a radical improvement in education in the new century, he noted that day that success or failure in the education of children in the period of kindergarten and primary school depends on how students are taught at teachers training colleges.

Then he said meaningfully that the Party places great trust and hope on the officials and teaching staff of Pyongyang Teachers Training College, expressing firm conviction that they would faithfully implement the Party’s policy of attaching importance to education by devoting all their energy and enthusiasm to the training of excellent teachers.

True to his instructions the college has modernized education to meet the global trend of development of education and requirements of pedagogy and laid firm foundations for raising the quality of education to a higher level by introducing advanced technologies and radically improving the teaching content and methods over the past six

years.

It has also developed lots of effective and practical teaching methods, therefore playing a significant role as an academic and diffusion centre of primary schools, kindergartens and teachers training colleges in the country.

Our Party entrusts younger generations, the future of the country, entirely to teachers.

Officials and teachers of the college will make a sacrifice of themselves for training all graduates as excellent teachers.

The college will make the teaching contents and methods more detailed, diverse and practical and pedagogically ensure the implementation of the Party’s policies, thus playing a leading role in carrying out the tasks set forth at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK which called for making the year 2024 a year of greater changes in boosting the country’s education to the level of advanced nations.

Kim Hye Yong, a faculty dean of Pyongyang Teachers Training College

Puppet ROK is at stake

KCNA

The military gangsters of the puppet Republic of Korea are running amok more frantically in warlike acts.

Since the outset of the year, they have staged joint maritime drills and joint air drills with the involvement of US strategic assets, including nuclear carrier Carl Vinson and nuclear strategic bomber B-1B, and Japan's Aegis destroyers and fighter jets, causing concern of the international community. Besides, the puppet military rogues have performed uncountable anti-DPRK war drills by themselves.

While, on the heels of Yoon Suk Yeol, the top brass of the puppet military vied with each other in parroting such damned words as "immediately, resolutely and

to the end" and "retaliatory punishment" during their visits to frontline units to fuel confrontation hysteria, the war maniacs intensively conducted a "New Year shelling drill", artillery fire and motorized troops' manoeuvres, maritime firing and tactical manoeuvres along the southern boundary line of the DPRK in the first week of January alone.

The 32nd infantry division of the puppet army staged a missile strike drill on the west coast and a sudden landing drill in the coastal area by involving thousands of troops and more than 160 pieces of lethal war equipment between January 15 and 19.

To coincide with the start of a provocative "coldest period drill" by the 55th division of the puppet army on January 22, its 7th

engineering brigade and metropolitan motorized infantry division staged a winter river-crossing drill and the 1st division of the puppet marines conducted a so-called combined anti-infiltration drill in a row.

In addition, the rascals of the 17th division of the puppet army staged a "combat firing drill" aimed at "neutralizing" the frontline units of the DPRK and "advance" towards its rear. And they maximized war hysteria by using even high-powered bombs set to be used in the event of war, trumpeting about "improved retaliatory capacities" on January 31.

Against this backdrop, the puppet defense minister didn't hesitate to utter such worst nonsense as "end of regime" and "removal of enemy leadership" just after

it was made known to the public that three US aircraft carriers were deployed around the Korean peninsula at the same time.

It is clear even to a mere child that such vile words would serve as a declaration of war and trigger off a physical clash given that two countries are technically at war.

We have already warned that the principle of "immediately, resolutely and to the end", talked big by the puppet war maniacs, would end up in "perishing, forced death and termination".

The enemies would be well advised to bear in mind that their invectives against the dignified DPRK and their war drills whose scales are hitting an all-time high have dangerousness that may bring total ruin to the puppet ROK at stake.

Only way to settlement of Middle East crisis lies in termination of double standards of US and West

Yang Myong Song, secretary general of the DPRK-Arab Association, issued the following article "The only way to the settlement of Middle East crisis lies in the termination of double standards of the US and the West":

The Middle East crisis has further plunged into the vicious cycle of massacre and retaliation over the years. At the same time, international criticism of the US and the West unilaterally covering unethical massacres by the Israeli Zionists is mounting.

At the recent forum of ministers of EU and India-Pacific region held in Brussels, representatives of different countries bitterly accused the West of enforcing extreme double standards while taking a different attitude towards the Ukrainian situation and the Middle East crisis.

The Indonesian foreign minister stressed that no state can be put above laws and that European countries should lend their ears to their hearts, do right things and stop the cruel acts in the Gaza Strip. The foreign minister of Sri Lanka noted that there can be no double standards in dealing with the situation in Ukraine and the Middle East.

This is a due denunciation for the shameless behaviour of the US and the West who are persistently turning their faces away from the brutal crimes of Israel while terming innocent Russia an "aggressor" in relation to the Ukrainian situation.

Historically, the US and the West have planted and systematically grown poisonous mushroom called Israel in Palestine despite the fierce opposition of the Arab people, out of ulterior intention to maintain their domination over the Middle Eastern region by fostering contradictions between Arabs and Jews.

It was none other than the US and Western countries that cooked up a brigandish decision on building an Arab state and a Jewish state by dividing Palestine at the Second Session of the UN General Assembly in November 1947 and that instigated the Zionists' territorial expansion ambition by handing over a large quantity of weapons and equipment to them after the "founding" of the State of Israel.

Even when Israel brutally suppressed the just struggle of the Palestinian people while resorting to the expansion of Jewish settlements and the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the US and the West supported Israel, playing the role of blind and deaf mute.

The double standards of the US and the West patronizing Israel are becoming more apparent with the Middle East crisis as an occasion.

The US exercised veto in voting for a resolution on the Middle East crisis at the UNSC while putting forward the gangster-like logic, saying that "Israel's right to self-defence was not mentioned" and "the ceasefire in the present situation is beneficial only to Hamas". Not content with

this, the US has delivered such lethal weapons as white phosphorus bomb and "Bunker buster" and connived at and inspired Israel's mass killing.

The chairman of the EU Commission, the German prime minister and other high-ranking politicians of the West actively defended Israel's criminal act, saying that they support Israel's self-defense right which does not presuppose the observance of international law and the armistice can give Hamas the time for pulling its forces together again and having missiles.

Over such pro-Israel behaviour of the US and the West, the Arab News denounced that the West has connived at Israel's suppression of Palestinians while playing the hypocrite in protection of human rights and democracy. Chinese newspaper Global Times said that the US gives priority to the interests of Israel and never consider the lives of the Palestinian people while positively backing Israel due to the election in the US and the influence of the Jews. It is by no means accidental.

Kim Tong Myong, a researcher of the Society for International Politics Study in the DPRK, said that many countries are criticizing the double standards of the US and the West with the recent Middle East crisis as an occasion, and that even those countries which had close relations with the US and the West in the past are going to the actual stage for settling the Middle East crisis on the

basis of fair law and order.

Kang Jin Song, international affairs analyst of the DPRK, said the signboard of "democracy" and "human rights" often lifted by the US and the West to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries has seriously lost its colour owing to their double standards, and that they are being hit by the world people in the international arena and public opinion due to their self-centred and selective foreign policies and this only causes adverse effects contrary to their purpose to maintain the international order led by them.

The inhumane violence of the Israeli Zionists who took advantages under the thorough patronage of the US and the West has caused nearly 100 000 casualties among Palestinians, and the possibility of danger that such catastrophe would prevail over the Middle East and the whole world going beyond the sectional region of the Gaza Strip increases.

The reality proves that the US and the West's self-righteous and double-standard foreign policy is a catalyst driving the present unpleasant international political and military situation into greater disaster and danger and that as long as this is allowed, global peace and stability, the cherished desire of mankind, can never be realized.

The only way out from the ever-worsening Middle East crisis is to put an end to the double standards of the US and the West.

Japan's deployment of long-range missiles is suicidal

Kim Sol Hwa, a researcher of the Institute for Japan Studies under the DPRK Foreign Ministry, issued the following article "A suicidal act of jumping into fire with brushwood" on February 3:

Japan's accelerated deployment of long-range missiles is provoking the vigilance of the international community nowadays.

Typical examples are that it secured the approval from the US for the sale of 50 air-to-ground missiles for F-15 fighters in August last year and has recently signed a contract with the US to purchase Tomahawk long-range cruise missiles.

Japan is going to spend 169.4 billion yen to import 400 US-made Tomahawk long-range cruise missiles and related equipment from 2025.

It seeks to purchase Norway-made cruise missiles for F-35A stealth fighters in around 2026. In particular, it has buckled down to extending the range of type 12 ground-to-sea guided missiles of the Ground "Self-Defence Force" from about 200km at present to over 1 000km and developing high-speed gliding projectiles and 3 000km-range supersonic guided missiles as part of its bid to start the deployment of home-made long-range missiles next year.

All facts prove that Japan, which revised three security-related documents, including the "national security strategy", under the pretext of "threats from neighbours" at the end of 2022 to formulate the possession of "counterattack capability", is trying hard to realize it at any cost through the deployment of long-range missiles.

Japan plans to allocate 734 billion yen, which is nearly one tenth of the 2024 defence budget amounting to the biggest-ever 7 trillion 949.6 billion yen, for the purchase and development of long-range missiles. This clearly shows that it is desperately pursuing the possession of the capability for preemptive attack.

Japan often spreads the "rumour about threats from neighbours". This is nothing but the artifice aimed at accelerating the deployment of long-range missiles at any cost under that excuse and thus securing the capability for carrying out preemptive attacks at the depths of neighbouring countries.

Far from making an apology and reparations for having inflicted untold calamities upon our country and other Asian nations in the last century, Japanese politicians openly and regularly visit the Yasukuni Shrine haunted by the spectre of militarism. Japan's moves to possess the capability for preemptive attack against this backdrop clearly prove that it remains utterly unchanged in its wild ambition for reinvasion.

What can never be overlooked is the fact that Japan's dangerous moves for turning itself into a military giant are being made according to the US scenario for implementing its hegemony-seeking strategy geared to making its vassal states in the Asia-Pacific region the stooges for proxy wars against the DPRK, China and Russia.

Japan, which is banned from possessing combat capabilities as a war criminal nation bereft of the right to belligerency and participation in war, and the US, which unhesitatingly freed the vassal state from the aforesaid shackles in a bid to implement its hegemony-seeking strategy, have neither qualification nor justification to find fault with the DPRK's just and legitimate measures for bolstering its self-reliant defence capabilities.

Japan discarded even its spurious veil of "pacifist nation" and is hell-bent on securing long-range missiles targeting its neighbouring countries under the US' zealous patronage and with its active backing. It has now emerged as the biggest threat in the region.

Japan should be mindful that it will become a common target of the righteous regional community for its dogged attempt at realizing the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" while zealously following the US which is gripped by anachronistic ambition for hegemony and expansionist fantasy.

Its deployment of long-range missiles is just a suicidal act of jumping into fire with brushwood on its back.

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Japan denies past crimes and insults victims of forcible drafting

The following is the KCNA commentary titled "Fascist violence insulting the Korean victims of forcible drafting in denial of past crimes":

Shortly ago, the Gunma prefectural authorities of Japan committed such fascist violence as forcibly removing a memorial to the Korean victims of forcible drafting.

The monument, erected in the Gunma Prefectural Park in April 2004 in the hope that Japanese would always remember and repent of the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people in the past and promote peace in Asia and friendship between the DPRK and Japan, has been a symbol of the lessons of history for nearly 20 years.

However, the prefectural authorities turned down the renewal of the licence for the monument and decided on its removal, terming the phrase "forcible drafting" mentioned at the memorial service held in front of the monument in 2012 "loss of political neutrality" and "act running counter to its establishment purpose".

The Gunma prefectural authorities had been impossible to attain their goal due to the fierce protests by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) and Japanese civic and social circles. This year they finally removed the monument in such a forcible way as "administrative execution".

This is a base act of denying the past crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists, who inflicted untold pain and misfortune upon Korea and many other countries and nations in Asia, and beautifying their colonial rule over them. It is an unpardonable unethical act of reopening the old wounds among the direct victims of forcible drafting and their descendants.

Japan can never cover up the forcible drafting and forced labour it committed against the Korean people in the last century.

In order to forcibly mobilize human and material resources needed for the war of aggression on April 1 1938, the Japanese imperialists promulgated the "National Mobilization Law" containing the gangster-like paragraph "The enforcement of

the current law applies to external territories (colonies)." They also instituted or revised such draconian laws as "Ordinance on Labour Conscription" and "Women's Volunteer Corps Service Ordinance", thus forcibly drafting and abducting the Korean people into the sites of death, irrespective of their age and sex.

Thousands of forcibly drafted Koreans were forced into slave labour at munitions factories, underground factories, airports, power stations and mines in Gunma Prefecture alone. Many Koreans lost their lives in the alien land after being forced into harsh labour and miserable life.

It is the legal duty and due obligation of the assailant nation to feel sorry for the victims, make reparations for the crimes and prevent the recurrence of such misfortune.

But the Gunma prefectural authorities revealed their anti-historical and unethical true colours and wild revanchist ambition through the unreasonable and forcible removal of the memorial to the Korean victims of forcible

drafting.

What merits a more serious attention is that the Gunma prefectural governor who led and directed the removal is a die-hard ultra-right politician steeped in hostility toward the DPRK to the marrow of his bones, and is in cahoots with the behind-the-scenes forces working hard to remove the monument to the Korean victims of the great Kanto earthquake in Tokyo and other similar monuments across the Japanese archipelago.

Their attempt to the past reveals their intention to repeat it.

Chongryon, Koreans in Japan and Japanese political parties and social organizations are now waging a dynamic struggle demanding the restoration of the monument, resolutely denouncing the unreasonable violence.

The Gunma prefectural authorities should ponder over the consequences to be entailed by the present situation which sparked off great anger at home and abroad and restore the memorial at once.

They can never evade the responsibility for the fascist violence.

CPV committed to building prosperous, civilized nation

By Song Jong Ho PT

Ninety four years have passed since the founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

On February 3 1930, Ho Chi Minh organized a meeting to found the Communist Party of Vietnam by merging communist organizations in the country, and advanced a revolutionary line of carrying out the national democratic revolution to advance towards socialism.

The CPV aroused the people to the struggle against the protracted colonial rule by foreign forces.

The victory of the revolution and the founding of the republic in Vietnam in 1945 were the proud fruition of the correct leadership of the CPV and the self-sacrificing struggle of the Vietnamese people.

Even when Vietnam was driven into the flames of war again owing to the 1964 incident in the Gulf of Tonkin, the CPV mobilized all the people to win victory.

At last, the Vietnamese people achieved the complete liberation and reunification of the country and embarked on the road of socialism.

All these historical events were unthinkable apart from the guidance of the CPV which has led to victory the Vietnamese people's struggle for national liberation, national reunification and socialist construction.

The 13th Congress of the CPV held in Hanoi from January 25 to February 1 2021 set forth the tasks for strengthening the leadership and fighting efficiency of the party and the step-wise goals for building a

developed socialist state by 2024.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the strategy for socio-economic development in 2011-2020 and discussed and decided the orientation of the five-year socio-economic development by 2025 and other issues.

Today, the Vietnamese people are working hard to carry out the tasks set forth at the party congress under the leadership of the CPV led by General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

The Vietnamese government is paying attention to mechanization as part of its effort to overcome the growing shortage of labour in rural areas and to increase crop yields. As a result, mechanization has already been achieved in more than 70 percent of its farmlands.

It also encourages renewable energy production and plans to increase the share of renewables-based electricity generation in the national power supply to about 85 percent by 2050.

In order to promote economic development by dint of modern science and technology, it is taking measures to grant tax reduction or exemption to businesses that contribute to scientific research and technological development.

Externally, Vietnam is strengthening solidarity and developing cooperation with the member states of ASEAN and countries that have traditional friendly relations with it.

Under the guidance of the CPV, the Vietnamese people are striving to achieve the goal of building a prosperous, democratic, fair and civilized country.

To defend sovereignty of country

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

February 11 is the anniversary of the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

On February 11 1979, the Iranian people toppled the Pahlavi dictatorship and won victory in their revolution. This was the victory of Iranian people's aspirations and will to independently live and develop and marked a turning point in creating a new life.

After the victorious revolution, they advanced vigorously along the road they chose in order to safeguard the gains of the revolution.

While maintaining the principle of anti-imperialism and independence, Iran has strived to oppose dominationism and develop the relationship with neighbouring countries on the principle of mutual respect and cooperation.

It has bolstered up the ties of bilateral cooperation with other countries in the Middle East. Last year, it re-established diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia which had been severed for years and boosted cooperation in different fields with the Middle East countries.

In the international arena, it has denounced and rejected the hegemony-seeking policy of the US and other Western countries and their interference in the internal affairs of other countries and defended its national sovereignty.

When the UK, France and Germany picked a quarrel with Iran in connection with its launch of a satellite on January 20, it

branded and rejected such slander of the Western countries as interventionism and asserted that the technological development in outer space for peaceful purposes is a legitimate right of the country.

Today, the Iranian people are putting more spurs to the buildup of national defence capability in order to reliably protect the country's sovereignty.

At present, when the role of drones stands out in bold relief in modern warfare with each passing day, Iran is making every endeavour for the qualitative and quantitative buildup of its drone force. In the course of this, it developed and produced many drones capable of performing various missions with its own techniques.

The navy of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is making a remarkable leap forward in attack and defence capabilities. A new warship and a hundred missile launching pads were opened to the public in the country on January 6.

The commander-in-chief of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps expressed his will to defend the national interests in a ceremony held in Bandar Abbas, a southern port city.

On January 23, the Iranian army took delivery of lots of reconnaissance and combat drones produced at home. In a ceremony of receiving the drones that day, the Iranian minister of defence and armed forces logistics said that the drones would improve the combat capability of the Iranian army.

Iran's efforts to defend the sovereignty of the country will constantly be strengthened.

Briefly

Russia

President: Unity reliably guarantees the country's victory

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a speech in the forum "Everything for victory!" on February 2.

Many people are dedicating everything unsparingly to support the Russian combatants who have fought for the country at the risk of their lives and this shows that Russian society is united and this unity guarantees Russia's victory very reliably, he noted.

Saying that the Russian service personnel are now fighting against the neo-Nazis, he denounced Western masters for egging the neo-Nazis on to fight against Russia and using them as a pawn in the fight.

China

Rep to UN refers to solution to Palestinian issue

The Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations recently expressed support to the "two-state proposal" as he addressed an open session of the UN Security Council on the Palestine-Israel issue.

The recognition that an immediate ceasefire should be achieved between Palestine and Israel is overwhelming in the international community, he said, adding some individual countries are constantly hampering it regrettably.

The "two-state proposal" is the only feasible way to bring peace between Palestine and Israel and China supports Palestine's full membership of the UN, he said.

Iran

Enemies' threatening moves will be countered, President declares

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi warned enemies against threatening moves against his country on February 2.

The Iranian military capabilities are not a threat to any country, but provide the regional countries with a guarantee for reliable security, he stressed.

Syria

Defence ministry censures US for aggression

The Syrian Ministry of Defence in a statement issued on February 3 denounced the US for its act of aggression against the country.

Decrying the US air raid on Syria, the statement termed it a move to undermine its anti-terrorism campaign.

Saying that the area is waging an active fight against the remnants of the "Islamic State" terrorist organization, it asserted that the recent attack shows that the US is involved in the activities of the terrorist organization.

The statement noted the US cannot have any excuse for the act of aggression and the attack cannot be viewed otherwise than an attempt to weaken the Syrian army and its allies.

DPRK CLINCHES A SWEEPING VICTORY AT 2024 ASIAN WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

All players win gold medals, women take first place in holding world records

KCNA

DPRK weightlifters Won Hyon Sim and Pang Un Chol won the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships which are held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The championships have brought together more than 190 excellent male and female players from over 30 countries and regions including the DPRK, Vietnam and Kazakhstan.

Wonsucceeded insnatching 86kg (new world and Asian records) and jerking 106kg to lift 192kg (new world and

Asian records) in total in the women's 45kg category, thus winning three gold medals.

Pang lifted 116kg in snatch and 150kg in jerk in the men's 55kg category, thereby taking the first place in jerk and total with 266kg.

DPRK players prove successful every day at the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships.

Ri Song Gum won three gold medals by lifting 95kg in snatch, 125kg (new world and Asian records) in jerk and 220kg (new world and Asian records) in total at the women's 49kg category.

Kang Hyon Gyong and Pak

Myong Jin, too, took the first place in snatch, jerk and total respectively.

Kang lifted 104kg (new world and Asian records) in snatch, 123kg in jerk and 227kg in total in the women's 55kg category. Pak lifted 134kg in snatch, 172kg in jerk and 306kg in total in the men's 61kg category.

Ri Won Ju lifted 137kg in snatch, 180kg in jerk and 317kg in total in the men's 67kg category and Kim Il Gyong lifted 103kg in snatch, 122kg in jerk and 225kg in total in the women's 59kg category, to be placed first in snatch, jerk and total

respectively.

On February 6, Ri Suk lifted 112kg in snatch, 141kg in jerk and 253kg in total in the women's 64kg category, to be placed first and win three gold medals in snatch, jerk and total.

DPRK players have won victory in succession at the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships, with male and female players fluttering the flag of the DPRK in every game.

Ri Chong Song lifted 169kg in snatch, 200kg in jerk and 369kg in total in the men's 81kg category on February 7, thus winning three gold

medals in the championships.

Song Kuk Hyang also snatched 115kg, jerked 154kg and lifted 269kg in total in the women's 71kg category that day, thereby taking the first place in the event.

In particular, she renewed the world record held by a Chinese player in jerk.

Therefore, the DPRK was placed first in the country rankings by establishing a total of 12 world records in women's weightlifting.

Jong Chun Hui lifted 111kg in snatch, 125kg in jerk and 236kg in total in the women's 76kg category on February 8, bagging three

gold medals.

As a result, all eleven male and female players of the DPRK won gold medals at the 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships.

Meanwhile, DPRK divers Im Yong Myong and Jo Jin Mi finished runners-up in the mixed 10m platform synchronized diving event at the 2024 world underwater sports championships in Doha, Qatar.

Kim Mi Rae and Jo Jin Mi also came second in the women's 10-metre platform synchronized diving event of the 2024 world underwater sports championships.

Lunar New Year holiday custom of Korean people

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Lunar New Year's Day is one of the greatest national folk holidays of the Korean people.

From ancient times, they cleaned the indoors and outdoors of houses and made preparations for the traditional folk holiday while making new clothes and festive dishes for the lunar New Year.

Tidying up houses while removing dust and dirt was good for celebrating the holiday with fresh feelings and determination.

After cleaning the inside and outside of houses, they pasted various pictures on closets or sliding doors for decoration.

They would make new clothes for the holiday or when they had spare new clothes they put on them. In case there were no new clothes, they would wash old ones to wear.

On lunar New Year's Day, all the people would put on festive clothes to hold a memorial service for ancestors and then made a deep bow to seniors in order.

People offered the lunar New Year's greeting to the seniors of their families and relatives, aged persons in their villages and teachers.

Such greetings were exchanged between friends wishing each other success in the lunar New Year.

After holding a memorial service and offering lunar New Year's greeting on the morning of the day, the relatives took festive dishes together in one place and served dishes to visitors.

Typical festive foods included glutinous rice cake, steamed rice cake, fancy rice cake, pancake, sweets and cakes, fruit punch, sweet rice drink, roast meat, fruits and liquor, etc.

In particular, rice-cake soup was a must indispensable for

the day.

As it represented festive dishes, it became customary to ask "How many bowls of rice-cake soup have you had?" when asking children their ages on the day.

Pheasant was often put into the soup, but if there was no pheasant, chicken was used instead. Therefore, such an expression as "Chicken can substitute for pheasant" came into being.

Folk games of the day involved yut (four-stick game), janggi (Korean chess), women's seesawing, children's kite flying, sleighing, spinning and shuttlecock and pinwheel games.

Among them, yut game was played by all the people, irrespective of age or sex. The game was especially good for merrily celebrating the holiday as it promoted the harmony of families and the unity of villagers.

Women put on various

nice clothes and gathered in a place to merrily play seesaw until late hours.

Today, the Korean people enjoy the holiday as they play a variety of folk and sports

games and taste the festive dishes with deep national flavour.



On lunar New Year's Day, children are happy to wear new traditional Korean costumes at the family of Ri Jae Nam living in neighbourhood unit No. 71, Jinhung-dong, Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

Sol Islets in Hongwon a natural monument

By Song Jong Ho PT

Sol Islets in Hongwon are a natural monument in the Hongwon county town of South Hamgyong Province.

They are comprised of three islets lying in a row from east to west offshore.

A low hill subsided to form the islets when the area of the East Sea of Korea sank in the tertiary

period of the Cenozoic era and they rose a bit over a long period.

Erosion and weathering turned the peripheries of the islets into precipitous cliffs.

The first islet is the largest in circumference, the third one is smaller than the former and the middle one is the smallest.

The islets are of granite-gneiss.

