

Twelfth Session of 14th Supreme People's Assembly of DPRK held

KCNA

The Twelfth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on January 22 and 23.

The session was convened at a historic time when all the people of the country turned out in the dynamic general advance to glorify 2025 marking the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea and the 80th anniversary of national liberation as a year of eye-opening events and great turn in completing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress and bringing about

a new phase towards a higher development stage, true to the fighting programme set forth at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Present there were deputies to the SPA and, as observers, officials of the Party Central Committee, the SPA Standing Committee, the Cabinet, ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs and other officials concerned in Pyongyang and local areas.

Taking the platform were

Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the DPRK Cabinet, Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, and other senior Party, government and military officials, members of the State Affairs Commission, and vice-chairmen, secretary general and members of the SPA Standing Committee.

The speaker and deputy speakers of the SPA of the DPRK took the chair.

Pak In Chol, speaker of the SPA, made an opening address.

When the session was declared open, the national anthem of the DPRK was played.

The Twelfth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK brought out the following agenda items:

First, on the review of the work of the DPRK Cabinet in 2024 and its tasks in 2025

Second, on the fulfilment of the

state budget of the DPRK for 2024 and the state budget for 2025

Third, on the deliberation and adoption of the law of the DPRK on building-materials industry

Fourth, on the deliberation and adoption of the law of the DPRK on offshore farming

Fifth, on the review of the work of the DPRK Central Court in 2024

Sixth, on the revision of some provisions of the DPRK Socialist Constitution

Seventh, organizational matter

Before discussing the agenda items, the session briefed on the

senior officials of government organs appointed at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

Premier Pak Thae Song, on behalf of the Cabinet members, took an oath to remain faithful to the Constitution of the DPRK and live up to the expectations of the Party and the people with absolute devotion.

Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet, made a report on the first agenda item.

The report analyzed and reviewed in depth the successes, experience and a series of deviations gained and made by the Cabinet in the course of organizing and

directing the work for implementing the Party's economic policy while concentrating efforts on attaining the 12 major goals for the national economic development last year. It also set forth detailed sectoral tasks to be surely fulfilled this year, the final year in the implementation of the five-year plan.

Speeches were made by deputies Pak Jong Gun, Kim Yu Il, Ri Sang Do, Kim Kwang Nam, Ri Kyong Il, Kim Song Hui, Kim Son Il and Kim Kum Suk.

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The speakers expressed full support to the report submitted to the current SPA session, noting that the work of the Cabinet in 2024 was correctly summed up and the main orientation and tasks for the 2025 economic work were indicated in line with the Party's intention to perfectly implement the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress, while consolidating the successes made last year, and the high enthusiasm of all the officials and working people to greet the 80th founding anniversary of the WPK with brilliant labour achievements.

They expressed their determination to make redoubled efforts to successfully carry out the vast revolutionary tasks facing their sectors and units with intense loyalty to the Party, revolution and people as befit the officials in the new era of comprehensive national rejuvenation and the representatives of the people.

Many deputies offered

constructive opinions on the Cabinet work.

Pak Thae Song made public measures for the raised issues.

The session adopted a decision of the SPA of the DPRK "On approving the report on the work of the DPRK Cabinet".

Ri Myong Guk, minister of Finance, made a report on the second agenda item.

The session recognized that the state budget for 2024 was fulfilled as planned in the struggle to successfully attain the immediate goals of the five-year plan for the national economic development and that the state budget for 2025 was drawn up to successfully fulfil the five-year plan by concentrating the investment for accelerating the significant changes in the national defence capabilities and displaying the might of the self-supporting economy in major sectors of the national economy, and to ensure the improvement of the people's living standards and the comprehensive development in all the sectors

of socialist construction including science, education, public health and culture.

The session adopted with unanimous approval a decision of the DPRK SPA "On approving the fulfilment of the state budget of the DPRK for 2024" and an ordinance of the DPRK SPA "On

the state budget of the DPRK for 2025".

Kang Yun Sok, vice-chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, made a report on the third and fourth agenda items.

Saying that the new draft laws, worked out to meet the requirements of the times when a great heyday of construction was opened up and a new turning point was made for the development of offshore farming under the wise guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, stipulate the principled issues arising in laying a solid foundation for building-materials production and manufacturing quality building-materials of various kinds and the practical issues arising in the creation of offshore farms and production and management of products of sea culture, the reporter explained the contents according to their chapters.

The SPA Standing Committee submitted the draft laws of the DPRK on building-materials industry and offshore farming for

deliberation at the current SPA session, in accordance with Article 95 of the Socialist Constitution.

Deputies So Jong Jin, Choe Yong Man, Yun Jae Hyok, Choe Yong Bo, Song Chun Sop, Kim Chol Bom, Jon Chang Guk and Kim Chol Yong made speeches. They expressed full support to the draft laws, saying in combination with the actual situation of their sectors and units that they were worked out from the standpoint of practicality, scientific accuracy, development and prospectiveness.

The session adopted with unanimous approval ordinances of the DPRK SPA "On adopting the Law of the DPRK on Building-materials Industry" and "On adopting the Law of the DPRK on Offshore Farming".

The session discussed the work of the Central Court in 2024 as its fifth agenda item.

Choe Kun Yong, president of the Central Court, cited data as he delivered a report on the last year's work of the Central Court.

After his report, deputies raised opinions on the work of the Central Court, including the practical issues arising in further strengthening the most advantageous socialist legal system of our state and more thoroughly establishing the revolutionary law-abiding climate throughout society.

Choe Kun Yong made public measures for the raised opinions.

The SPA deliberated on the report on the 2024 work of the Central Court and admitted that it had successfully fulfilled its duty stipulated in the constitution, and adopted a decision of the DPRK SPA "On approving the report of the Central Court of the DPRK".

The session discussed the sixth

agenda item. It unanimously adopted an ordinance of the DPRK SPA "On amending some provisions of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK" as regards the issue of renaming the Central Court and the Central Public Prosecutors Office the Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office.

The session discussed the organizational matter as its seventh agenda item.

A member of the SPA Standing Committee was recalled and by-elected.

Jon Hyang Sun was by-elected as member of the SPA Standing Committee.

Members of sectional committees of the SPA were recalled and by-elected.

Kim Chol Won, Kim Jong Su and Ri Song Bom were by-elected as members of the SPA Legislation Committee.

Kang Yun Sok, Jong Myong Su and Yun Jong Ho were by-elected as members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA.

Kim Tok Hun was by-elected as chairman of the SPA Budget Committee and Ri Ji Nam as its member.

Pak In Chol, speaker of the SPA, made a closing address.

The Twelfth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly successfully finished its work amid the high political enthusiasm of all the participants to be loyal to their duty as the representatives of the supreme power organ and masters of state affairs in the sacred struggle for hastening the comprehensive rejuvenation of our state, true to the ideas and leadership of the great Comrade Kim Jong Un with single-minded efforts.

On DPRK Cabinet's work in 2024 and tasks for 2025

Report on the work of Cabinet made at the Twelfth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly

Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a report on the last year's work of the Cabinet and its tasks for this year at the Twelfth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

He said that the Cabinet, concentrating efforts on attaining the 12 major goals for the development of the national economy last year, organized and conducted the work for implementing the economic policies of the Workers' Party of Korea, regarding it as the main task to put spurs to the increase in production and step up the readjustment and reinforcement projects in all sectors and units and thus provide a sure guarantee for the fulfilment of the five-year plan.

Our people achieved remarkable successes in the struggle for economic development and improvement of the people's living standards, overcoming all sorts of unprecedented challenges and threats last year under the wise



Premier Pak Thae Song delivers a report on the work of the Cabinet.

guidance of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un, the reporter noted, and went on:

In the dynamic struggle to attain the 12 major goals, the rolled steel production increased by 43 percent, coal production by 15 percent, nonferrous metal production by 7 percent, nitrogenous fertilizer production by 4 percent, cement production by 2 percent, and cloth production by 8 percent over the

previous year.

Last year we faced many obstacles and difficulties, but we stubbornly waged a grand construction campaign for the people without a moment's interruption under the far-reaching plan of the Party, thus erecting many monumental edifices conducive to the people's living in different parts of the country and demonstrating the development potentiality and advance spirit of

our state.

Last year, everything was in short supply and difficult as never before, but the state established a well-regulated system for control over the quality of products to be provided to the students and children and supplied quality school uniforms, bags and footwear to the schoolchildren.

True to the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee, the science and technology sector completed the major state projects for the development of science and technology, thus contributing to the increase in production and the improvement of the people's standards of living.

The public health sector built standard pharmacies in all cities and counties across the country to further consolidate the foundation for the promotion of the people's health, and the sports sector won more than 360 medals including over 210 gold medals in at least 50

international games.

The successes achieved in socialist economic construction last year are a precious fruition of the wise leadership of the General Secretary and the vigorous struggle of our people firmly united as one around the Party with patriotism.

Referring to the serious shortcomings and lessons revealed in the last year's struggle, the reporter went on:

Today we are faced with heavy task of glorifying this significant year marking the 80th founding anniversary of the WPK, the final year of the five-year plan, as a year of eye-opening events and great turn to bring about a phase of upturn towards a higher development stage with immense courage, redoubled efforts, inexhaustible enthusiasm and devotion.

The Cabinet will make innovations in economic operation and command, regarding it as its

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main task to lay a firm foundation for a new stage of development and make clear progress in improving the people's living standards by further putting spurs to the growth and development of the overall national economy this year and unconditionally attaining the readjustment and reinforcement goals set forth by the Party.

All sectors of the national economy will lay a firm springboard for the sustained development of the national economy by putting spurs to the attainment of 12 major goals and the fulfilment of the five-year plan.

We will dynamically step up the project for building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, the construction of the Kalma coastal tourist area, the rural construction and other major policy-oriented projects and push ahead with the work for realizing the domestic production of finishing building materials as planned.

The agricultural sector will attain the grain production goal without fail this year too and steadily direct efforts to the readjustment and

reinforcement of irrigation system, the production of farm machines and the reclamation of tideland so as to consolidate the material and technical foundations of agriculture and definitely put the agricultural production on a track of stable and sustained growth.

The fisheries sector will conduct positive fishing activities and fish farming and aquaculture on a large scale so as to produce a large amount of aquatic products.

The light-industry and regional-industry sectors will direct primary efforts to improving the quality of products and boost the production of essential consumer goods, condiments, school uniforms, bags and footwear and push ahead with the readjustment and reinforcement projects.

The commercial sector will enhance the leading role and controllability of the state and ensure the regular supply of nutritious and quality foodstuffs with hygienic safety to the children, true to the Party's childcare policy.

The land and urban management sectors will push ahead with the land management and ecological

environment protection, spruce up provincial capitals and city and county seats and provide the people with convenient and cultured living conditions and environment.

The scientific circles will turn out as one to successfully solve urgent sci-tech problems for the economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, and the public health sector will revitalize the production of medical supplies and raise the scientification and modernization level of medical service to provide better medical benefits to the people and lay a solid foundation for the anti-epidemic work to cope with any global health crisis.

We will intensify the work for improving the educational structure and teaching contents and methods to put the quality of education on a higher level and give priority to strengthening the educational foundation of the country and raise a strong wind for further stepping up the support to education throughout society.

The Cabinet will direct efforts to solving the urgent methodological problems that conform to the

country's economic structure and specific conditions while making the working masses the real masters of economic management, and steadily and gradually push forward the improvement of economic management to develop the economy and the people's living standards in a stable and sustained way.

It will ensure a unified command over the state emergency disaster crisis response, reinforce the emergency information system on natural disasters and the information system on flood, typhoon, drought and coastal disaster management and further increase the state crisis response capability to prevent human loss and minimize economic damage.

In order to successfully carry out the tasks facing us this year, the Cabinet will hold the overall economy of the country on the same line and ensure the unified and long-term guidance and management by intensifying the work to establish discipline and order in which all sectors and units unconditionally obey and implement the Cabinet decisions and instructions on the principle

of the Cabinet-responsibility system and Cabinet-centred system.

It will thoroughly establish a work habit, in which the leading economic officials do away with the indifferent and self-centred practices as required by the period of comprehensive development of socialist construction and approach all problems from the national point of view and with patriotic attitude and solve them through close cooperation between sectors and units and actively cope with the conditions and environment.

The reporter said that the Cabinet would always bear in mind the expectations of the Party and the people, who entrusted the economic work of the country to it, and carry out without fail the important tasks set forth at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee with tireless zeal and courageous practical ability and thus glorify this significant year marking the 80th anniversary of the WPK as a year of proud victory and honourably greet the Ninth Congress of the Party.

On fulfilment of state budget for 2024 and state budget for 2025

Report on state budget made at the Twelfth Session of the 14th SPA

Ri Myong Guk, minister of Finance, made a report on the fulfilment of the state budget for 2024 and on the state budget for 2025 deliberated on at the Budget Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly prior to the Twelfth Session of the 14th SPA. He said:

The state budget for 2024 was fulfilled as planned.

The state budgetary revenue for 2024 was carried out at 101.6 percent, a 4.3 percent increase over the previous year.

Many industrial establishments in the economic sector fulfilled their plans for central budgetary revenue at 100.8 percent and regional budgetary revenue at 103.7 percent.

In last year's state budget, funds equivalent to 103.2 percent as compared with 2023 was spent for the major construction projects and the enforcement of the people-oriented policies and for the economic development to attain 12 major goals and the improvement of people's living standards.

Last year the defence sector was provided on a top priority basis with funds equivalent to 15.9 percent of the total state budgetary expenditure.

The funds needed for the recovery from flood damage, the construction of regional-industry factories, the project for building 10 000 flats at the third stage in the Hwasong area, the construction of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm, the modernization of the Ryongsong Machine Complex



Finance Minister Ri Myong Guk delivers a report on the state budget.

and other major construction projects were provided from the capital investment, an increase by 0.3 percent over the previous year.

Funds amounting to 13.9 percent of the total budgetary expenditure were allotted to the work for the national economy so that all sectors and units could concentrate their efforts on the readjustment and reinforcement projects planned last year to provide a clear practical guarantee for carrying out the five-year plan.

Funds equivalent to 109.6 percent as against the previous year were appropriated for the field of science and technology so that it could contribute to solving the practical problems directly related to the economy, national defence and the improvement of the people's living standards.

Funds equivalent to 100.1

percent as against the previous year were allotted for the agricultural work to ensure the purchase of farming materials, the completion of irrigation facilities, the rural housing construction, and others.

The anti-epidemic work expense was provided within the planned range so as to reliably protect the lives and security of the people from the worldwide epidemic crisis.

Funds equivalent to 37.7 percent of the total state budgetary expenditure were allotted preferentially to the education, public health and sports sectors.

Last year, the number of fund donors increased, fully displaying the noble traits of our society helping and leading one another forward.

The state budget for this year has been planned to ensure the acceleration of the significant change in the national defence capabilities, the successful fulfilment of the five-year plan by concentrating investments to display the might of the self-supporting economy in major national economic sectors, and the comprehensive development of all fields of socialist construction, including the improvement of people's living standards, science, education, public health and culture.

The state budgetary revenue is expected to grow by 2 percent over last year, with the turnover tax, a

major item of the budgetary revenue, increasing by 0.6 percent and the income from state enterprises by 2.5 percent, which will account for 84.3 percent of the total revenue.

The profits of cooperative organizations are expected to be 100 percent, depreciation 100.7 percent, real estate rent 100 percent, premium for social insurance 101 percent, income from property sale and price fluctuation 100.1 percent, income from money collection 100.2 percent, other income 100 percent and income from special economic zones 100.3 percent, compared with last year.

The central budget revenue is expected to account for 72.3 percent of the state budgetary revenue, with the revenue from the central economy accounting for a large proportion, and provinces, cities and counties are to pay some funds in the national budget for the scientific research in the agricultural sector and others.

This year, the state budgetary expenditure will increase to 103.8 percent over last year.

The investment in socialist economic construction will grow to 103.2 percent over last year so that 44.1 percent of the total budgetary expenditure is to be spent on it.

The defence expenditure is estimated at 15.7 percent of the total budgetary expenditure.

It is expected to allot funds equivalent to 101.2 percent over last year to the capital investment for major and other construction

projects in keeping pace with the supply of materials by the state.

Funds equivalent to 101.6 percent over last year are allocated to the work of the national economy and the expenditure for developing science and technology is to increase to 109 percent over last year.

Funds equivalent to 101.7 percent over last year will be spent on the agricultural work and the expenditure for the anti-epidemic work will increase by 0.2 percent over last year.

A larger sum of money will be disbursed for the people-oriented policies and the social and cultural work than last year, an increase by 6.4 percent for the educational sector, 5.6 percent for the public health sector, 5.7 percent for the cultural sector and 5.4 percent for the sports sector.

This year, too, the state will send a large amount of educational aid funds and stipends to the children of Koreans in Japan so that they can grow up into the dependable reserves of overseas citizens.

All the officials are required to execute the state budget in a responsible manner so that it can be a realistic and effective one actively promoting the prosperity and development of our state and the promotion of its people's well-being this year, too, and thus fully provide funds necessary for the successful attainment of the fighting goals set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

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

Modern factories rise up in succession to contribute to improving material and cultural life of people in Hamju and Onchon counties



An inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Hamju County takes place on January 18.

KCNA

The people in South Hamgyong Province have greeted the inauguration of regional-industry factories in Hamju County as a great auspicious event.

A spectacular sea of greenhouses was built in the Ryonpho area, where only gritty wind blew hard, and a fine model offshore farming base in the city of Sinpho. Now, the first entities of the regional-industry revolution of the Workers' Party of Korea have appeared,

bringing excitement and joy to the provincial people.

An inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Hamju County for the Regional Development 20×10 Policy took place on January 18.

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

The county of Hamju, too, sees the significant inauguration of regional-industry factories that is stirring up the whole country

while demonstrating the dynamic phase of regional development in the new era, he said, noting that the present joyful moment is symbolic of the era of great turn and change to be specially recorded in the history of the country and clearly proves that the long-cherished desire of the people is being translated into reality.

He said that regional-industry factories have simultaneously sprung up in 20 cities and counties of the country in less than one year after the ground-breaking

ceremony for the construction of regional-industry factories in the county of Songchon, and this historic gigantic transformation is associated with the love and devotion for the people of the great father who has worked heart and soul to improve the regional people's living standards, regarding the pains he takes for the people as his mission.

Ju Chang Sok, chief secretary of the Hamju County Committee of the WPK, made a speech.

He expressed the determination to consolidate

the county's economic foundations by making the most of its natural and geographical conditions and economic potentials, as intended by the Party, and ensure the steady production at those regional-industry factories and thus build up the county into a thriving region.

Managers of the new factories cut the inauguration tape.

Many balloons rose up into the air and fireworks were set off to beautifully decorate the sky over Hamju County.

On the same day, there

were a performance of artists of the National Folk Art Troupe and a firework display in celebration of the inauguration ceremony.

Onchon County of Nampho Municipality auspiciously greeted the inauguration of regional-industry factories.

A grand ceremony of declaring the inauguration of regional-industry factories in the county took place on January 20.

Present at the ceremony were officials and working



A ceremony takes place in Onchon County on January 20 to inaugurate regional-industry factories.

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people of Nampho Municipality and Onchon County, soldier-builders and employees of regional-industry factories.

Ri Jae Nam, chief secretary of the Nampho Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, addressed the ceremony.

He said that the historic task for the comprehensive development of regional industry was decided as the most important political task of the Party and state and regional-industry factories were splendidly built in less than a year since their ground-breaking. This is a fruition of the energetic leadership of the respected Comrade

Kim Jong Un who is devoting his heart and soul to providing the regional people with a civilized life envied by the world, he noted.

He called on all officials and working people to turn out as one in the drive for increased production and creation to bring earlier the future of comprehensive national rejuvenation,

always bearing in mind the benevolence of the Party, and thus work miracles and innovations and greet the Ninth Congress of the WPK with signal labour successes.

Ryu Song Chol, chief secretary of the Onchon County Committee of the WPK, made a speech.

The speaker pledged to take the lead of the country

in upholding the Party's far-reaching policy of regional and rural rejuvenation, being always aware of the great love and trust of General Secretary Kim Jong Un for the regional people.

The factory managers cut an inauguration tape with a resolve to become true servants of the people.

At the end of the ceremony

the participants made the rounds of the factories equipped with modern production processes and cultural and welfare facilities.

On the same day, fireworks were displayed to celebrate the inauguration of the regional-industry factories, wishing for the happy future of the people of Onchon County.



Residents of Onchon County celebrate the inauguration of regional-industry factories.

1 000-ri journey associated with lofty aim of national liberation

This year marks the 100th anniversary of 1 000-ri Journey for National Liberation made by Kim Il Sung

Pak Son I

Kim Il Sung made two rounds of 1 000-ri (250-mile) journeys in his teens all alone.

The first journey was the one he made from Badaogou in China to Mangyongdae, his birthplace in Pyongyang, when he was not yet 12, as his father, the outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement in Korea, had said that a man born in Korea should know well about it. For more than half the journey he had to cross steep, craggy mountains which were almost uninhabited. And he spent merely two years in his birthplace. But the journey and the period enabled him to fully understand what kind of people the Koreans were and to have the most precious

experience.

In this sense, the journey is called the 1 000-ri Journey for Learning.

He spent two years in Korea. One day, several months before his graduation from Changdok School, he received the unexpected news that his father was arrested by the Japanese police again.

He made up his mind to go back to Badaogou and left Mangyongdae on January 22 1925 to make the second 250-mile journey.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the journey.

President Kim Il Sung wrote in his reminiscences *With the Century* what he felt crossing the Amnok River (the river bordering China) as follows:

“I looked back at the mountains and rivers in

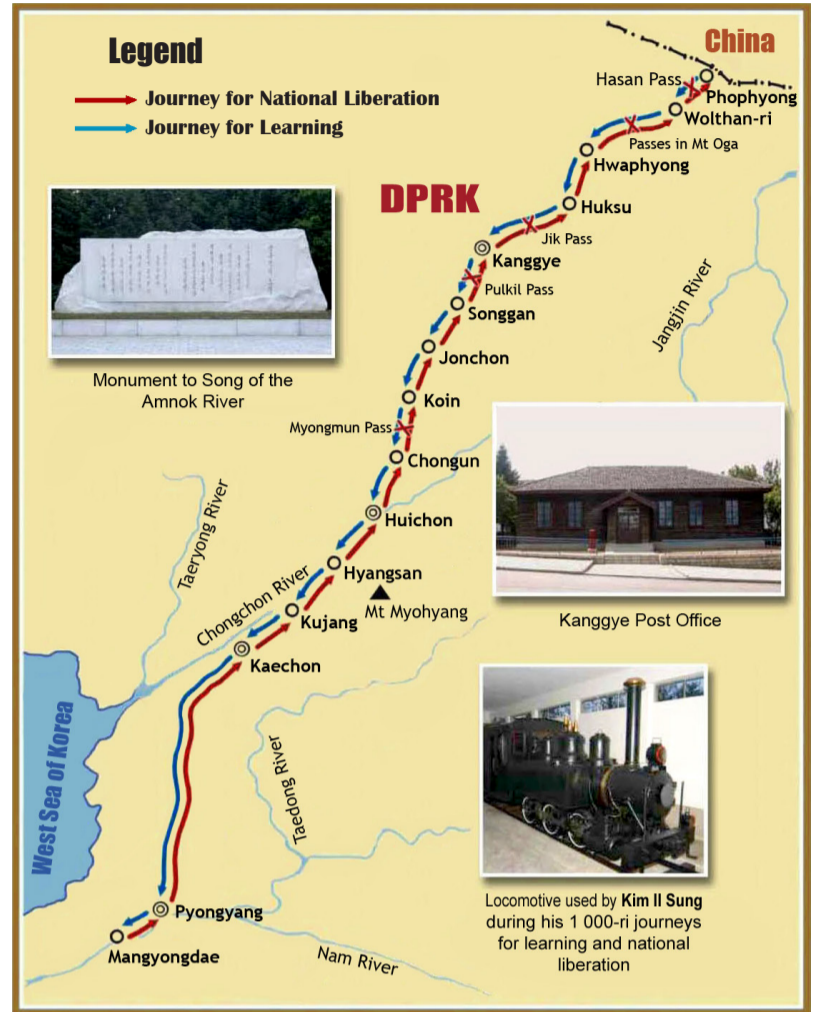
the motherland over and over again with sorrow and indignation. I thought: My dear Korea, I am leaving you. I know I cannot live even for a moment away from you, but I am crossing the Amnok to win you back. Across this river is a foreign land, but I will not forget you, even in there. Wait for me, my Korea. Then I sang the song (Song of the River Amnok) again. As I sang this song, I wondered when I would be able to tread this land again, when I would return to this land where I grew up and where my forefathers’ graves lay. Young as I was, I could not repress my sorrow at this thought. Picturing in my mind the miserable reality of the motherland, I made a grim resolve not to return before Korea had become

independent.”

True to his patriotic oath that he made as he looked back at the groaning motherland at the border, he carried out the historic cause of national liberation by fighting bloody battles against the Japanese imperialists and braving endless blizzards.

That is why the Korean people call the second 1000-ri journey the 1000-ri Journey for National Liberation.

In commemoration of the historic day, schoolchildren from across the country formed an expedition of the 1 000-ri journey for National Liberation to march along the course of the journey made by Kim Il Sung, getting a deep understanding of his indomitable revolutionary spirit and noble patriotic will.



A road map showing the 1 000-ri Journey for Learning and 1 000-ri Journey for National Liberation covered by young Kim Il Sung alone in his teens.

Schoolchildren start study tour of 1 000-ri Journey for National Liberation



A meeting of schoolchildren takes place on January 22 to start study tour of the 1 000-ri Journey for National Liberation.

KCNA

Schoolchildren from across the DPRK started the study tour of the 1 000-ri (250 miles) Journey for National Liberation on the occasion of the centenary of the journey made by the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il Sung and the 50th anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Jong Il’s first expedition along this route.

A meeting took place to start the expedition before the statues of the great Generalissimos at Mangyongdae Revolutionary School on January 22.

Present there were Kim Jong Sun, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, Kim Sung Du, minister of Education, officials concerned, officials of the youth league and members of the study tour group.

The participants laid a flower basket and bouquets at the statues of the great Generalissimos and paid tribute to them.

Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth

League, made a report.

He said that the expedition of the 1 000-ri journey serves as an important occasion in grasping the noble intention and revolutionary spirit of the peerlessly great men recorded on this road of history and demonstrating the firm faith and strong will of all schoolchildren to steadfastly carry forward the march of Paektu under the guidance of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un.

He called upon all the participants to make a report of loyalty by accelerating the march and arriving in Phophyong, the land of history, in good health, keeping in mind that the respected fatherly Marshal is always watching them.

Then followed oath-taking speeches.

When the start of the march was announced, the study tour group began to march, flying the flag in front of the ranks.

Schoolchildren selected from across the country will trek more than 1 000 ri from Mangyongdae to Phophyong along the immortal course covered by the great Generalissimo.

2024 SHINES AS A YEAR OF NEW CHANGE

Proud creations epitomizing ideal of prosperous nation (2)

A new history of regional development is created, notable achievements are made in succession to guarantee the fulfilment of the five-year plan

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Significant entities boost strength of self-supporting industry

It is the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to further consolidate the foundations of the self-supporting economy by concentrating all efforts on economic construction and thus accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country in the near future by relying on the foundations.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un has ushered in a new heyday of the self-supporting economic development in the face of unprecedented difficulties for the past decade.

Last year, projects were briskly carried out to shore up the key industries constituting the basic and fundamental backbone of the economy, with the result that significant entities sprang up to increase the power of the independent industry.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, which takes the lion's share in the country's iron production, built an energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and established the iron- and steel-making system based on the Korean technology, raw material and fuel, thus completely throwing off the century-old yoke of coke.

As part of the bold, development-oriented and realistic goal for putting the metal industry on a Juche basis, the tasks of building more new-type oxygen blast furnaces and increasing

production capacity were set forth for the complex and the work for their implementation was pushed forward under the great concern and guidance of the Party and the state and thus the spectacular success was achieved at a go.

The Komdok Mining Complex, an important unit in the mining industry, successfully wound up a project for rationally improving the ore-transporting system. Thanks to the completion of conveyor transport system No. 9 and conveyor transport shaft No. 72, which will play an important role in the present and prospective production of minerals, material and technical foundations were perfected for transporting all minerals that are produced at deep and upper production areas through a long-distance conveyor belt, thus opening up bright prospects for boosting production of nonferrous metal.

The reconstruction of roasting-sulphuric acid process, which will be helpful to the development of the self-supporting nonferrous metal industry, was completed at the Munphyong Smeltery.

This has laid a solid foundation for making a great stride in the economic development of the country and the improvement of the people's living standards with locally-available



A Korean-style energy-saving oxygen blast furnace built at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

resources and technology of the DPRK.

The smeltery gave precedence to the supply of materials and equipment while organizing and conducting the construction projects meticulously and on a scientific basis to complete the manufacture, assembly and installation of different kinds of equipment in a qualitative way. In cooperation with lecturers and researchers of Kim Il Sung University, it fully solved technical problems arising in the operation of production processes including the completion of the designs for production processes, the development of an automatic control program and

establishment of the control system and built production and living buildings perfectly.

Last year, many other significant successes were made in increasing the might of the self-supporting industry including the upgrading of the Onchon Tile Factory, a modern tile production base fully equipped with production facilities.

The Korean people will continue to dynamically pave the road of prosperity under the leadership of the WPK which indicated the clear orientation of economic development with the firm faith that a powerful country can be built on the solid foundation of the self-supporting economy.

Light industrial bases show noble view on rising generations of Party and state

To provide the rising generations with happiness and bright laughter is the top priority of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state in policymaking in the DPRK.

The issues for the younger generations are high on the agenda of the important meetings of the Party and state and a huge sum of money is unsparingly disbursed for children.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that to provide all students of the country with uniforms and school things at the state's expense is a consistent policy of the Party and the state, assigned the task of supplying all of them with quality uniforms and bags of new styles and took a crucial measure of the Party Central Committee to carry it out.

He clarified at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee that it is the consistent policy of the WPK and the eternal state policy of the DPRK that the

Party and the state supply necessities for schoolchildren in a responsible manner.

The 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK noted that what should be specially improved in implementing the socialist policies in 2024 was to decisively raise the quality of school uniforms, bags and shoes.

Many light industrial bases for the new generations were built and lots of new systematic measures taken last year.

In a little over a year since the inauguration of a school uniform factory in North Phyongan Province in June 2023, similar factories sprang up and started production one after another in all provinces. They also completed the students' footwear factories including those in Kanggye, Phyongsong and Sariwon.

With the national production system of school uniforms, bags and shoes being in operation, an institutional guarantee



The roasting-sulphuric acid process reconstructed at the Munphyong Smeltery. It will be helpful to the development of the nonferrous metal industry of the country.

FROM PAGE 7

was also provided for the implementation of the socialist policy to more rapidly supply them to all the students in cities, rural areas, mountain villages and branch schools on islands.

Relevant institutions made a detailed survey to know objects to be supplied with school uniforms, satchels and shoes in the new school year, correctly measured their bodies according to the guidelines and collected national statistics. And a new system of supplying them at schools by packing bags and shoes together with school uniforms with name tags of each student attached was established.

A meticulous step was taken to make students try uniforms on in the dressing rooms arranged at schools and clothing technicians repair the defects on the spot before their supply, so that all students could be provided with uniforms that fit them and look fine.

The Party and the state take measures for the rising generations not because they have surplus funds. The deficit they move into for the



School uniform and students' footwear factories spring up and start operation one after another in all provinces.



rising generations is not a loss and the more money they disburse for the children, the brighter the future of the

country will become—this is the method of calculation adopted by the Party and the state.

The merry looks of the children, who grow up happily under the benevolent socialist system, which

prioritizes the policies for the rising generations, future pillars of the country, and gives them the best things in

the world, have more clearly been engraved in the minds of the people as the image of socialism.

Advanced culture spreads all over the country

By Pang Un Ju PT

A new world of blooming socialist civilization, which people imagined as an ideal, is now unfolding in the DPRK on the road of onward march for the overall rejuvenation and development of Korean-style socialism.

According to the noble intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to develop

regional areas as much as the capital and enable their people to enjoy a new civilization, state measures were taken one after another to rapidly diffuse and transfer the excellent and advanced culture of the capital to the provinces last year.

The national sci-tech diffusion network centred on the Sci-Tech Complex has been expanded constantly to spur the development of

civilization. Since its inauguration, a total of more than 4.5 million people visited the complex for perusal until last year, with the users of its website totalling over 90 million and the data they accessed totalling at least 550 million pieces.

Various events for guiding the development of new culture and civilization of Korean style were arranged one after another on a nationwide scale. This constituted an effective measure to simultaneously develop culture in all sectors and regions.

In accordance with the WPK's grandiose plan to turn all the rural areas across the country into cultured socialist rural communities, tens of thousands of families moved into new houses in well over 100 cities and counties across the country last year, the third year in implementing the Party's new rural revolution programme.

As it is becoming customary for owners of new houses to tend the fruit trees, flowering shrubs and ground cover planted in and around their houses in all sincerity, more than 210 neighbourhood units became model neighbourhood units of socialist cultured way of life in the countryside last year.

Meanwhile, the number of



Modern science and technology are quickly disseminated among working people in regions. The photo was taken in Sinchang-ri of Sinchang County, South Hwanghae Province. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

users of Hwanggumyolmae (golden fruit), a website called a "close companion of scientific farming" and "guide to high yield", has increased markedly, and the agricultural workers have widened the horizons of their knowledge and got more enthusiastic about scientific farming.

Larger numbers of farms have put production guidance and business activities on a scientific and IT basis at a higher level by introducing latest information technology and information and communications means into agricultural production, and agricultural workers do farming cheerfully with machines in all parts of the country.

The differences are decreasing in educational level between the capital and the provinces and between cities and rural areas.

In the recent years, the processing manuals for producing school uniforms have been issued to all parts of the country every year to ensure students in both urban and rural areas are supplied with tailored new uniforms without distinction. And state measures have been taken to increase the variety and raise the quality of dairy products for children and thereby all children across the country are being supplied with quality dairy products.

Measures have also been taken to develop the food culture throughout the country. Every region is encouraged to develop and improve local specialities to suit their specific features and common knowledge about cooking has widely been disseminated so that everyone can learn cooking techniques and apply them to

daily dietary life. Riding clubs, ski runs, hot spring resorts, playgrounds and parks have been built in regions.

New year celebrations, people's art festivals held in Pyongyang on the occasions of the significant February and April holidays, dazzling firework displays decorating the nocturnal sky on the holidays and other events inspire the whole country to create and enjoy new culture and civilization.

The new era of efflorescing socialist civilization, which is being ushered in according to the intention of the Party Central Committee, has brought about radical changes in the local people's way of life, view of aesthetics and political awareness and thereby everyone becomes a powerful builder of socialism with a high level of cultural attainments.



Newly-built Nampho Municipal Riding Club and cycling exercise track.

Concentrating efforts on land management

By Kim Il Jin PT

Last year, a nationwide land management campaign was carried out vigorously in the DPRK.

Tree seeds for afforestation were secured and many forests newly created across the country.

The forest guidance bureau under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection mapped out a detailed plan for the collection of seeds according to tree species and intensified guidance over the correct implementation of the plan.

North Hamgyong Province set the proper time for seed collection in conformity with the characteristics of tree species and collected the seeds without any waste in the right time, thus securing quality seeds.

Kim Chaek City started collecting seeds from the seed-gathering forest to meet the actual conditions, thereby gathering lots of seeds in a short span of time and Onsong County secured tree seeds of over ten species more than planned.

North Hwanghae Province made a strict inspection of the collected seeds and

stored and managed them in a scientific way according to their species to prevent the decay and degeneration of them and other regions prepared seeds of wild fruit and other tree species of high economic value.

South Phyongan Province created thousands of hectares of forests of economic value, and the Phangyo County Forest Management Station in Kangwon Province planted well over 10 000 hectares of pine nut tree, oak and chestnut forests and millions of trees of good species in recent several years, turning the mountains of the county

into "gold and treasure mountains".

River improvement was pushed forward on a large scale across the country.

According to data available, North Phyongan Province undertook hundreds of thousands of square metres of river embankment and well over a million cubic metres of dredging.

South Phyongan Province rearranged rivers and streams by doing millions of cubic metres of dredging, hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of earth laying and hundreds of thousands of square metres of stone covering.

Rason Municipality pushed ahead with dredging, embankment and stone covering, thus realigning long sections of rivers and streams last year.

Officials concerned in South Hamgyong Province looked round rivers and streams to make a detailed study of the amount and rate of flowing water. On the basis of this, they made sure that dredging and embankment were carried out in a scientific way in the areas through which the Songchon and other rivers and streams flow.

Roads were spruced up all

across the country.

South Phyongan Province stepped up the technical reconstruction and paving of narrow roads and those on steep slopes and the installation and repair of safety facilities in thousands of places in a planned way.

Kangwon Province finished the technical reconstruction of roads planned for last year in a qualitative way by dint of a mass movement for land management.

North Hamgyong Province made successes in the project for restoring bridges.

Tree nursery produces over 25m saplings a year

At the Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection

By Kim Rye Yong PT

The Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, which put sapling production on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis, produced more than 25 million saplings every year, thus making a tangible contribution to the nationwide forest restoration campaign.

The nursery improved its appearance as a "pedigree farm" for sapling production and increased the production by proactively introducing advanced technology.

Its officials and employees built four hectares of new outdoor cultivation grounds to produce more saplings.

In the course of expanding their production base, they removed thousands of cubic metres of earth, set up infrastructure and assembled over 2 000 pillars and crossbeams in a three-dimensional way to complete the cultivation ground in a short span of time.

The employees of the cultivation ground ensured temperature, sunlight and humidity in a scientific way to remarkably increase sapling production, while saving manpower, fertilizer

and agricultural chemicals.

The nursery developed into a base not only for sapling production but also for scientific research, which is furnished with an IT lab, introduction technology lab, cultivation management lab, substrate lab and analysis room.

The laboratories actively conducted research to steadily improve the sapling production technology, including the issues of nutrition administration, soil analysis, substrate composition and acclimatization of saplings, thereby contributing to consolidating the technical foundations for the immediate production and developing the country's forestry.

The Central Tree Nursery operated a well-regulated videoconferencing system embracing provincial, city and county tree nurseries to encourage them to positively share, exchanged and introduced scientific and technological data and experience needed for sapling production.

With the pride of defending the "arsenal" on the afforestation front, its technicians launched homepage "Hwanggumsan" and set up a large database

to promote the dissemination of science and technology through the computer network.

The nursery produced more than 10 million saplings of red larch, purple cherry plum and golden-leaf elm respectively every year and also achieved successes in research into acclimatizing and widely propagating 50-odd good species of trees.

The saplings of trees produced at the nursery include those for forest planting and urban greening, which grow in the country or were acclimatized there. They have taken root on ideal streets of the people built as flourishing socialist streets like Hwasong and Jonwi streets.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the Central Tree Nursery on November 10 2014 and set forth important tasks to be tackled in afforesting and landscaping the whole country, including the expansion of the sapling production base, perfection of the methods of planting and managing trees suited to the specific conditions of the country and introduction of advanced science and technology.

Officials and employees of the nursery set a higher goal of boosting their success.



Tea culture, national ICH element

By Kil Chung Il PT

The tea culture (cultivation of Unjong tea and its use) was registered in the national intangible cultural heritage list in October 2024.

The Korean tea culture dating back to the period of Koguryo Kingdom (277 BC-AD 668) was carried on through Palhae (698-926), Koryo (918-1392) and the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

The climate condition of the country is not suitable for the cultivation of tea trees which grow only below the 36 degrees North

Latitude.

However, the DPRK agricultural scientists succeeded in the selection of different species of tea trees by acclimatizing those growing in southern regions so that they could spend winter even at 19 degrees below zero in conformity with the climatic and soil conditions of the country through steady research.

President Kim Il Sung personally planted the tea trees in his residence and cultivated them on a trial basis to acclimatize them. Chairman Kim Jong Il saw to it that the tea produced in the country was named "Unjong tea"

and took all measures to produce the first-rate green tea.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, referred to the need to increase the cultivation area of tea trees on an annual basis and build a modern Unjong tea drink factory.

The tea is produced at the Kangnyong and Kumdong Unjong tea plantations in the Kangnyong Peninsula.

The modernly-built Unjong Teahouse on Changjon Street in Pyongyang serves green, black, Cholgwanum and other teas by preserving their original tastes.



Saplings of good species of trees are produced in a greenhouse of the Central Tree Nursery. RYU KWANG HYOK/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

US should not forget fate of Pueblo

By Han Jong Ho PT

In January 57 years ago, the US armed spy ship Pueblo was captured in the waters off Wonsan in the East Sea of Korea as it intruded into the territorial waters of the DPRK to commit military espionage activities.

Captured in 14 minutes

On January 21 1968, sailors of the Korean People's Army who were on routine patrol duty detected an unknown ship in the waters off Kim Chaek City in the East Sea of Korea. It was a strange ship which has a myriad of antennas, but with no nationality marking. The ship reappeared in the sea off Wonsan the following day.

At dawn of January 23, naval warships of the KPA set out for the target and asked it to clarify its nationality immediately.

But it did not respond playing with time.

As it received another

signal to identify itself at once, the unknown ship replied that it was a hydrographic vessel, the engine was out of order, so it would go out of the territorial sea when they fixed it and asked the KPA side not to interfere.

Overawed by the repeated warnings and resolute measures of the KPA, the ship raised its flag on the flagpole. And it tried to flee at a high speed, firing a machine gun at the approaching KPA torpedo boat.

Seven seamen of the KPA returned the enemy's machine-gun fire and captured the vessel.

The USS Pueblo was a remodelled transport ship disguised as a maritime research ship in appearance but, in reality, it was an armed spy ship equipped with up-to-date spy instruments belonging to the US Pacific Fleet. Most of the 83 members of the captured crew were spies with the experience and skills needed for espionage.

However, the spy ship was captured in 14 minutes.

'Prisoner' held captive forever

On December 23, eleven months after the capture of the Pueblo, the US government signed an apology letter to the DPRK, recognizing full responsibility and solemnly apologizing for its serious espionage against the country and firmly guaranteeing that no US ship would ever intrude into the territorial waters of the DPRK again in the future.

The captured crewmen were expelled from the DPRK, but the Pueblo could not return.

The ship was tied at Wonsan wharf for over 30 years and then was dragged to the Taedong River in 1999, through the East and West Seas of Korea. It was placed at the site where the US aggressor ship General Sherman was sunk in flames in 1866 as a result of the Korean people's struggle against its aggression. Koreans ridiculed the ship as a "tomb of the US on water" with the monument to the sinking of the General Sherman as its tombstone.

Now the Pueblo is bound to the Pothong River in the captured weapons exhibition section of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War

Museum in Pyongyang.

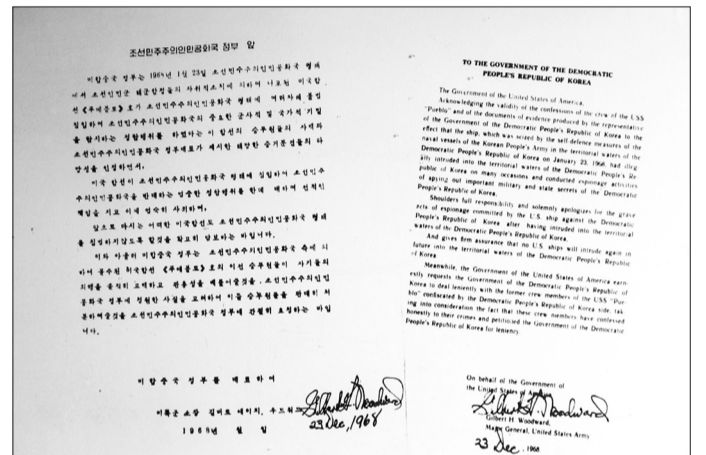
The spy ship teaches a lesson of history to the aggressors and provokers who are hell-bent on the

moves for confrontation with the DPRK: Any force will surely be annihilated if it seeks military confrontation with the DPRK.



The US armed spy ship Pueblo bound to the Pothong River in the captured weapons exhibition section of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang.

A letter of apology the US government sent to the DPRK government to firmly guarantee that they would never conduct espionage activities again in the future.



Closer attention paid to preservation and use of documentary heritage



Ri Jong Chol, section chief of the Grand People's Study House

Humankind develops with the past as foundation.

Diverse aspects of human life, valuable scientific and technological achievements, significant political events, national cultural heritage and many others are handed down to posterity through such audiovisual data as documentary heritage elements.

Accordingly, the preservation and management of documentary heritage constitutes a field requiring the deep concern of not only experts but the state and public circles.

UNESCO included the protection of audiovisual heritage, as well as documentary heritage, in the Memory of the World Programme and

has conducted a variety of activities to arouse international interest in it.

In the DPRK late last year, experts from relevant sectors held a symposium aimed at acquiring international experience and techniques for the preservation and use of documentary heritage to improve this work, under the sponsorship of the Grand People's Study House.

The symposium focused on the definition and operation of documentary repositories in the context of

the sustainable preservation and use of documentary heritage.

The participants shared their opinions about the concept and purpose of those repositories and their types and functions and had a systematic discussion on the key issues arising in the management of the repositories and management models.

The event was a real help to heightening the participants' awareness of the protection and use of documentary heritage based on the digitized repositories,

which are actively promoted on a global scale.

Today, the preservation of documentary heritage is being carried on by way of taking national legal and administrative measures so that the museums, libraries and archives can be integrated.

In addition, the Digital Strategy for Information Sustainability(PERSIST) has been developed and applied to enable people to access and use documentary heritage and to effectively prevent disasters at any time and in any place on the Internet through the digitization of documentary

heritage.

In positive cooperation with UNESCO, the Grand People's Study House translated and published the UNESCO book "Towards Sustainable Preservation and Accessibility of the Documentary Heritage". It is part of the efforts of the DPRK paying close attention to the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage to make an in-depth study of them.

On the basis of united efforts, measures ensuring the lasting accessibility of documentary heritage will be taken more quickly and more effectively.

BYWORD

The DPRK changes in appearance every day and every morning and evening. All cities, counties and farms across the country have turned into

rich and developed ones encapsulating modern civilization since the city of Samjiyon became a standard and model of modern mountainous city.

The completion of regional-industry factories in Songchon County as the first fruit of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy has been followed by that of similar factories

in many other parts of the country.

Socialist paradises, ideal socialist villages where the people enjoy all blessings, keep increasing in the country.

Ideal socialist village

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International justice should be achieved by struggle

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Massacre and destruction, hunger and poverty and acts of racial discrimination were rampant in different parts of the world due to high-handedness and arbitrariness of the hegemony-seeking forces last year, too.

It is the common desire of humankind to live while strengthening friendship and cooperation in a peaceful and prosperous world, and genuine international justice should be obtained to fulfil it.

It is just international justice that high-handedness and arbitrariness, double standard and injustice of the hegemony-seeking forces are rejected in the international arena and all international issues are resolved impartially in line with the independent demands and interests of each country and nation.

The US-led hegemony-seeking forces openly ignore the basic principles of international relations recognized in the world to realize their greedy ambition.

A typical example is the Middle East situation which has aroused unrest and concern, denunciation and anger in almost all countries.

Though the centuries-old Palestine-Israel conflict finds its historical origin in the long-standing national and religious confrontation, the root cause of the prolonged conflict is that the basic principle of sovereign equality in international relations is being disregarded.

In 1947 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, partitioning the Palestinian territory into two parts and drawing the boundary line so that Arab and Jewish states could coexist there. Israel has behaved imprudently since its founding, fighting a series of aggressive wars to expand its territory several times and gaining the status as a UN member state. The Palestinians, however, have been deprived of their land and wandered about for decades. And they have not yet exercised their sovereignty as a fully independent state in the international arena.

Therefore, it is the primary condition for the settlement of the Middle East issue conforming with the basic principles of international relations to put an end to Israeli occupation and protect the legitimate interests and sovereign rights of the Palestinian people. According to this demand of the international community, the issue of admitting Palestine as a full member of the UN was brought up again for discussion in the UN in April last year.

But the US exercised its veto and the issue failed to cross the threshold of the UN Security Council.

Though the international peace-keeping order was established by the UN to prevent aggression and preserve peace in the disastrous aftermath of the Second World War, it is openly ignored by the US and other hegemony-seeking forces.

If such high-handedness and arbitrariness are allowed in the international arena, neither global peace nor the independent development of the sovereign states and genuine international justice can be realized.

It is important to resolutely reject the double standards of the hegemony-seeking and dominationist forces and guarantee impartiality in all international issues.

The world anti-terrorism strategy of the UN adopted at the UN General Assembly in 2006 specified measures to be taken by the UN member states and international and regional organizations to jointly combat terrorism. But the US abuses the fight against terrorism as a space for maintaining its domination and expanding its hegemony, pretending to respond to the anti-terrorist efforts of the international community.

They recklessly brand sovereign states they see as contrary to their interests as "state sponsors of terrorism". They also encourage terrorism by delivering funds and lethal weapons to the Ukrainian puppets and Israel and protect and back their heinous terrorist crimes in the international arena.

The shameless double standards applied by the US seriously hinder international efforts against terrorism and actively encourage the revival of extremists.

The Gaza crisis and the Ukrainian dispute have also lasted year after year because the US and the West persistently turn their faces away from the principle of fair and peaceful settlement of the issues and continue to drive their stooges to the proxy wars for their interests.

The unfair international political current of today that injustice of the hegemony-seeking forces is rampant is not the trend of the times.

The world progressive people should turn out for achieving genuine international justice irrespective of the differences in political view, religious belief and the level of economic and cultural development.

Genuine international justice should be obtained through struggle.

Japan's move to establish independent mission in NATO is dangerous act of adding new instability to regional situation

Kim Ryo Won, an international security analyst of the DPRK, issued the following article "Japan's move to establish an independent mission in NATO is a dangerous act of adding new instability to the regional situation":

Shortly ago, Japan officially opened its independent full-time mission in NATO under the pretext of "strengthening security cooperation with NATO and promoting strategic solidarity between the Indo-Pacific region and the European and Atlantic regions".

It set up its independent mission in NATO at a time when the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region is more seriously threatened due to the US provocative military hegemony-seeking acts. This is a dangerous act of adding a new factor for instability to the regional situation.

It is extremely escalating the military tension in the region while tightening military confab and tie-up with

NATO outside the region, pursuant to the US strategy for world domination to expand NATO's sphere of influence into the Asia-Pacific region.

This is proved by the fact that Japan has regularly participated in the conspiracy sponsored by NATO from 2022, including the NATO summit. In particular, it conducted bilateral and multilateral military drills in succession on some pretexts in the Japanese Archipelago and its surrounding waters and the Pacific with NATO member nations including the US.

Japan is getting frantic with the bulk purchase of long-range strike means including US-made air-to-air missiles and Tomahawk cruise missiles by legalizing the possession of capability for making a preemptive attack and redoubling military spending. It is also getting hell-bent on securing the war camp by drawing NATO into the Asia-Pacific region. This is a dangerous development of the

situation.

All facts clearly prove once again that Japan, a war criminal state, is an anti-peace force threatening the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world through its admission to aggressive military blocs, undisguised arms buildup and ceaseless war drills.

The tightened nexus between Japan, the source of calamity in the region which is sharpening a sword for revenge, while totally denying the past history of aggression crimes till now, 80 years after its defeat, and NATO, which is triggering off war and armed conflicts in different parts of the world under a reckless expansionist policy, is a serious threat to international peace and security.

Japan should bear in mind that as long as it brings the war cloud of reinvasion to the Asia-Pacific region in collusion with NATO, it will face strong counteraction and strategic isolation from neighbouring countries.

Social evils cause human rights abuses

By Choe Song Jun PT

Various maltreatment and criminal cases keep increasing in different countries.

The Japanese Ministry of Welfare and Labour published last year that the number of cases of maltreatment of the disabled confirmed by local authorities at all levels in 2023 reached 3 477, or 398 more than the previous year, setting the highest record.

The number of victims of maltreatment of the disabled was 4 641 to hit a record high. Among them, the number of those victimized by employees of disabled facilities is said to be 2 356.

According to the white paper on crimes issued by the Japanese authorities last year, the cases of child abuses amounted to 2 385 in the country in 2023, or the highest record in the 2000s.

Family violence is on the increase in the UK, too.

According to the recent report released by the police authorities in Gloucestershire of the

country, 244 persons were arrested by police for committing family violence in December 2024 and criminals are said to have committed physical violence, made threats and hurled outrageous insults against their lovers or family members. Among the arrested criminals, there were many women and they are generally suspected of having committed violence, murder and criminal destruction.

Meanwhile, the police authorities reported that the number of arrests and reports related to family violence in December was the largest since July.

Gun related crimes are going on in the US, which styles itself a so-called "human rights champion", irrespective of time and place. According to information available, 490 cases of large-scale gun violence were reported on a nationwide scale by mid-December last year. The country defines the shooting case producing over four victims as a large-scale shooting incident.

As gun violence is

rampant ceaselessly, American publications carry such messages as "I don't wish for freedom and equality, but I want to live free from the feeling of uneasiness that I may be dead by a random shot".

At the beginning of this year, various kinds of criminal acts were committed in succession like an annual event.

A truck rushed into the crowds celebrating the New Year in New Orleans at dawn on January 1, crushing many people. As a result, a dozen residents lost their lives and tens of others were injured. And two explosives were discovered from the truck.

Such crimes constantly occur in different countries as the misanthropic ideas that "humans should be wolves against humans" and "I can be alive only when I kill you" prevail in society.

Distrust, antagonism and contradictions deepen among people as individualism forms the ideological basis of social relations, and this precisely leads to misanthropy.

Briefly

Iran

President states US and West are responsible for serious Mideast situation

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a press conference on January 19 asserted that the US and the West are responsible for the serious situation in the Middle East.

The conflict in the Middle East was caused by the Western powers' ambition to plunder natural resources from the region, he said, disclosing that to this end the Western countries want people in the region to keep fighting among themselves.

He said that the US and the West made the Mideast situation unstable and have tried to shift the blame for it onto Iran and are still inciting Israel to massacre in the Gaza Strip.

Russia, Iran

Treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership signed

Russia and Iran inked a treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the treaty in Moscow on January 17.

The treaty stipulates the legal frameworks for bolstering up long-term cooperation between the two countries.

It comprises the fields of defence, anti-terrorist fight, energy, finance, transport, industry, agriculture, culture and science and technology.

Venezuela

FBI agent arrested

An FBI agent who had been involved in a terror conspiracy with a wicked aggressive design was arrested in Venezuela on January 7.

The Venezuelan President Maduro said that seven terrorists were detained in an operation for frustrating the aggression of foreign mercenary soldiers on the day and there was a high-ranking official of the FBI among them.

He stated that over 120 foreign mercenaries have so far been arrested in the course of exposing and frustrating the acts of aggression committed with the financial backing of the present US administration.

China

US sanctions decried

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry denounced sanctions of the US at a regular press conference on January 15.

On January 14, the US imposed sanctions against 37 Chinese businesses talking about "forced labour" in China. In this regard, the spokesman said that the "forced labour" is a totally blatant lie, asserting that the US' inclusion of the Chinese businesses in the list is a move to interfere in China's internal affairs, harm its interests and contain and pressure it.

He stressed that China would take a resolute measure to firmly defend the just and legitimate rights and interests of its enterprises.



Sangwon Valley of Mt Myohyang in winter

Girls lift World Cups in succession

By Kim Hak Chol PT

2024 was a year in which remarkable successes were achieved in the development of sports in the DPRK.

The DPRK sportspersons lifted over 20 winner's trophies and won more than 360 medals including some 210 golds in international competitions last year, while establishing 40-odd new national records on domestic front.

Every gold medal shining on the chests of the trustworthy sportspersons delighted the Korean people. They say it still thrills them to remember the moments of jubilation when girl footballers lifted the World Cup in succession.

DPRK football players recorded consecutive wins in seven matches and scored 25 goals in total at the 2024 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup finals to lift the winner's trophy and fully displayed their

amazing skills from the beginning to the end to win the 2024 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup finals.

The DPRK U-20 and U-17 women's football teams won the Third World Youth Women's Football Championships held in Russia in 2006 and the First World Junior Women's Football Championships held in New Zealand in 2008 respectively for the first time. And they were placed first at the FIFA U-20 and U-17 Women's World Cup finals in 2016 and 2024, to become one of the three teams which won the World Cup three times in the history of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup tournaments and the first team to lift the winner's trophy of the FIFA U-17 World Cup three times.

According to statistics, the DPRK teams far surpassed their opponents in physical and technical indices such as ball possession, running distance of individual players,

correct shot into the goal and corner kick in matches against several powerful teams at the FIFA U-20 and U-17 Women's World Cup finals held last year.

Many football experts and media outlets of the world commented that the Korean players completely turned over the "European and American superiority in football" at the 2024 FIFA U-20 and U-17 Women's World Cup finals, attributing their brilliant successes not only to their high physical and technical abilities but also to their spirit.

The incredible spiritual strength, high team spirit and the sense of organization and unity of the Korean women footballers in the team sport were the key to success in the events. The ideological and spiritual superiority over the opponents was the trait peculiar to the Korean women's football and a decisive guarantee for winning victories in the two events.



DPRK players celebrate their win at FIFA U-20 (top) and U-17 (above) women's World Cup finals.



Jinbuk Gatehouse

By Choe Yong Nam PT

It is a gatehouse facing due south of the fortress of Kapsan township.

The Kapju manhobu (a kind of military administrative unit) was set up in the closing years of the Koryo dynasty

(918-1392) in the area of Kapsan, which had previously been called Hocheonbu. In 1393, there appeared the fortress.

According to historical records, the fortress had such gatehouses as Jinbuk, Puksung, Yangsang and Hapku and such

pavilions as Jongwon, Irak, Yongbo and Suhang, and Jinbuk Gatehouse was the most magnificent among them.

Jinbuk Gatehouse highlights different special features of castle gate architecture in the 14th and 15th centuries.

