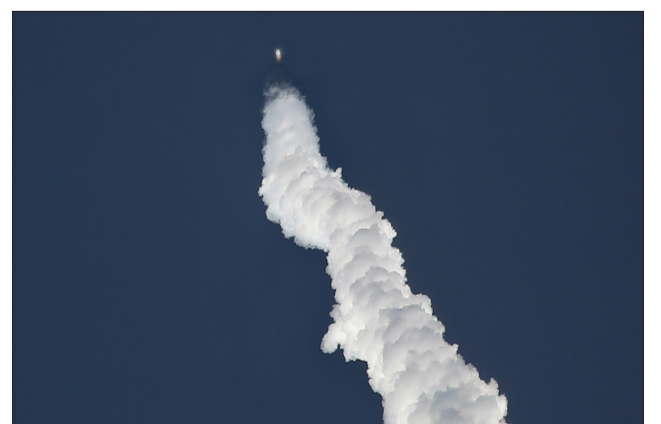
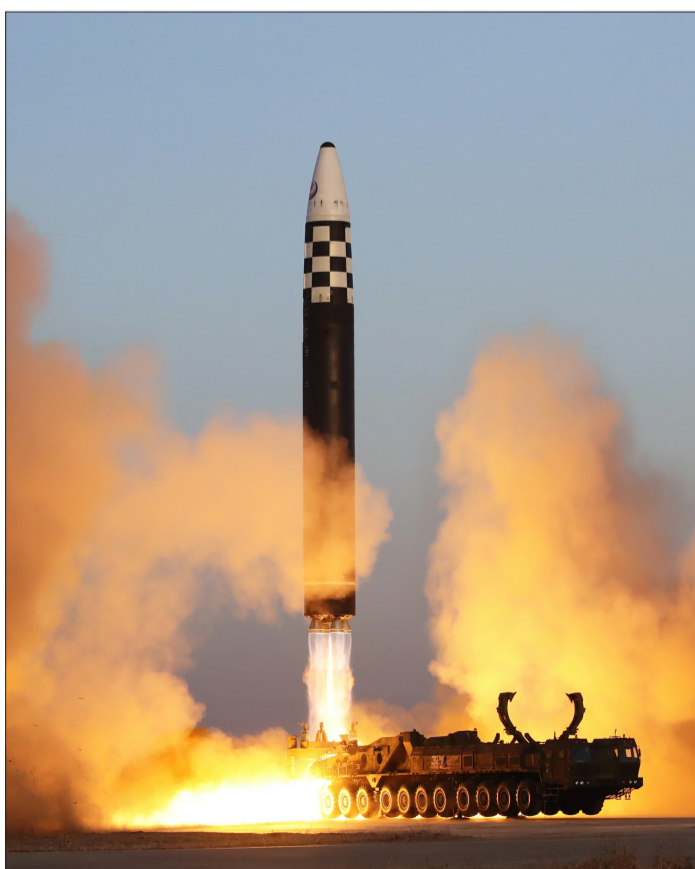


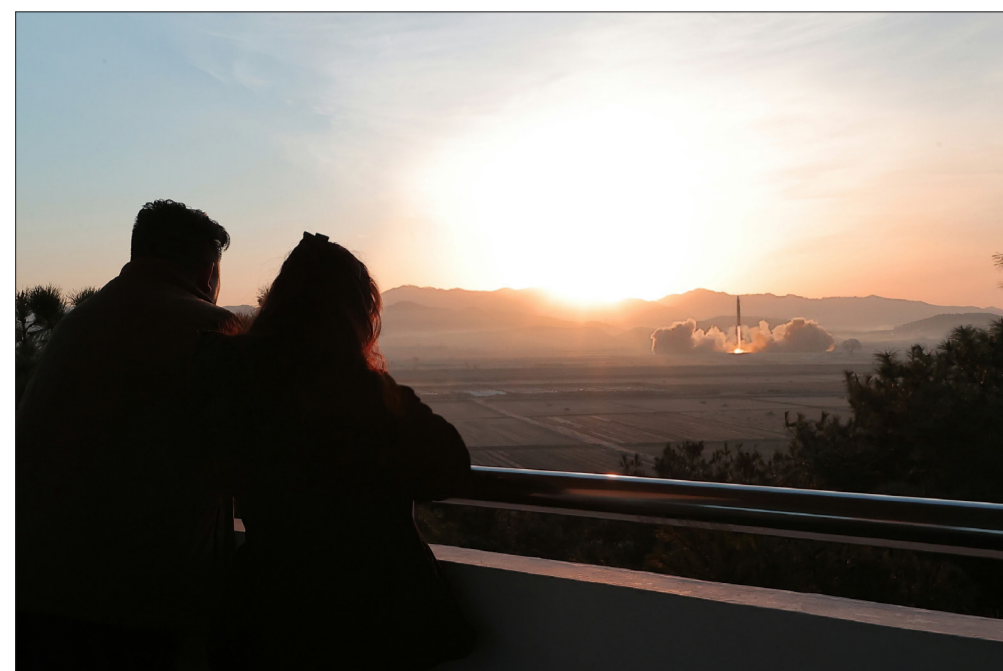
## Demonstration of toughest response posture of DPRK's strategic forces ICBM Hwasongpho-17 launched



KCNA      most unstable security environment is      large-scale war drills conducted by      Military Commission of the Workers'      Under the grave situation in which the      being created in the Korean peninsula due      the US and the south Korean puppet      to the frantic, provocative and aggressive      traitors against the DPRK, the Central      SEE PAGE 2







FROM PAGE 1

Party of Korea saw to it that a launching drill of the ICBM Hwasongpho-17 was conducted on March 16.

The launching drill of the strategic weapon serves as an occasion more clearly showing the practical will of the Party and government of the DPRK to give a stronger warning to the enemies who are intentionally escalating the tension in the Korean peninsula while persistently resorting to irresponsible and reckless military threats in defiance of the DPRK's severe warning, give an understanding of the concern about armed conflict which has come to a threatening reality, and respond to them with overwhelming offensive measures anytime.

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, guided the launching drill of an ICBM unit on the spot. Leading officials of the WPK Central Committee and commanding officers of the General Missile Bureau watched the launching drill in the presence of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The drill was aimed at confirming the mobile and normal operation and reliability of the DPRK's nuclear war deterrent.

The ICBM Hwasongpho-17, launched at Pyongyang International Airport,

travelled up to a maximum altitude of 6 045km and flew a distance of 1 000.2 km for 4 151s before accurately landing on the preset area in the open waters of the East Sea of Korea.

The launching drill had no negative impact on the security of neighbouring countries.

The drill confirmed the war readiness of the ICBM unit and the exceptional militancy of the DPRK's strategic

forces and strictly verified their reliability.

Expressing great satisfaction over the drill, Kim Jong Un said that the drill clearly proved once again the confidence in and guarantee of the operating systems of the country's nuclear strategic forces undergoing rapid development.

Noting that our action orientation and line to cope with the long-term security

environment of the state and the enemies' threat remain unchanged, he stressed the need to strike fear into the enemies, actually deter war and reliably guarantee the peaceful life of the Korean people and their struggle for socialist construction by irreversibly bolstering up the nuclear war deterrent.

Saying that we will continue to make

SEE PAGE 3

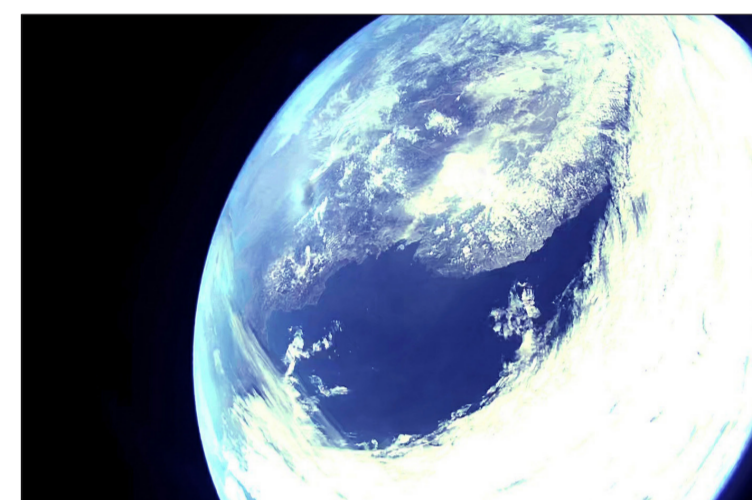
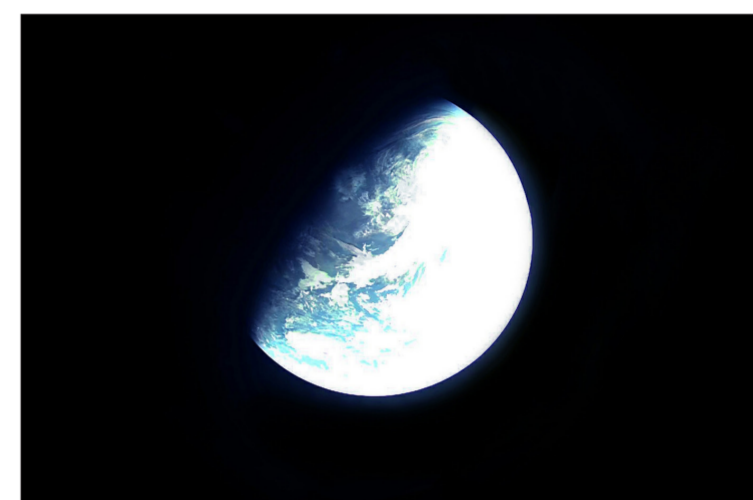


FROM PAGE 2

the US and south Korea, which show open hostility towards the DPRK and frequently stage large-scale military drills in and around the Korean peninsula, find themselves being reckless, he mentioned our policy for counteraction against the enemies that is to make them realize themselves that their persistent and expanded anti-DPRK military moves will bring an irreversible, grave threat to them.

Reiterating the solemn declaration of the WPK and the DPRK government that they would react to nuclear weapons with nukes and frontal confrontation in kind, he called for strictly maintaining the rapid response posture of the strategic forces to cope with any armed conflict and war.

The nuclear strategic forces of the DPRK will make perfect preparations for carrying out their important mission anytime.



# Fifth Enlarged Meeting of Eighth Central Military Commission of WPK held

KCNA

The Fifth Enlarged Meeting of the Eighth Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea took place at a time when the whole country has turned out in the efforts to implement the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK and plenary meetings of the Central Committee in singled-hearted unity.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, guided the meeting.

Present there were members of the WPK Central Military Commission and commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence and the Korean People's Army services and army corps. Attending there as observers were cadres of relevant departments of the WPK Central Committee.

The enlarged meeting discussed the orientations of major political and military activities facing the KPA including the issue of powerfully launching the nationwide struggle by dispatching the KPA to the major theatres for rapid development in socialist construction, and measures for it.

The WPK Central Military Commission reaffirmed the importance of solving the rural question, set forth by the WPK as a prerequisite and strategic foremost affair



in accomplishing the cause of socialism, and the present state of rural construction. And since the medium- and long-term development orientation and goal for the socialist rural construction were set clearly, it raised as a key point for discussion the issue of implementing them unconditionally.

The meeting confirmed the KPA's action orientation and detailed duties for accelerating rural development, regional construction and grand socialist construction which the Party has planned on a long-term basis and is leading to be a purposeful struggle, discussed the organizational and structural measures for implementing them and ways for using forces, and unanimously approved

the relevant resolutions. It discussed and adopted the important practical steps for making more effective, powerful and aggressive use of the war deterrent of the country in coping with the present situation in which the war provocations of the US and south Korea are reaching the red line.

At the meeting Kim Jong Un, reviewing and analyzing the subjective and objective situation of our revolution, said that the present grand drive for creation for accomplishing the gigantic cause of overall national prosperity, resolutely overcoming all the challenges and difficulties, calls upon the KPA, that has always played a vanguard role in the struggle for implementing the

grand practical programme of the Party, to lead the whole society with a more advancing and vigorous struggle.

The KPA should become a driving force and model in the sacred struggle for the socialist rural construction and economic development to turn the ideal of the people into reality, unconditionally implement the stepwise goals and thus unfailingly bring about the entities of prosperity welcomed by the whole country year after year, he said.

Encouraged by the deep trust of the General Secretary who has put forward the KPA again in the van of building a prospering country to provide the people with a high civilized and happy life, all the participants made a firm pledge to

certainly attain the goals of grand changes for national prosperity by fulfilling their important responsibilities and duties in carrying out the militant tasks set forth by the Party Central Military Commission.

The enlarged meeting will be recorded in the history of the country as a significant meeting which further clarified the revolutionary character and nature of the KPA, the army of the Party and the people, and provided a decisive guarantee for the implementation of the programme for rural revolution in the new era and the overall development of socialist construction and made a big stride of practice for the promotion of the people's wellbeing.



# Kim Jong Un sends gifts to Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent vehicles and many other facilities needed for putting greenhouse vegetable production on a higher intensive and industrial basis to the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm.

A meeting to convey the gifts to the farm took place on March 10.

It was attended by Ri Jong Nam, chief secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Pak Tong Chol, chairman of the provincial rural economy committee, officials and working people in the province and employees of the farm.

Ri Jong Nam delivered a gift conveying address. He said that General Secretary Kim Jong Un sent the equipment badly needed for the management and operation of the farm as gifts at the time when an all-people campaign is being staged to bring about fundamental changes in the country's agricultural production,

true to the efficient plan for implementing the programme for the rural revolution in the new era. The gifts were conveyed amid the enthusiastic applause of participants. Speakers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the General Secretary who has repeatedly shown deep affection while continuing his journey of devoted service for the people in reflection of the unanimous mind of the people in Hamhung City and South Hamgyong Province.

# Senior Party, government officials inspect provinces

KCNA

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, inspected several units in Sukchon County, South Phyongan Province. Making the rounds of Yoltusamchon, Yakjon and Chilli farms, he gave pep talks to officials and farmers who are engaged in immediate farming with the resolve to hit this year's grain production target without fail true to the idea and spirit of the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

Party Central Committee.

At the farm machine station, farm implement factory and forest management station of the county he referred to the need to drastically increase the proportion of work done by machines in agricultural production by actively developing and introducing farm machines and farm implements to suit the geographical characteristics of the area, take strict measures to supply farming equipment and materials badly needed for farms and direct efforts to putting sapling production on a scientific and intensive basis as demanded by the Party policy.

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected various sectors of South Hwanghae Province. Looking round various farms in Chongdan, Yonan and Paechon counties, he gave pep talks to the agricultural workers striving to carry out the decisions of the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee.

He visited the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of South Hwanghae Province and the Toktal Mine and called for introducing advanced and rational methods to step up the reclamation of tideland and pushing ahead with the work for consolidating the material foundations of the fertilizer industry.

# KPA conducts underwater launching drill of strategic cruise missiles, missile firing drill

## Underwater launching drill of strategic cruise missiles

The submarine "8.24 Yongung (hero)" launched two strategic cruise missiles in the waters off Kyongpho Bay on the East Sea of Korea

KCNA

An underwater launching drill of strategic cruise missiles was staged at dawn of March 12.

The submarine "8.24 Yongung(hero)" launched two strategic cruise missiles in the waters off Kyongpho Bay on the East Sea of Korea. The drill confirmed the reliability of the weapon system and examined the preparedness for underwater-to-surface offensive operations of submarine units that constitute another important component of the DPRK nuclear deterrent.

The drill successfully achieved its object. The two strategic cruise missiles precisely hit the preset target on the East Sea of Korea after travelling the 1 500km-long eight-shaped flight orbits for 7 563s to 7 575s.



An underwater launching drill of strategic cruise missiles is conducted at dawn of March 12.

## Ground-to-ground missile launching drill

KCNA

A missile unit of the Korean People's Army in charge of an important operational task on the western front of the DPRK conducted a demonstration drill for educating sub-units on March 14.

The drill was watched by commanding officers and combatants of each sub-unit of the unit. The 11th fire assault company of the unit participated in the drill and launched two ground-to-ground missiles in a medium-range system.

The missiles fired in an area around Jangyon County of South Hwanghae Province precisely hit the target, Phi Islet, in the waters off Pangjindong, Chongam District, Chongjin City of North Hamgyong Province, located 611.4kms away from the fired spot. Saying that they will surely annihilate the enemy if they fight it, the commander of the unit resolved to acquire the ability to fully carry out its duty of fire assault any time by further intensifying the training of every fire assault company, true to the Party's policy on effecting a revolution in training.



Two ground-to-ground missiles are launched in a medium-range system for a demonstration drill on March 14.

# On root of escalated tension in Korean peninsula

Rodong Simmun carried a commentator's article "On the root of the situation in the Korean peninsula on the brink of burst" on Friday. The following is the full text:

The situation in the Korean peninsula is inching closer to an uncontrollable and dangerous state. The world is closely observing the tense confrontation between nuclear powers on the brink of an outbreak of war with deep concern.

This grave situation is entirely attributable to the reckless and tyrannical moves of the US and its followers to stifle the DPRK. As is well-known to the world, the DPRK has concentrated all its efforts on easing military tension and maintaining peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the region from the outset of this year, out of its single desire to achieve fresh development and progress in its economic construction and improvement of its people's living standards.

But the US-led hostile forces are persistently resorting to dangerous hostile acts of violently encroaching upon the sovereignty and security interests of the DPRK this year, too, in the wake of last year, and their gravity and danger have reached an intolerable phase.

The US secretary of Defense said on his junket to the puppet region in January that the US would deploy more strategic assets such as fifth-generation stealth fighters and aircraft carriers, unhesitatingly revealing its intention to use nuclear weapons against the DPRK. Meanwhile, puppet traitor Yoon Suk Yeol, obsessed with confrontation with fellow countrymen, talked about the "establishment of a posture of readiness" and "punishment" at an underground air-raid shelter.

The warmongers, engrossed in bravado and blind bravery, announced that they would stage more than 20 rounds of joint military exercises in the first half of this year beyond the level of the past "Foal Eagle" joint military drills, and have staged madcap war exercises against the DPRK, including drills aimed at infiltration and joint striking at its strategic facilities and major core targets.

As it had talked about the permanent presence of extended deterrent, the US introduced core air strategic weapons including B-1B nuclear strategic bombers, F-22, F-35B and other stealth fighters into the area of south Korean puppets in February to stage several combined air drills targeting the DPRK together with them in the sky above the West Sea of Korea.

In particular, the US imperialists conducted a "drill for operating extended deterrence means", which made it a fait accompli to mount a preemptive nuclear attack on the DPRK, together with the puppets in their mainland in late February, claiming that they would constantly deploy nuclear strategic assets in the Korean peninsula in the future, too. Such reckless military confrontation and hostile acts drove the situation in the Korean peninsula to the brink of explosion in March.

The US continuously dispatched nuclear submarines, one of the major strategic assets of the US navy, and Aegis destroyers, to the puppet region with the black-hearted intention to escalate military pressure on the DPRK. On March 1, the US and the puppet warmongers brought the latest missile pursuit craft of the US navy, Howard Lorenzen, to the East Sea of Korea to conduct espionage activities with RC-135S and other reconnaissance assets. On March 3, they conducted a combined air drill in the sky over the West Sea of Korea for the fourth time this year with B-1B strategic bomber and MQ-9 Reaper, an air combat drone ill-famed as an "assassin in the sky", and other strategic hardware.

Meanwhile, the puppet chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, together with his master, toured the special operation drill ground where the "beheading operation" of striking a surprise attack on the strategic bases of the DPRK was underway and inspected several military units of the puppets in the areas near the front to incite them to extreme confrontation hysteria, saying that "the enemy's provocation has already begun" and they will "mete out a punishment".

Despite the worsened military and political situation of the Korean peninsula and the region, the US staged the fifth round of combined air drill by dispatching nuclear strategic bomber B-52 on March 6 and started the large-scale US-south Korea joint military exercises Freedom Shield on March 13.

The reality clearly shows that the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is shifting from a virtual phase to a practical one. All the military drills staged by the US in alliance with the puppets are a provocative DPRK-targeted rehearsal and preliminary nuclear war to simulate an all-out war against the DPRK, and herein lies their gravity. As for the "Ssangryong" combined landing drill aimed at "occupation of Pyongyang" alone, they resumed it five years after it was halted and openly trumpet that it will reach an all-time high in terms of the scale and scope. The US imperialists describe their war drills as "defensive" but that is a sophism turning wrong into right. The US itself will not deny the fact that the nuclear strategic bomber B-52H, supersonic strategic bomber B-1B, nuclear carriers, nuclear attack submarines and F-35 stealth fighters, which it brings to the Korean peninsula and its surrounding areas anytime this year as well as last year, are not for defense but the most offensive military hardware specializing in strategic strike missions. No one will believe that the constant deployment of the US nuclear strategic assets in the Korean peninsula and such things as landing and infiltration drill, surprise landing and assault drill staged by special units under war scenarios aimed at "end of regime", "decapitation" and "occupation of Pyongyang" are for "defense".

Now the hostile forces are viciously scheming to isolate and suffocate the DPRK through unethical and illegal sanctions, while picking on it over the non-existent "human rights issue" and resorting to dangerous military adventures. The US and its vassal forces are faking up and spreading all rumours of "threat" to "demonize" the DPRK in the UN and other international arenas and contemptibly moving to prevent even one of things urgently needed for the daily life of our people from entering our country by labeling them as "luxurious articles" groundlessly. Being unable to isolate the DPRK any more internationally with the nuclear issue, the US is mobilizing vassal forces that are no more than rabble, for the smear campaign against the DPRK in the international arena. The negative impact caused by the anti-DPRK moves of the US

and other hostile forces is not confined to the Korean peninsula only. Now the US is working hard to turn the military balance in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia in favour of the US-led alliance system while zealously egging the puppets and Japan on to continue dangerous arms buildup under the signboard of implementing the "Indo-Pacific strategy" aimed at maintaining the regional military strategic hegemony. Getting absorbed in establishing a new military bloc such as the "Asian version of NATO" in the Asia-Pacific region, the US seeks to build "integrated deterrent force" comprising of military forces of AUKUS and other vassal states and thus realize its hegemonic purpose by forming an encircling net against regional big powers and steadily isolating and weakening them. The puppets' development and introduction of "high-power ballistic missile", launching of military spy satellites and attempt to possess nuclear submarine and Japan's moves to introduce Tomahawk cruise missile for securing the "capability for attacking the enemy's base" and develop hypersonic missile show that the arms buildup of the US and its vassal forces is going beyond the intolerable red line. Today the Korean peninsula is turning into the world's largest magazine and war drill theatre due to the frantic military expansion moves of the US and its vassal forces. It is a well-known fact that the regional security has been endangered and the foundation of international peace and security shaken due to the scheme for hegemony of the US inciting division and confrontation and hampering stability and development. All things have a wherefore. As the international community estimates correctly, the situation in the Korean peninsula has reached the present situation due to the US, which has steadily escalated its pressure and military threat to the DPRK, refusing to respond to the positive steps taken by our state. This year alone, we made clear several times that the cause of sustained vicious cycle of tension in the Korean peninsula is the frequent combined drills of the US and the puppets, who have aggravated the regional situation with all sorts of threatening rhetoric expressions after repeatedly setting the unrealistic and very dangerous target such as "end of regime" of a sovereign state. And we strongly demanded an immediate stop to the military hostile acts of hurting the peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the region. Nevertheless, the US has driven the situation of the Korean peninsula and the region to an intolerable red line, repeatedly ignoring the just demand of the DPRK and the international community. In order to cope with the grave developments in which threat to the sovereignty and security of the state has reached an intolerable phase, our Party and government cannot but take decisive and resolute steps to thoroughly contain the military threats from the hostile forces and defend peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the region. Our nuclear forces are not for advertisement. They can be used anytime, if necessary, to discharge the sacred mission of defending the country, and can be preemptively used anytime according to the strategic plan, if a conflict with possibility of dangerous escalation occurs. The recent ICBM Hwasongpho-17 launching drill is clear evidence of it. We will continue to contain with the overwhelming force the reckless military provocations of the US and its vassal forces. Clearly stipulated in the law of the DPRK on the policy of nuclear armed forces are the principles and conditions of using nuclear weapons under various circumstances to cope with any military threat and attack from outside to our state. If anyone tries to encroach upon the sovereignty and security of the DPRK, its nuclear armed forces will discharge its crucial mission. There is no vouch that a fierce physical conflict will not occur in the Korean peninsula where huge forces of both sides stand in acute confrontation with each other, if the dangerous military provocations of the US and south Korea are continuously overlooked as now. In case such conflict occurs in reality, the US security, to say nothing of the regional stability, will face an uncontrollable, catastrophic phase. The US should stop at once the reckless military provocations and war drills against the DPRK.

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and other hostile forces is not confined to the Korean peninsula only. Now the US is working hard to turn the military balance in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia in favour of the US-led alliance system while zealously egging the puppets and Japan on to continue dangerous arms buildup under the signboard of implementing the "Indo-Pacific strategy" aimed at maintaining the regional military strategic hegemony. Getting absorbed in establishing a new military bloc such as the "Asian version of NATO" in the Asia-Pacific region, the US seeks to build "integrated deterrent force" comprising of military forces of AUKUS and other vassal states and thus realize its hegemonic purpose by forming an encircling net against regional big powers and steadily isolating and weakening them. The puppets' development and introduction of "high-power ballistic missile", launching of military spy satellites and attempt to possess nuclear submarine and Japan's moves to introduce Tomahawk cruise missile for securing the "capability for attacking the enemy's base" and develop hypersonic missile show that the arms buildup of the US and its vassal forces is going beyond the intolerable red line. Today the Korean peninsula is turning into the world's largest magazine and war drill theatre due to the frantic military expansion moves of the US and its vassal forces. It is a well-known fact that the regional security has been endangered and the foundation of international peace and security shaken due to the scheme for hegemony of the US inciting division and confrontation and hampering stability and development. All things have a wherefore. As the international community estimates correctly, the situation in the Korean peninsula has reached the present situation due to the US, which has steadily escalated its pressure and military threat to the DPRK, refusing to respond to the positive steps taken by our state. This year alone, we made clear several times that the cause of sustained vicious cycle of tension in the Korean peninsula is the frequent combined drills of the US and the puppets, who have aggravated the regional situation with all sorts of threatening rhetoric expressions after repeatedly setting the unrealistic and very dangerous target such as "end of regime" of a sovereign state. And we strongly demanded an immediate stop to the military hostile acts of hurting the peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the region. Nevertheless, the US has driven the situation of the Korean peninsula and the region to an intolerable red line, repeatedly ignoring the just demand of the DPRK and the international community. In order to cope with the grave developments in which threat to the sovereignty and security of the state has reached an intolerable phase, our Party and government cannot but take decisive and resolute steps to thoroughly contain the military threats from the hostile forces and defend peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the region. Our nuclear forces are not for advertisement. They can be used anytime, if necessary, to discharge the sacred mission of defending the country, and can be preemptively used anytime according to the strategic plan, if a conflict with possibility of dangerous escalation occurs. The recent ICBM Hwasongpho-17 launching drill is clear evidence of it. We will continue to contain with the overwhelming force the reckless military provocations of the US and its vassal forces. Clearly stipulated in the law of the DPRK on the policy of nuclear armed forces are the principles and conditions of using nuclear weapons under various circumstances to cope with any military threat and attack from outside to our state. If anyone tries to encroach upon the sovereignty and security of the DPRK, its nuclear armed forces will discharge its crucial mission. There is no vouch that a fierce physical conflict will not occur in the Korean peninsula where huge forces of both sides stand in acute confrontation with each other, if the dangerous military provocations of the US and south Korea are continuously overlooked as now. In case such conflict occurs in reality, the US security, to say nothing of the regional stability, will face an uncontrollable, catastrophic phase. The US should stop at once the reckless military provocations and war drills against the DPRK.

the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is shifting from a virtual phase to a practical one. All the military drills staged by the US in alliance with the puppets are a provocative DPRK-targeted rehearsal and preliminary nuclear war to simulate an all-out war against the DPRK, and herein lies their gravity. As for the "Ssangryong" combined landing drill aimed at "occupation of Pyongyang" alone, they resumed it five years after it was halted and openly trumpet that it will reach an all-time high in terms of the scale and scope. The US imperialists describe their war drills as "defensive" but that is a sophism turning wrong into right. The US itself will not deny the fact that the nuclear strategic bomber B-52H, supersonic strategic bomber B-1B, nuclear carriers, nuclear attack submarines and F-35 stealth fighters, which it brings to the Korean peninsula and its surrounding areas anytime this year as well as last year, are not for defense but the most offensive military hardware specializing in strategic strike missions. No one will believe that the constant deployment of the US nuclear strategic assets in the Korean peninsula and such things as landing and infiltration drill, surprise landing and assault drill staged by special units under war scenarios aimed at "end of regime", "decapitation" and "occupation of Pyongyang" are for "defense".

Now the hostile forces are viciously scheming to isolate and suffocate the DPRK through unethical and illegal sanctions, while picking on it over the non-existent "human rights issue" and resorting to dangerous military adventures. The US and its vassal forces are faking up and spreading all rumours of "threat" to "demonize" the DPRK in the UN and other international arenas and contemptibly moving to prevent even one of things urgently needed for the daily life of our people from entering our country by labeling them as "luxurious articles" groundlessly. Being unable to isolate the DPRK any more internationally with the nuclear issue, the US is mobilizing vassal forces that are no more than rabble, for the smear campaign against the DPRK in the international arena. The negative impact caused by the anti-DPRK moves of the US



# Meeting provides important turning point in opening up prospects of rural development

By **Jong Hwa Sun** PT

The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held from February 26 to March 1 marked an important turning point in definitely opening up prospects of agricultural development in the DPRK.

The meeting discussed the first year's work in the implementation of the programme for the rural revolution in the new era and a series of important tasks as the first agenda item.

In recent years, the WPK has discussed the rural question at its important meetings time and again, but it was the first time for it to deal with the question as the first agenda item of its plenary meeting.

This shows the Party attaches importance to agricultural development.

For the WPK which regards

devoted service for the good of the people as its primary mission, it is [one of] [the most important matter[s]] to solve their food problem.

In order to shore up the agricultural sector which has suffered a great deal of damage due to the atrocious and tenacious sanctions and blockade by hostile forces and recurrent calamitous abnormal weather, the WPK set agriculture as a major thrust area of socialist economic construction in recent years alone and has indicated directions of policies and tasks for solving problems arising in the efforts in opportune time.

For example, its Eighth Congress in January 2021 put forward the task of boosting agricultural production in the period of implementing the new five-year plan so as to solve the food problem of the people and the Fourth Plenary Meeting of its Eighth Central Committee in

December that year unveiled the programme for the rural revolution serving as a blueprint for rural development in the new era.

At the recent seventh plenum, the Party laid down detailed schemes for successfully hitting the cereal production target for this year and laying the foundations for safely developing the country's agriculture in the remaining period of implementing the five-year plan.

The tasks set forth at the plenary meeting include the perfection of the overall irrigation system to cope with disastrous abnormal weather, the supply of more new and highly efficient farm machines to rural communities while innovatively renovating the farm machine sector, the reclamation of tidal flats to extend the areas under cultivation, the building of stronger foundations for developing agricultural science and technology, the improvement

of guidance over farming and the dynamic pushing of rural construction on a nationwide scale.

The meeting thoroughly delved into problems arising in agricultural production and adopted practical measures to solve them, which showed the WPK's will to persistently lead the rural development in the new era and bring about an epoch-making change without fail.

The plenary meeting ardently called on the entire Party, the whole country and all the people to render powerful assistance to the agricultural sector, stressing that nothing is impossible as a powerful leadership system has been established in the entire Party and there is the united strength of all the people.

The firm single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses of the people and the people's absolute loyalty to the Party's

leadership are the political and ideological advantages peculiar to the DPRK.

So far, the DPRK has achieved a great deal of successes, which are unthinkable with the existing common sense, in socialist construction by dint of its political and ideological might.

The world's largest Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm built in a little over 230 days last year and modern dwelling houses springing up in different parts of Pyongyang are the crystallization of devotion of the service personnel and people who faithfully follow the ideas and intentions of the WPK for improving the people's living standards as soon as possible.

The rural communities in the DPRK will exert themselves to implement the decisions made at the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

# To improve soil fertility

By **To Kyong Chol** PT

Efforts are being made on all farms across the country to improve the fertility of soil scientifically to suit the characteristics of each plot and field.

An official of the Agricultural Commission said, "What is especially important in preparing for farming is to increase the fertility of soil. The soil fertility should be first improved to ensure scientific farming and produce high and safe yield even under the daily worsening disastrous weather conditions."

According to the official,

paddies include withering and faller fields and salt-damaged fields and dry fields consist in sloping, gravelly, weathered gneiss and cold and damp fields.

And any farm has many fields different in soil characteristics, so they are also different in nutrients they lack. Accordingly, correct methodology should be adopted in improving soil fertility in order to attain success in grain production.

Now the agricultural guidance organs of provinces, cities and counties and farms have drawn up scientific plans for improving fertility of fields in accordance with

their types on the basis of the detailed analysis of the soil characteristics of relevant areas and units and strive to carry out the plans.

Especially, they make and provide quality hukposan fertilizer or fermented compost based on analysis tables of soil while making effective use of locally available materials including apatite, kalifeldspar, vermiculite and dolomite.

Meanwhile, they research and apply organic farming methods, including the one based on mud snail, and expand the range of their application.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of agricultural workers



Farmers produce fermented compost to carry them to fields at the Tongbong Farm in Hanju County.

to make fields fertile, several million tons of homemade manure have been produced and 16 000 hectares of fields carpeted with humus soil across the country.

Anak County of South Hwanghae Province, the biggest agricultural province in the country, spreads paddies and dry fields with ten tons of Sinyang 2 fermented manure and over two tons of organic compound fertilizer per hectare.



A short course on the Juche farming methods is given at the Kangwon Provincial Rural Economy Committee.

By **Ri Sang Il** PT

A short course on the Juche farming methods is well underway on farms across the country.

"We should hold faster to the scientific farming-first

principle in order to bring about a turn in this year's farming. To this end, it is important for us to study the Juche farming methods well so as to fully prepare ourselves as masters of scientific farming," said an official of the Agricultural Commission.

The current short course is aimed at arming officials and workers of the agricultural sector more firmly with the Juche farming methods.

On the basis of the detailed analysis and review of the farming of last year, agricultural guidance organs

# Short course on Juche farming methods in full swing

at all levels press on with the short course in an effective way.

Competent officials and lecturers, scientists and researchers of relevant universities and institutes give lectures.

The short course draws great attention in all parts of the country.

There are not a few big and small rivers and streams in Taechon County, North Phyongan Province. It can increase crop yields by minimizing the damage by calamitous abnormal weather. To this end, it intensifies the course with emphasis put on further perfecting its irrigation system. In particular, it makes everyone learn from the experience of a farm

which controlled water properly and registered good results in grain production.

Notable is also the similar short course in Sukchon County, South Phyongan Province, which places emphasis on coping with calamitous abnormal weather conditions by making them a fait accompli.

The county especially stresses the need to finish earlier the farm work according to farming seasons.

Tens of thousands of farmers have so far attended such a course and made intensive studies in Ryanggang Province.

The course and studies deal with not only problems arising in potato, wheat and barley farming but also advanced farming methods

and technologies for different sectors including livestock farming, growth of vegetables and fruit farming.

They put emphasis on solving problems arising in establishing scientific cultivation methods including the proper allocation of crops and strains to suit the regional characteristics and the correct selection of the sowing period.

Meanwhile, agricultural workers strive to acquire new agricultural scientific and technological knowledge at leisure time.

Everyone further consolidates their understanding of advanced farming methods and technologies while earnestly sharing views on even a single question.

# Major steel producer seethes with flames of production drive

## Mass-based innovation leads to reduced tapping cycle, increased molten iron output

By **Kil Chung Il** PT

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, which opened up a bright prospect for carrying out the Juche iron production plan with the recent introduction of a sci-tech method that can increase the production capacity of oxygen blast furnace while lowering the norm of materials consumption per unit, is setting new standards

and records in molten iron production this year.

Smelters of the oxygen blast furnace workshop try hard to find ways to produce more molten iron as they charge materials, observe the temperature of melting inside the furnace and set the tapping time.

In the course of this, they came up with an idea that widening the hole at the time of tapping could increase the tapping speed.

Though this method had the advantage of improving the quality and quantity of molten iron production by decreasing the tapping cycle time, a slight mistake could possibly reduce the depth of the tapping hole beyond the limit and the molten iron path could burst during the process.

The smelters pooled their ideas and efforts to make a rational molten iron path as they conducted dozens of

tests on the basis of their past experience, while technicians tried to determine the exact depth limit of the tapping hole.

As a result, they found a technical method of eliminating the risk and renewed the production record once again.

Meanwhile, those at the steel workshop carried out a general overhaul of the electric furnace, which used to take more than eight

hours in the past, in just two hours and technically remodeled the tipper of the continuous casting machine.

As they were working to extend the repair cycle of the melting ladle to raise the steel ingot production, they created and introduced several technical innovation plans, including a method for raising the quality of repair and a rational temperature management

method, and thus opened up a prospect for increasing the daily steel ingot output with less labour, materials and time.

Other workshops are also resolving problems arising in the repair and technical renovation of facilities in a fresh way.

Thanks to such successes, the tap period is reducing and the molten iron output per charge is increasing at the complex.



Lumps of structural steel flow through rollers at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

# Juche-orientation of steelmaking promoted

By **Kim Il Jin** PT

The metallurgical industry sector puts spurs to the Juche-oriented projects planned for this year.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is concentrating efforts on major projects according to clear daily plans.

Before anything else, it introduces various original plans into the replacement and remodelling of different kinds of structures to overhaul the gas generator on a high qualitative level as scheduled.

It serviced equipment essential to operation of the induction furnace, pushes ahead with the preparation

for installing an oxygen furnace as planned, and at the same time makes technical preparations to operate the large oxygen plant.

It hastens the sheet metal processing needed for building an energy-saving oxygen-blast furnace.

The Chollima Steel Complex steps up the project for setting up more continuous casting machines.

The complex has already established the crystallizer reproducing process, the core of the continuous casting line, and prepared different kinds of jigs and equipment pieces. Now, it pushes the making of steel structure for the project.

Meanwhile, it promotes the repair and technical remodelling of rolling equipment and motors as scheduled and realized the domestic production of parts of oxygen plant to contribute to normalizing the production of iron and steel.

The repair workshop newly makes jigs and equipment pieces necessary for repairing facilities on the basis of the success it achieved in repairing large facility by making a jack with a capacity of hundreds of tons last year.

Other units of the metallurgical industry sector work hard to consolidate their production foundations.

# Branch mine project nears completion

By **Ko Kwang Yon** PT

The Unnyul Mine is pushing ahead with the development of the branch mine in Sohae-ri at the final stage.

This project for expanding iron ore production capacity is of crucial importance in ensuring high productivity of the iron and steel producers in the western part of the country.

The mine has pushed the project as one of its major tasks in implementing the strategy for readjustment and reinforcement put forward by the Workers' Party of Korea.

It worked out phased plans to shorten the period of the development before

simultaneously pushing the construction of buildings and manufacture and assembly of equipment and steel structures.

It actively applied original construction methods to complete the building of a large pit and other construction work in a short time.

Its employees produced the sleepers needed for pit construction even in the biting cold and completed the assembly of a hoist tower, which had been believed to take a long time, in a matter of two days.

They also made and installed spiral classifiers, mine cars, conveyors and other equipment and steel structures.

The making of spiral classifiers was the most difficult, but they made two units in just four months by challenging the norm with the existing processing equipment.

At present, more than 10 production buildings have been completed to go well with each other and furnished with bulky equipment and steel structures. The dressing plant is equipped with assembly lines.

After mainly completing the installation of equipment and facilities, the mine is conducting idle and load trials of several production processes and taking appropriate measures.



## 8 TREE-PLANTING

# Afforestation pushed in scientific, prospective way

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

At present, the second-stage forest restoration project is under way on a full scale in the DPRK.

After General Secretary Kim Jong Un published the work "Let the Entire Party, the Whole Army and All the People Conduct a Vigorous Forest Restoration Campaign to Cover the Mountains of the Country with Green Woods" in 2015, the country drew up the ten-year long-term plan for creating forests in a practical way and has waged the work in a scientific and prospective way.

For the past several years, all provinces, cities and counties built tree nurseries and conducted the work for the planting and protection of forests like securing seeds, sowing, producing tree saplings, planting and protecting land and ecological environment and, as a result, successfully carried out the task for the first stage.

Land- and labour-saving tree nurseries, including Tree Nursery No. 122 and Kangwon and North

Hamgyong provincial tree nurseries, have been built to mass-produce tree saplings irrespective of seasons in different parts of the country.

Scientific and technical problems are solved, arising in growing saplings and creating and conserving forests.

A technology of creating the forest of a good species of pine-nut tree by close planting was completed and progress was made in the efforts to markedly hasten the time of harvesting fruits of oil-bearing trees and mass-produce saplings of a new variety of chestnut with good taste and high per-hectare yield, create vitamin tree forests and plant wild fruit-bearing trees of great economic value.

Also, a good species of blueberry which grows well in the highlands of the northern area are acclimated to be raised in all areas across the country, including Pyongyang and middle part of the country.

Now, the nationwide project is being pushed to increase the growing speed of trees and abilities of absorption of carbon dioxide and preservation of water

of forests by forming mixed forests with good tree species.

Different kinds of agents for protecting roots and accelerating growth and nutritive activators are developed to ensure the rooting rate of trees, production bases built in different parts of the country and success made in the research into planting trees all the year round irrespective of seasons.

The primary effort is directed to thoroughly preventing forest fire and damage from harmful insects as well as reducing the dependence on forests in all parts of the country.

The movement for creating forest of socialist patriotism is widely conducted.

As the number of winners of the title of socialist patriotism forest increases every year since all the units take part in planting and protecting forests with a high sense of responsibility and make forest areas in their charge thick, over 330 units were awarded the title last year alone.

Amid the dynamic all-people forest restoration campaign, forests of the country are given a total facelift.

# North Hwanghae secures many saplings to plant in spring

By Ri Jang Chol PT

It is spring when everything comes to life. All regions and units across the DPRK are stepping up the preparation for planting trees as forest restoration is pushed as an important state affair.

North Hwanghae Province with many mountains, including Mt Jongbang, has secured plenty of saplings to plant in spring.

While raising the scientific level of afforestation, the province set it as a main goal to create mixed forests this year.

Accordingly, it has raised many saplings of good tree species including pine-nut trees, chestnuts, black chokeberry, Korean larch and bamboo-willow.

According to an official of the provincial people's committee, it worked out a rational, long-term plan of afforestation after taking the symbiotic relations of trees, weather and soil into account.

The material and technical foundations of tree nurseries in cities and counties have been consolidated and exchanges done to secure much more saplings of

good species, leading to an increase in sapling production as compared to last year, he added.

The province pays due attention to enhancing the role of forest rangers in examining saplings strictly.

Meanwhile, positive efforts are made to propagate in large numbers zelkova, which is of high economic value and good to look at.

The area for the production of zelkova saplings has increased and acceptable saplings have been raised using a variety of highly-effective nutrient solutions.

Officials and other working people plant trees across the country on the occasion of Tree-planting Day.



# Trees planted across DPRK to mark Tree-planting Day

KCNA

March 14 is Tree-Planting Day when the cold of winter disappears and spring is felt in the country.

On March 14 1952, when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height, Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung stressed the need to build large hectares of forests through an all-people movement as he grieved over the large hectares of forests burnt by the US imperialists' bombing.

The DPRK is now pushing ahead with forest restoration as an important undertaking to turn all mountains across the country into useful ones.

Trees were planted across the country on the occasion of the day.

Party and government officials and other officials and working people in all parts of the country took part in the commemorative tree-planting.

The participants planted trees with the determination

to spruce up the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, and turn other important places which are associated with the undying revolutionary exploits of the peerlessly great men.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, and other officials of the standing committee carefully planted trees of good species at the arboretum of the Central Botanical Garden.

Officials of the Party Central Committee planted trees as they recollected the instructions of General Secretary Kim Jong Un, who said that we are here not only to plant trees but to plant our Party's policy

and ardent patriotism and pure conscience that would remain unchanged forever, on Mt Hwasong where he planted trees together with the participants in the Second Conference of Secretaries of Primary Committees of the Workers' Party of Korea in March last year.

Cherishing Kim Jong Il's patriotism, officials of working people's organizations planted trees in different places including the environs of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and Mangyongdae and Oun revolutionary sites.

Meanwhile, people planted trees in different places of Pyongyang with patriotic mind to spruce up the capital into a city in a park covered with green foliage.

Officials and working people in different parts of the country took part in tree-planting with warm love for their native land and the country in order to turn all mountains into "gold and treasure ones".

The teaching staff and students of many schools including Hero Munchon Technical Senior Middle School in Munchon City, Kangwon Province, devoted their sincerity to the work of building, protecting and managing forests with a noble patriotic mind.

According to statistics, over 330 units were awarded the title of forest of socialist patriotism last year.

# Forest of socialist patriotism is on increase

By Pak Song Min PT

The forest of socialist patriotism has increased since the movement for creating the forest of socialist patriotism was launched nine years back. In November 2014, General Secretary Kim Jong Un stressed the need to briskly wage such mass movements for creating the "forest of

socialist patriotism" and winning the title of model county in afforestation throughout society as he grieved over denuded forests of the country during his visit to the Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

Upon receipt of the patriotic call of the General Secretary, people across the country turned out as one

in the new type of mass movement with fervent love for the country.

Over 50 units won the title of forest of socialist patriotism in North Phyongan Province by pushing ahead with this undertaking with clear long-term goals and phased plans for the restoration of forests.

More than 20 units were awarded the title of forest

of socialist patriotism in North Hamgyong Province by working properly to create, protect and manage forests.

Kaesong City conducted organizational and political work scrupulously so that broad masses would take part in the mass movement voluntarily and positively, thus making successes in the movement for creating forests of socialist

patriotism.

And North Hwanghae Province, Rason City and other areas in different parts of the country devoted themselves to forest areas in their charge.

The movement is being conducted widely in parallel with the efforts to create the forests of youth and the Children's Union which are made by youth and schoolchildren.

# A leap in surgical operation on heart anomaly

A successful surgical operation saved a 120-odd-day-old from serious vitium cordis

By Pang Un Ju PT

Medical workers of the Okryu Children's Hospital succeeded in operating on a 120-odd-day-old baby for compound vitium cordis.

It was in September last year when they came to know about Jon San Jong, youngest girl of the 531st triplets born at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

The less-than-two-month-old baby was in a critical condition at that time, recalled Ri Chol Jin, head of the cardiovascular surgical department.

She weighed only 1.2kg at the time of birth, belonging to an LBW infant category.

She suffered from severe pulmonary hypertension due to ventricular and atrial septal defects and patent ductus arteriosus. Still worse, her left lung did not appear in the screen image.

As she failed to oxygenate her blood, her face was dark blue and she kept the spark of her life with the help of a respirator.

"We had never seen such a serious case among thousands of other cases with heart deformity. That's why we hesitated to decide on operation," said Ri.

According to him, nearly 8 per 1 000 babies across the world are born with a malformed heart and medical charges for it are too expensive, so most families in some countries give up their new-born babies when they are diagnosed with congenital heart diseases.

However, health workers of the two Korean hospitals decided to improve her health through cooperative efforts.

At their first joint consultation, they agreed that the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital would make her gain weight heavy enough to undergo an operation as early as possible and the Okryu Children's Hospital would turn all possibilities to account to confirm a suitable operation scheme.

Since then, the two hospitals, with a road between them, waged an intensive campaign to save

the life of the baby girl.

While medical workers of baby department No. 3 of the maternity hospital were keeping their close eyes on the ever-changing vital signs of the patient to keep her alive, those of the Ri's department of the children's hospital conducted scores of simulated operations to choose the most suitable plan.

On November 21, or two days after San Jong was transferred to the children's hospital, the four-month-old underwent an operation.

The surgical procedure lasted nearly four hours. After she was transferred to an ICU, the medical workers kept working at full strain.

Nurses kept vigil at her bedside and took maternal care of her.

One day, Jong Kyong Jin, doctor in charge of her, raised a shout of joy during an examination. "I could hear a sound from her left chest, similar to respiratory sound we had never heard from her," recalled Jong.

Repeated examinations made health workers draw a



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Medical workers of the Okryu Children's Hospital receive bouquets from parents of Jon San Jong, a triplet who underwent a life-saving operation.

conclusion that her left lung which had been pressed down by the deformed heart before came to take shape as the heart shrank to a normal size.

Her condition remarkably improved day by day with life indices and vital reaction was brought to normal.

Her parents Jon Jin and Han Son Ha saw their youngest daughter San Jong stretching her body with raised hands, with tears of joy in their eyes.

Jon San Jong, after being brought to normal condition,

left the hospital amid a warm send-off of medical workers on February 3 this year.

Han Son Ha wrote in the visitors' book before leaving the hospital: "Since entering the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital after being diagnosed with triplets in Wonsan of Kangwon Province, I was provided with special medical services and highly nutritious meals according to a special nutrition norm for prolific mothers. Nearly 30 medical workers helped me to do

easy delivery and more than 10 doctors and nurses took care of my triplets. The state presented me and my girls with gold rings and my husband with a silver knife.

"My youngest daughter San Jong could be saved from critical condition and be reborn under the free medical services at the Okryu Children's Hospital built by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un. I will surely bring up my three girls well to devote themselves to this benevolent system."

# 'We will make sure that socialist public health system actually benefits people'

In the DPRK public health service is not merely a medical service but an undertaking to ensure that people actually benefit from the advantages of the socialist public health system.

The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea stressed the need to further enhance the socialist popular health policy so that all people can enjoy practical benefits and protection of the most advantageous socialist health system irrespective of unfavourable conditions.

Pharmaceutical and medical appliance factories are now concentrating all efforts on stably supplying enough medicines and medical appliances to preventive and curative institutions.

Practical measures are positively taken to increase official medicines and Koryo medicines by ensuring the supply of raw and other materials and medicinal herbs for the production of medicines and to step up the renovation and modernization of pharmaceutical, medical appliances and medical supplies factories.

The work is intensified to increase the production of medical appliances in a planned way and preparations are made for the construction and operation of major projects in the sector of public health including the construction of the Kangwon Provincial General Hospital.

We inspire all medical workers to fully display the spirit of selfless devotion in medical service activities for the promotion of the people's health with high abilities and warm affection for them.

In particular, we make sure that household doctors enhance their role to take thorough measures to prevent various kinds of diseases.

In addition, we see to it that preventive and curative institutions at all levels introduce advanced diagnosis and treatment methods and further perfect the telemedicine system in keeping with the trend in the development of modern medicine so as to ensure the quality of medical services at a high level.

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According to statistics, over 330 units were awarded the title of forest of socialist patriotism last year.

Han Yun Song, department director of the Ministry of Public Health



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ri Ji Hyang applies cupping therapy to patient.

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

Pyongyang Municipal General Hospital No. 2 has many doctors with special skills.

Among them is Ri Ji Hyang, aged 42, at the internal Koryo medicine department.

Her forte is the treatment of intractable diseases of the immune system.

In the past 20 years, she cured many patients with such diseases.

Yun Kyong Il, deputy director in charge of technical affairs of the hospital, said: "Dr Ri Ji Hyang is always correct in diagnosing illnesses."

According to Ri, all the illnesses of the human body are related with each other.

In case of a patient with

# Doctor excels in treating intractable diseases

symptoms of stomach disorder in the digestive system, she said, the digestive trouble might have developed originally as diseases of the urogenital system encompassing the kidneys, bladder and prostate gland have affected the digestive system.

In order to correctly identify the causes of any disease, she not only gives patients modern medicine tests such as those using apparatuses and blood and biochemical tests but also uses methods of diagnosis of Koryo medicine as she checks the colour of the tongue, pulse, skin colour including complexion, fingers, toes and even fingerprint.

She said modern medicine diagnoses diseases according to the symptoms of each system of patients, whereas Koryo medicine identifies the causes of diseases by taking the whole body into consideration.

By using both modern and traditional methods she has found out the causes of different incurable diseases and achieved success in treatment.

She prioritizes the traditional Korean therapy using no drugs or

operations.

"I was very upset when I was diagnosed with a complication of chronic cystitis and chronic prostatitis. But I am now convalescing after having from her the Koryo therapies using traditional medicines, acupuncture and cupping along with modern medical treatment," said a man in his 40s.

A woman in her 30s with a complication of women's diseases has also recovered after a month-long Koryo medical treatment without the use of drugs.

According to her, while having the traditional therapy, she experienced no drug poisoning, appetite loss and load on the liver that are unavoidable when using strong modern drugs and became well again.

"I think medicines and therapies using water and plants on your own soil are more effective in improving your constitution and curing your illness. It corresponds to the global treatment trend of 'returning to the soil'. Koryo therapy is the most appropriate and ideal remedy to the Korean people," said Ri Ji Hyang.



# DPRK-Russia friendship, cooperation carried on in new century

By Song Jong Ho PT

March 17 this year is the 74th anniversary of the DPRK-Russia agreement on economic and cultural cooperation. President Kim Il Sung made his first official visit to the then USSR in 1949 and concluded the first bilateral inter-governmental agreement on March 17. The conclusion of the agreement provided a legal guarantee for expanding and developing the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation on a larger scale. Since then, the two countries had promoted multi-faceted cooperation and exchange without interruption. The DPRK-Russia friendly and cooperative ties with a long historical root have entered a higher level in the new century.

Chairman Kim Jong Il met President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin who visited the DPRK in July 2000 and adopted the DPRK-Russia joint declaration. He met Putin again during an official visit to Russia in August 2001 and signed the Moscow declaration. He cemented the friendly bond between the two countries as he visited Russia in 2002 and 2011. At present, the bilateral relations are constantly developing in conformity with the interests of both countries and as required by the new era. The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un met the foreign minister of the Russian Federation and the chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council who came to the DPRK respectively in May and September of 2018 and

exchanged comprehensive views on the matters of collaborating and keeping pace in invariably keeping to the traditional friendly ties provided by the preceding leaders and developing them in a sustainable and constructive way and in safeguarding lasting and durable peace and security of the region and the world. Kim Jong Un met Putin in Vladivostok, Russia, in April 2019. His first Russia visit was a historic event that demonstrated the firmness of the DPRK-Russia friendship that was carried on through generations and rendered a great contribution to the peace and security of the Korean peninsula and beyond. The long-standing bilateral relations are getting more invigorated and strengthened

under the care of the leaders of the two countries. The two countries have the common objectives of opposing interference and pressure from outside and defending national sovereignty. Currently, they are hardening their stance to protect their sovereignty and bolstering mutual support and solidarity while taking concerted actions in opposing high-handedness, oppression and injustice of the imperialists in the international arena. This is greatly encouraging the world's progressives aspiring after independence and justice. The bilateral friendship will be further consolidated and developed by the concerted efforts of the peoples of the two countries.

# Farm villages benefit from good species of trees



**Yun Chun Hwa**  
managereess of the Chongsan Farm in Kangso District, Nampho

At present, when the new era of rural development has been ushered in, fairyland villages have been built and fruit trees have been planted in rural communities, adding beauty to the countryside. President Kim Il Sung stressed the need to conduct the movement of planting fruit trees at all houses a long time ago and illuminated ways one by one to this end. Chairman Kim Jong Il emphasized the need to plant fruit trees when modern rural dwelling houses were newly built. He was very pleased to see that fruit trees were planted around houses. The President and the

Chairman visited our farm villages on well over a hundred occasions. Over 10-15 fruit trees have been planted at each house on an average to benefit residents greatly. It is not confined to our farm. Undong-ri in Hamju County, known as an apricot village, grows over 13 apricot trees at each house on average and many families have planted dozens of apricot trees. And there are rural villages everywhere benefitting from planting many trees, including Chonsam-ri in Anbyon County known as the village of persimmon trees. Planting fruit trees and other kinds of trees at each house adds

scenic beauty to villages and helps protect environment and enrich farmers' life. When fruit and other good species of trees are planted there in great numbers, flower fragrance will emit in spring, the shadow of trees will be produced in summer and a variety of fruits will hang in clusters and add beauty to villages in autumn. In the course of planting and cultivating trees, in particular, people cultivate ardent love for their native land and patriotism. Fruit and good species of trees should be planted in great numbers in consideration of topographical features and soil conditions at suitable places, where landscaping of villages

can be promoted. Caution should be exercised lest trees should cast shadow on houses or be fallen down by storm to cause damage to them. It is good to plant different ground-covering plants not to leave any uncovered ground and to prevent dust from rising. According to long-term demands, preparations for tree saplings with great ornamental value should be followed. We need to build a tree nursery for growing ornamental trees and produce trees with great ornamental value over ten years ahead. It is useful to plant zelkova trees around rural dwellings. The trees are good to see, grow rapidly and are not infested with insects. The appearance of the socialist countryside will remarkably improve, when everybody turns out in planting fruit and other trees of good species in rural villages.

## OPINION

# 'Forest and Health'

By Jo Kuk Hyon

The protection and increase of forests are an important matter concerning the existence of humankind. Forest performs such functions as preserving biodiversity, controlling the storage of water, protecting land, purifying air and others and constitutes important resources for the provision of raw and other materials indispensable for human life and economic development. Forests cover 7.6 billion hectares on the earth, making up over half of its land mass. However, the acreage of forests continues to decrease for various reasons such as population growth and industrial development. As a result, it was reportedly reduced to a half, 3.8 billion, in 2000 and now dwindles by 10 million every year. It is also reported that about 3.1 million hectares of forests were planted in the past 10 years till 2020, whereas natural forests are reduced by about 12.5 million hectares a year.

Therefore, to protect forests and sustainably increase the acreage is not a matter which is confined to only one country, region or unit, but an important issue related to human existence. For this reason, the UN General Assembly proclaimed March 21 as the International Day of Forests in 2012. Many countries conduct a variety of activities including tree planting to mark the day. The theme for this year's IDF is "Forest and Health".

In the DPRK afforestation has been undertaken as a nationwide affair, with millions of hectares of forests having been planted in recent years. Afforestation and reforestation are in full swing for planting mixed forests according to management purposes in full consideration of biological characteristics and symbiosis of trees and weather and soil conditions.

Trees that grow well in each region are planted on the principle of growing the right trees on the right soil to create timber forests, those for producing fibre and paper and those of wild fruit and oil-bearing trees and efforts are concentrated on the cultivation and management to raise the rooting rate. Measures have been taken to modernize tree nurseries, put sapling production on an industrial, intensive and scientific basis and plant three- to four-year-old tree saplings. Many species of tree saplings are grown to diversify the creation of mixed forests.

Sci-tech findings have also positively been introduced into the planting and protection of forests. A program was developed by putting the forms and methods of planting mixed forest, selection of trees and mixing rate on a scientific basis, opening up the prospects for putting afforestation on a scientific footing. A remote monitoring system has been set up for the protection of forests and drones and other advanced equipment are widely used to prevent damage from forest fire and blights.

The author is officer of the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea

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# Withering sprouts, opening buds

## Cases of illegal juvenile labour have recently sprung up explosively in the US

By Choe Song Jun PT

Children represent the future of every country. To treasure, love and properly raise them is an important undertaking to guarantee the development and future of mankind.

But their growth and destiny are different by countries and regions.

Large numbers of children suffer from toilsome labour and even lose their lives in accidents during work in the United States, the only country that refused to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

According to a survey of over a hundred immigrant juvenile workers in 20 states of the US, the exploitation of child labour is very serious. For example, a 12-year-old boy works as a roof repairer in Florida and a 13-year-old girl washes bedclothes in a hotel of Virginia. Many other children work at construction sites and are forced into rough work such as cleaning of slaughterhouse, and most of them work over dangerous machines until late at night.

Accidents often occur during work due to poor working environment and conditions. A child fell from a height of 15 metres while working at a house repair company and another was caught under timber at a construction site. Like this, many children lose their lives. Such accidents are not reportedly summed up even elementarily.

Such exploitation of immigrant juvenile labour in the US is an open secret, and businesses and schools in the regions where children live intentionally remain dumb on the child labour situation and conspire with one another.

In a reply to a journalist's question related to the report on the protection of children's rights released

by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund at a regular news briefing, the spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the cases of illegal juvenile labour have recently sprung up explosively in the US and called on it to ratify the CRC quickly and protect all rights of children through practical actions.

A saying goes that if you want to know about the future of a country, you should see its children.

Last year there took place the eighth Asian children's picture exhibition and the 31st international children's picture exhibition in Dalian of Liaoning Province in China, and Khabarovsk of Russia respectively. In their reports about the exhibitions, mass media of China, Russia, India, Singapore, Italy, Austria, Ethiopia and Libya said that children of the DPRK fully demonstrated the wishes and talents they fulfil under the socialist education system. In particular, a Laotian news agency stressed that the Korean children's works won high appraisal at the exhibitions as they are consistent with their love for the national traditions and nature and vividly based on their life and that the exhibitions served as another occasion for the participants to know about the DPRK, a kingdom of children, and the rosy future of its socialist system.

No task is more important than the one to healthily raise children in the DPRK, and it is the most important policy and greatest cherished desire of the Workers' Party of Korea to provide more improved conditions for childcare even by spending a huge sum of money.

Nurseries and kindergartens across the country do the management of children's health in a scientific way.

Especially, kindergartens systemically introduce advanced teaching methods to develop their intelligence. The universal 12-year compulsory education was enforced and children's palaces and camps were built on scenic spots. The country has medical service bases exclusively for children like the Okryu Children's Hospital.

Seen in all parts of the country are baby homes, orphanages, primary and middle schools for orphans and nurses, teachers, doctors and many other employees of the institutions take warm care of the children.

The congress of the Korean Children's Union is held as a major national event and even airplanes are provided for delegates to the congress who are far away from the capital city.

On her visit to the DPRK a few years ago, the head of a Russian camping group said: It is a unanimous desire of all mothers on the earth to bring up their children without envy in the world. As a mother, I also want to send my children to schools and camps provided with good educational conditions and to help them realize their hopes to suit their tastes and aptitudes. But it is a problem that cannot be solved merely with maternal affection and care. Such desire of mothers is translated into reality in the DPRK. All its children learn, develop their talents to their heart's content at professional education bases and enjoy the greatest blessings at wonderfully built camps at state expense. Indeed, the DPRK is a paradise for children we mothers can imagine only in a dream.

As everything of the country is consistent with love for the younger generation, its children grow healthily into its future pillars.

# African nations make strides towards independent development

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

African countries are getting more energetic in their efforts to cope with the ever-worsening global food and energy crisis.

The Ugandan government, as the country's agricultural development has been greatly hampered by extreme weather conditions in recent years, is allocating huge funds to the construction of hundreds of irrigation systems in over 20 provinces in the northern and eastern areas which are often affected by severe droughts. It is pushing ahead with a project for supporting residents and peasants who are vulnerable to drought damage by completing a solar-powered irrigation system by next year. It is also taking measures to help complete the irrigation system by improving water supply to rural areas and lowering

taxes to some extent and to prevent various kinds of diseases spreading through local areas.

In a recent ceremony to declare the initiation of a new agricultural modernization project held in the plaza of the Dakar grand theatre, the Senegalese president said that a large sum of fund will be appropriated for the project which includes the introduction of new farm machinery and construction of agricultural product storage facilities. Hundreds of kinds of agricultural equipment such as tractors, multi-purpose harvesters, irrigation water pumps and cold-storage chambers, which had already been purchased, were on display in the plaza. Saying they should attain self-sufficiency in agricultural products in order to overcome the fluctuations of global trade, the president stressed the need to mechanize agriculture, introduce irrigation

cultivation, reduce the loss of farm produce, apply machinery and equipment to all sectors and promote technical learning.

The South African president in his policy speech for 2023 at a joint session of the houses of the parliament said that the government set forth five major objectives, including the repair and replacement of old thermal power generation facilities of the state-run electricity company in order to create additional power generation capacity of 4-6 million kW, encouragement of private capital investment in a new 9 million kW power generation capacity building project, production of 2.8 million kW of renewable energy and expansion of the storage capacity, installation of solar panels at businesses and houses and switch to sustainable electricity production modes, in July 2022. He declared a state of disaster to achieve the above

goals and overcome the current electricity crisis, saying a special measure is essential in a special situation. He also noted that the government will plan investment in the switch to sustainable electricity production modes such as green hydrogen, electric car, solar energy and wind power and, as the modes are established, turn bleak deserts into a green hydrogen source based on solar energy.

Nigeria is trying to ease energy shortages and improve electricity delivery to residents who have no access to electricity. The minister of state for electricity in a ceremony held in Abuja said that since development of renewable energy is a fast way to resolve the country's electricity shortage, the federal government decided to push it forward.

African countries' efforts for achieving independent economic development are going on.

## Briefly

### Hungary

#### PM opposes West's sanctions against Russia

The Hungarian Prime Minister said at an economic meeting on March 9 that the country would check any West's sanctions against Russia detrimental to the economic profit of the country.

His country will continue to rely on fossil fuel importing from Russia and take necessary measures to ensure energy security, he added.

### China

#### Satellite launched

China launched a satellite at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre on March 10.

Having been carried by a Long March-4C carrier rocket, the satellite was reportedly sent up into the designated orbit.

### Syria

#### Israeli air raid condemned

Not long ago a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said, "The West keeps mum about Israel's repeated, cruel and indiscriminate attacks on Syria."

His statement came after Israel recently staged an air raid on Aleppo international airport of Syria.

He branded it as a blatant crime against humanity that Israel made the air raid on the civilian airport when the Syrians are in a difficult situation owing to earthquake damage.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates issued a statement, saying that Israel's air raid, as a violation of international law and an act quite contrary to the most basic ethics, reveals the aggressive nature of its policy once again.

### Argentina

#### Fierce heat hits Latin American country

Unprecedentedly fierce heat is persisting in Argentina. In the country the temperature of March has risen for consecutive days. This is reportedly the worst meteorological phenomenon in 62 years.

The temperature has risen up to 39-44°C in Buenos Aires, the capital of the country, and a city around it. The average temperature during the first week of March in the middle region of the country was 8 to 10°C higher than the average year.

The unprecedentedly high temperatures have entailed power failure across the country, including the capital city, for several days.

The persisting fierce heat and drought have badly affected agricultural production.

### COVID-19

#### Global casualties

According to a foreign news report, 681 858 127 persons contracted novel coronavirus, 6 813 984 died of it and 20 121 794 were undergoing medical treatment in the world as of 24:00 on March 15.

## BYWORD

# Forests of youth and Children's Union

In thick green forests of the DPRK it is a commonplace to see those with catchwords "youth forest" and "Children's Union forest" put up in large letters in them.

They are literally the forests tended by members of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League and the Korean Children's Union.

Families and schools encourage the younger generation to plant and tend trees in mountains around their villages and schools from their childhood.

They grow in mind along

with the growth of trees.

They come to get attached to their native place and then realize the preciousness of the country through their sincere work and devotion, not through words or writing.

The forests of youth and the Children's Union also took a large share in the all-people efforts for afforestation to turn all mountains across the country into useful gold and treasure ones.





## Hyongje Falls in Mt Paektu

# Taekwon-Doist with strike capability as sharp as dagger



“

**Kim Ryu Gyong is fast in reaction and correct in decision-making. In a word, she knows well when to launch attack.”**

Han Jong Ae, coach of the National Taekwon-Do Training Centre

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

**K**im Ryu Gyong (pictured), Taekwon-Do player at the National Taekwon-Do Training Centre of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, has been designated as one of the top ten DPRK players of the year 2022.

Though her playing career is short, she has notched up considerable successes in matches.

Last year she got gold medals at women's individual third dan pattern, individual special

technique and team sparring events of the National Martial Arts Championships and won the individual technical prize. She also obtained two golds and lifted the Taekwon-Do star cup at the national Taekwon-Do all-star tournament.

She has taken first place at annual Taekwon-Do tournaments in recent years to distinguish herself as a promising player.

Especially, she cut a conspicuous figure in the international arena.

She made her international debut at the 21st Taekwon-Do World Championships in Bulgaria in August 2019 and bagged three golds by winning

women's team pattern, team sparring and women's self-defence events and two silvers at such events as women's individual pattern.

According to experts, her playing is fascinating as she puts her opponent at a disadvantage by feints and a surprise counterattack and makes a high jump for a powerful turning kick at a decisive moment to get a score.

It is not confined to sparring, they say.

She is proficient in pattern, self-defence and different other events.

Born to a worker's family in Kaesong, she was very fond of the national martial art in her childhood.

Having been selected

as an up-and-coming player, she was admitted to the Taekwon-Do Hall in Pyongyang to undergo training.

“Kim Ryu Gyong is fast in reaction and correct in decision-making. In a word, she knows well when to launch attack,” said coach Han Jong Ae.

Kim trains hard to be polished physically, technically and tactically.

“After being designated as one of the top ten Taekwon-Do players of the country in 2019, I have had such honour in 2022 for the second time. I get more attached to Taekwon-Do as I achieve growing success. I'll exert myself to dominate future competitions,” she said.

# Pipha-shaped dagger typical of first-term culture of Ancient Joseon

By Mun Hyok

**T**he Korean people made and used bronze weapons in the period of Ancient Joseon which existed between the early 30th century BC and 108 BC.

The most typical of the weapons is pipha-shaped dagger.

Such dagger was widely used in the vast areas of Northeast China centring around the Korean peninsula between early 3 000 BC and late 2 000 BC.

The dagger is shaped like pipha, an old musical instrument. Hence the name of the weapon.

The dagger's blade is pointed at the end and the edges of the blade sharply project downwards from the front or middle part and has a smoothly curved fossa and carina below the parts.

The vertical centre of its body has its backbone and thus there is a natural blood groove between each edge and the backbone.

The dagger is quite unique

in not only shape but also structure.

It consists mainly of the body and the handle that can be disassembled, that is, it is a sectional weapon whose hilt, guard and shaft also can be disassembled.

Unlike a monolithic dagger made by casting its body and handle as a whole, the pipha-shaped dagger is very convenient to use because even if any part of it is damaged, it can be replaced with another spare part as it is a sectional weapon made by casting the body, handle and shaft separately.

The pipha-shaped dagger made and used by the Korean people was well known in not only Ancient Joseon but also all territories of other ancient states of Korea including Puyo, Kuryo and Jinguk.

It is one of typical relics of the culture of the Bronze Age in the first term of Ancient Joseon.

*The author is researcher of the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences*

