

# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visits construction site of Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at Overseas Military Operations

**He digs the first spadeful of earth for tree-planting under plan for greening at the museum together with senior officials**

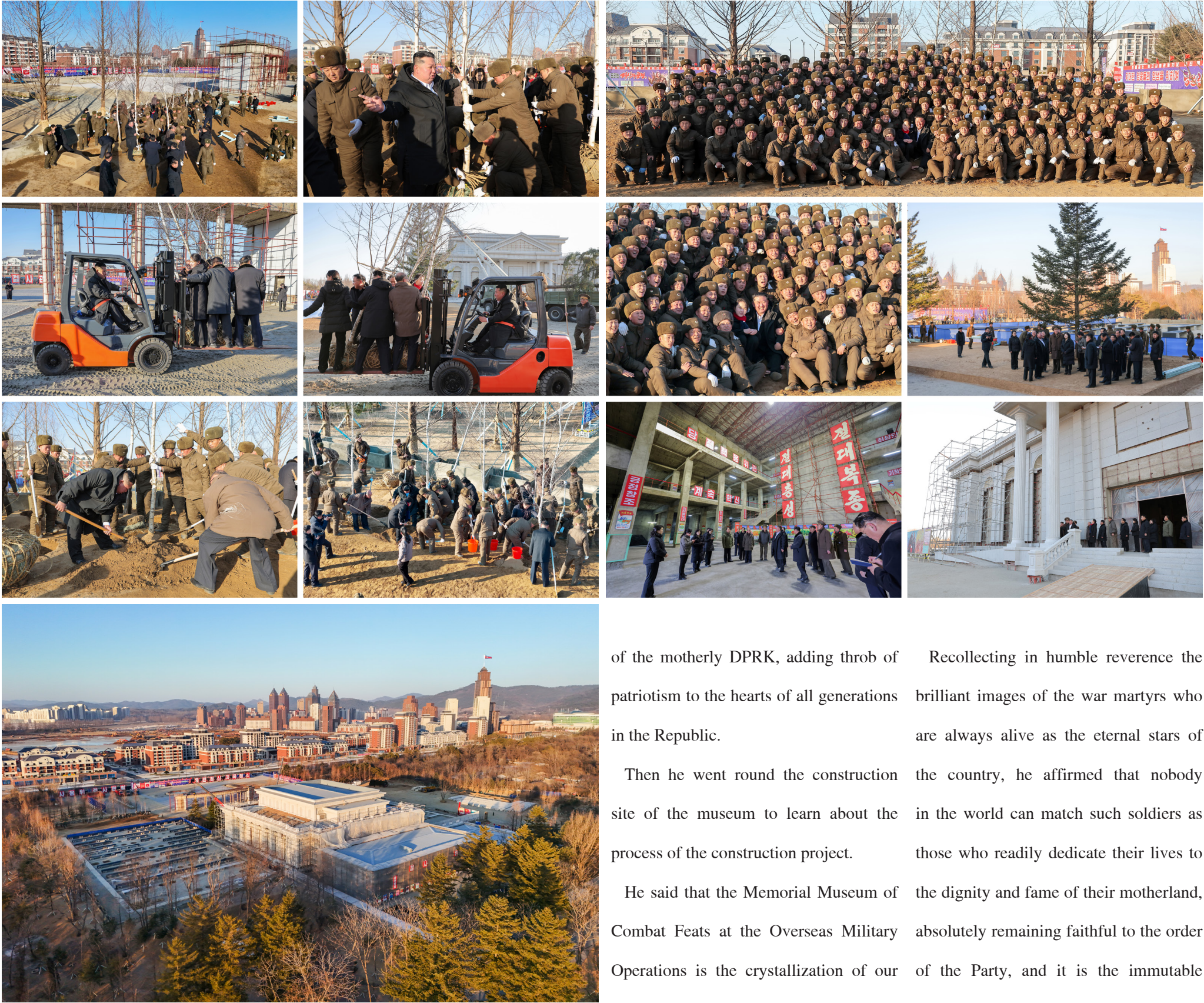


KCNA of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited the construction site of the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at Overseas Military Operations with senior Party and government officials on January 5.

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FROM PAGE 1

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by the commanding officers of the army unit involved in the construction.

He gave encouragement to the soldier-builders, expressing thanks for devoting themselves to ensuring the best quality in every process of construction, bearing deep in mind the unanimous wish of all the people and the officers and men of the People’s Army that the great heroes would be immortal.

He dug the first spadeful of earth for tree-planting under the plan for greening at the museum, together with senior officials.

He engaged himself in tree-planting for a long time with the soldier-builders, saying that even a single tree or a single blade of grass, to be rooted at the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations, should be associated with our people’s deep respects and noble moral obligation for the heroic soldiers who sacrificed themselves without hesitation, aspiring after the immortality and eternal prosperity of our glorious state.

He said that the noble sacrifice and heroic feats of the participants in the worthiest sacred war for justice and dignity would serve as the solid root and eternal cornerstone supporting the mightiness

of the motherly DPRK, adding throb of patriotism to the hearts of all generations in the Republic.

Then he went round the construction site of the museum to learn about the process of the construction project.

He said that the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations is the crystallization of our Party’s and people’s eternal gratitude and respects for the representatives of the great fame of the country and a grand monument to the times symbolic of heroism and bravery of the Korean people’s excellent sons.

He added that through the construction, another important ideological and spiritual base for education in the tradition of victory will be provided in the capital city of our state and, along with the establishment of the museum, our people will powerfully demonstrate before the world the immortality of the DPRK, our great motherland, and the invincibility of the Korean People’s Army, celebrating major commemorative days including V-Day together with the heroes.

Recollecting in humble reverence the brilliant images of the war martyrs who are always alive as the eternal stars of the country, he affirmed that nobody in the world can match such soldiers as those who readily dedicate their lives to the dignity and fame of their motherland, absolutely remaining faithful to the order of the Party, and it is the immutable truth and law proven by history. And he gave precious teachings for completing the construction of the museum on the highest level.

That day, Kim Jong Un had a photo of love and trust taken with officers and men who are devoting their all sincerity to the establishment of the museum.

All the soldier-builders made their firm pledge to perfectly build the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations into a sacred edifice of heroic Korea representing the great era of Kim Jong Un, more keenly feeling the ardent kinship of Marshal Kim Jong Un who is glorifying the noble life of the fallen servicepersons.



# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visits major munitions factory

## He appraises the multi-mission precision guided weapons being produced at the factory

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited a major munitions factory on January 3 to learn about the production of tactical guided weapons.

He was accompanied by Jo Chun Ryong, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, and Kim Jong

Sik, first deputy department director of the Central Committee of the WPK.

He first looked round the technically updated production areas to learn in detail about the modernization.

Expressing the view that a more innovative plan and establishment of a rational system are necessary for the flexible automatic manufacturing system and production areas, he said that, from a practical point of view, there still exists a

series of deficiencies in the modernization of the assembly process and that the design of the process and the corresponding arrangement of equipment are important in eliminating them. And he gave instructions to reexamine the overall plans for the construction and modernization of munitions industry enterprises in 2026 and propose again optimum plans taking into account the aforesaid aspects.

For our munitions industry, economic arrangement and the management of

production and technical upgrading should be carried on carefully and in a scrupulous way to suit the special characteristics and the present situation where the current munitions production and the modernization project should be pushed simultaneously, he stressed.

He appraised the multi-mission precision guided weapons being produced at the factory.

He said: The potential military and technical capabilities and effectiveness

of our excellent tactical guided weapon system have military effective value great enough to replace even the multiple launch rocket system in the future. We will equip major units with this weapon system in an organized way from the first half of this year. Attention should be paid to the need to decisively expand the current production capacity by about 2.5 times in order to meet the unit-specific

demand for equipment being planned by the Ministry of National Defence and the General Staff.

He stressed the need to pay close attention also to improving the quality of cooperative products.

He expressed belief that all the officials, technicians and workers of the factory would take the lead in upholding the Party's policy on munitions industry with greater technical innovation and production results.





# Hypersonic missile launching drill conducted in DPRK

## Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, oversees the drill



KCNA

A sub-unit under a major firing strike group of the Korean People's Army conducted a missile launching drill on January 4.

The drill was conducted as part of the operational evaluation of the sustainability, effectiveness and operation of the DPRK's war deterrent while evaluating the readiness of the hypersonic weapon system, verifying and confirming its capability for fulfilling mission and developing the missile soldiers' firing capability.

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, oversaw the launching drill.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said that it is a very important strategic task to maintain and expand a powerful

and reliable nuclear deterrent through the sustained verification of key components of war deterrence and the improvement of its performance and the mastering of operational capabilities.

He said, appreciating the drill:

**"Through today's launching drill, we can confirm that a very important technology task for national defence has been carried out.**

**"The missile soldiers showed the readiness of the DPRK's nuclear forces without regret and gave confidence in it.**

**"Important achievements have been recently made in putting our nuclear forces on a practical basis and preparing them for an actual war. This potential is an outcome of the Party's line on building up the national defences and its policy on attaching importance to defence science and technology and a valuable result of our outstanding**

**scientific and technological group.**

**"We must continuously upgrade the military means, especially offensive weapon systems. It is just an essential undertaking for self-defence. In addition, to make the rivals recognize the constant mobilization of our strategic offensive means and their fatality itself in a steady and repeated way is an important and effective mode of exercising war deterrence.**

**"To be honest, our such activity is clearly aimed at gradually putting the nuclear war deterrent on a high-developed basis. Why it is necessary is exemplified by the recent geopolitical crisis and complicated international events."**

The hypersonic missiles, launched from Ryokpho District, Pyongyang Municipality, to the northeast direction, hit the targets 1 000 km away on the East Sea of Korea.

Kim Jong Un expressed thanks to the sub-unit participating in the drill for playing the prelude of the first combat drill in the new year with amazing launching and fully displaying the striking capability of the strong army, and extended New Year greeting to all the officers and men of the missile forces doing their best in carrying out their combat duty across the country and devoting themselves to their responsible duty for national defence.

He expressed expectation and belief that all the missile forces would remain faithful to their sacred mission as a reliable shield for defending the sovereignty and security of the DPRK by fulfilling their consistent and responsible combat duty under iron discipline.

Among the spectators were Kim Jong Sik, first deputy department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, and Jang Chang Ha, general director of the Missile Administration of the DPRK.

## 2025 a year of devoted service for good of people

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Facing with deep emotion the changes that surprise even themselves at the moment when they conclude the past one year, the Korean people recollect the journey of devoted service for the good of people the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un continued throughout the country.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, attended the inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories held in Jaeryong County to signal the start of the year 2025. There he said that the inauguration ceremonies for the regional-industry factories taking place one after another in 20 cities and counties including Songchon and Jaeryong counties were an auspicious event of the whole country that gave great pleasure to the people who had

started the worthwhile journey in the new year. And he added that as he saw all the people of the region full of excitement and joy that day, he felt greater pride and dignity in waging the revolution and struggle and hardened his determination to find out and undertake more work for the people.

The General Secretary planned many construction projects such as a hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County, the Ragwon County Offshore Farm and 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area at the fourth stage to bring greater joy and happiness to the people.

He visited the construction site of the third-stage project to build 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area two times to give field guidance over it. At its inaugural ceremony he warmly shook hands with the working people and old people who would move into the new flats,

saying that he was sorry to provide the modern flats too late now and that he was firmly determined to take upon himself more tasks for the people while seeing the citizens full of emotion and joy that day. And he wished them all happy life in good health in the new houses.

With such warm love and affection for the people, he left his footprints of devoted efforts everywhere the creations for the people sprang up, including the completed Pyongyang General Hospital, the construction sites of the hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County and the Ragwon County Offshore Farm.

Thanks to his devotion, proud results of architecture based on the people-first principle mushroomed, such as the Korean-style coastal tourist city Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area, the Pyongyang General Hospital, the Kusong City Hospital, the regional-industry

factories and leisure complex in Kangdong County and the regional-industry factories in Sinpho City for the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, hotels built in Samjiyon Tourist Resort and the Unsan Paper Mill in South Phyongan Province, and the people's laughter resounded more loudly.

Feasting his eyes over the beautiful bird's-eye view of the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area which turned into a world-class coastal tourist attraction in the Wonsan Kalma area, renowned as a world seaside beauty spot, the respected General Secretary said with great satisfaction that what he most wanted to do for the people and something to which the Party devoted a great deal of effort for a long time with cherished desire was translated into a brilliant reality. As he looked at the panoramic view of Ragwonpho which is as graceful as

a picture scroll with modernly-built offshore farm and houses in the fishing village, he was so pleased to say that though it was early that year when he dug the first spadeful of earth for groundbreaking in that place where there was only the sandy beach, the construction project was already completed and that he came to give the most beautiful fishing village in port as a gift to the people of Ragwon County.

Hearing the news of his field guidance tours reported throughout the year, the people keenly felt his devotion and painstaking efforts and performed miracles and made innovations in their workplaces with a resolve to faithfully support his leadership.

2025 was indeed a year when the people's laughter got louder thanks to the devotion and tireless efforts of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.



# Economic sectors make innovations from outset of new year

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Great successes are being achieved in production in different sectors of the national economy from the beginning of the new year.

On January 1, the first tappings of the year were carried out at large metallurgical bases.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex increased production of pig iron from the first day of the year and the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex boosted the per-charge molten iron output while technically refining the Juche-based iron-making system.

After successfully doing the first tapping, the Chollima Steel Complex is increasing production every day.

The fertilizer production bases have also expanded production since the outset of the year.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex fulfilled its plan for the first day of the new year at 107 percent and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex produced large quantities of fertilizer while improving the stability of systems and strengthening cooperation between processes.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex fulfilled its first-day plan for electricity production and the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station is stepping up production from the beginning of the year.

The coal industry is registering good production results.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex has produced a large amount of coal every day by actively introducing efficient working

methods into mines. The coal miners of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex have produced a larger quantity of coal than planned, displaying the collectivist spirit of helping next shift.

The forestry sector produced more than 10 000 cubic metres of mountain logs in the new year.

The Jagang Provincial Forestry Management Bureau actively created favourable

conditions for production and introduced efficient working methods, thus producing a lot of logs every day.

The South and North Hamgyong provincial forestry management bureaux are putting spurs to log production.

The rail transport sector is also increasing transport from the outset of the new year.

The freight stations are giving priority to the transport of goods needed for

the grand construction sites and power generation bases while shortening the time of loading and unloading. Engine drivers of the West Pyongyang, Pukchang and Sinsongchon locomotive corps are registering good results every day by steadily checking and repairing their locomotives and making effective use of the existing capacity.

Workers at Cholsan Peak of the Musan Mining Complex are

making continuous innovations in the spirit of having fulfilled their first-day production plan of the new year.

At the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, the weavers are carrying out their production plans without fail and the spinners of the general spinning workshop are expanding successes as they boost the operation rate of spinning machines and conduct dynamic mass movements.

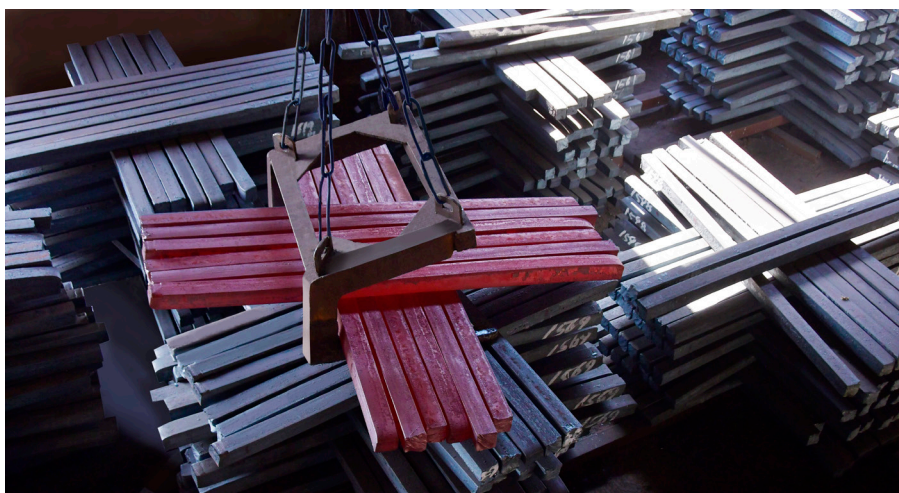
The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 is also making innovations in the production of various cables from the outset of the year.

Workshops are achieving good results by strengthening the connections between machines and between processes.

Workers and technicians are producing products with high-quality indexes in full compliance with the technical requirements.



The Sangwon Cement Complex increases production.



The Chollima Steel Complex turns out iron and steel in large quantities.



The Sunchon Limestone Mine carries out a 200 000-cubic-metre blasting. PHOTOS BY RYU KWANG HYOK/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Schoolchildren's New Year performance goes on

KCNA

The performance of schoolchildren for greeting the New Year 2026 on the theme of "My Country Is the Best" is being given every day.

The performers artistically depicted the lively and cheerful looks of the rising generations growing up with nothing more to desire under the care of the respected fatherly Marshal

Kim Jong Un who is taking care of them with his love and affection, regarding the work for posterity as the most important state affair.

The performance was conspicuous as members of the Children's Union and other children of talent expressed their pride as honour pupils always taking the lead in the do-good thing movement and sports

activities, and displayed their high artistic abilities and refined skills.

The music and dance tale "We Grow Up in the Embrace of the Marshal" touched the heartstrings of the audience as it depicted the lively and cheerful looks of the Korean schoolchildren in Japan growing honestly and staunchly to be successors to the patriotic cause of

the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, cherishing the honour of the unforgettable day when they met the respected fatherly Marshal in the yard of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Among the audience were students of Mangyongdae and Chilgol revolutionary schools and working people and schoolchildren in Pyongyang.



Scenes from the performance of schoolchildren for greeting the New Year 2026 "My Country Is the Best".

## NEWS IN BRIEF

KCNA

benevolent country.

### Birthday spread sent to centenarian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Ri Jong Hwa, a woman centenarian living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 37 of Kumjang-ri, Jaeryong County, South Hwanghae Province, on her 100th birthday.

The centenarian expressed her deep gratitude for the great loving care of Kim Jong Un who remembers the birthday of an ordinary old woman though he is so busy with state affairs.

Her house was in a festive mood as officials of the Jaeryong County Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and neighbours visited her family to congratulate the auspicious event.

She had devotedly worked at her worksite for the

### Young people volunteer to work at major worksites of socialist construction

Young people in South Hamgyong Province have volunteered to work at major worksites of socialist construction.

A meeting to congratulate the volunteers took place at the Hamhung Grand Theatre on January 5.

Present there were officials concerned, officials of the youth league, youth and students in the province. Certificates of volunteering were awarded to the volunteers to be followed by a congratulatory address and speeches.

At the end of the meeting, officials and young people encouraged the volunteers leaving for new posts, presenting bouquets to them.



# Houses provided to working people gratis

By Pang Un Ju PT

New streets and villages have been built one after another across the country, bringing people news about provision of new houses to

ordinary people almost every day. Therefore, such news has become commonplace for the Korean people. The Workers' Party of Korea is pressing on with the project for solving the

housing problem of the people, identifying this as its long-cherished desire. Building excellent new houses and providing working people with them free of charge is the policy of the WPK and a social

benefit which has long been provided for the people under the DPRK socialist system. The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who set it as an important goal to build 50 000 flats in Pyongyang during the five-year plan

at the Eighth Congress of the WPK, said at the groundbreaking ceremony for a project to build 10 000 flats in March five years ago that the large-scale house construction project launched by the Party and the DPRK government is not designed for any economic gains, but is an ennobling undertaking to thoroughly turn the state's assets and the fruits of the creative labour of the working masses into their well-being. Under the wise leadership of the WPK which spares nothing for the construction of dwelling houses aimed at providing the citizens of the capital with more stable and civilized living conditions, an ideal street for the people has been built distinctively every year to be provided for them without fail. Among such streets are Songhwa Street, the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District and Hwasong Street. The free provision of new houses was not confined to the citizens of the capital city. As the construction of rural houses is being pushed in earnest, thanks to the crucial measure taken by the Party to provide also the rural population with the best living environment in the world, houses preserving the features of socialism

and regional characteristics have been built in farming and fishermen's villages across the country and the news about working people moving into new houses has been reported all year round. For the flood victims who were left homeless in 2024 due to devastating natural disasters in North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces, the WPK built modern and cosy houses of all styles by completely removing the traces of flood damage. Lots of dreamlike stories have been produced as news about people moving into new houses have been reported in succession in recent years. In Munam-ri of Pujon County, a remote mountainous area, a family received a dozen licences for the use of houses on the same day and at the same time to the surprise of everyone and in Yonsan County a new house was already allocated to a "lucky couple" in a farm before their wedding. Looking at the dwelling houses rising up in succession, all the people of the DPRK say that it is the greatest happiness in the world for them to live in the embrace of the great motherly party.



Ordinary working people and their families rejoice in receiving new flats free of charge.



# Modern houses for farmers built in rural areas

KCNA

Proud entities showing rural development were built at the Pobu Farm in Kaechon City and Phungthan and Phyongri farms in Sunchon City, South Phyongan Province. Present at the inauguration ceremonies of public buildings and production buildings and ceremonies of moving into new houses held at the farms were officials of South Phyongan Province, Kaechon and Sunchon cities, builders and agricultural workers. Licences for the use of the houses were handed over and speeches were

made. Amid the celebratory performances and cheerful peasant dances, officials visited the families of agricultural workers entering the new dwelling houses and encouraged them to conduct a high-yielding movement more vigorously to fulfil the grain production goal of the country. News of moving into new houses which shows the rapid development of the countryside is reported in Jagang Province every day. Modern houses with rural features have been built in Thaephyong-ri of Hyangsan

County and Anchan-ri of Sijung County in the province. The agricultural workers who would move into new houses cherish the noble loving care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un. Ceremonies for moving into the houses were held on the spot with the attendance of officials in the province and counties and agricultural workers. Addresses were made there. Then licences for the use of houses were handed over to be followed by speeches. As congratulatory performances and cheerful dance parties were given,

the villages were in a festive mood. New houses have been built at the Taljon Farm in Tanchon City and Kuup and Rimphyong farms in Yodok County of South Hamgyong Province. Ceremonies of moving into new houses took place on the spot. Attending the ceremonies were officials of the Party and power organs in South Hamgyong Province, Tanchon City and Yodok County, builders and agricultural workers. At the ceremonies speakers congratulated the farmers and residents who would move into new

houses under the loving care of the Workers' Party of Korea. The agricultural workers received the licences for the use of houses and expressed thanks to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un. Amid the cheerful dances given in different places of the new villages, officials visited the families of the farmers to share joy with them. Gorgeous fireworks were displayed in the sky over the farm villages, adding to the delight of the agricultural workers. New houses were built at the Changbong Farm in Jonchon County and the

Ryonsong Farm in Chosan County, Jagang Province. Ceremonies of moving into those new houses were held on the spot. Present there were officials of the Party and power organs in the province and Jonchon and Chosan counties, builders and agricultural workers. Congratulatory addresses were made and then licences for the use of houses were handed over to be followed by speeches. As farmers began moving into the new houses, the new villages were in a festive mood and the officials visited the farmers' families to congratulate them.



New rural houses built at the Pobu Farm in Kaechon City, the Phungthan Farm in Sunchon City and in Thaephyong-ri of Hyangsan County.



# Crystallization of patriotism born of spirit of Kangwon Province

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

With successes being achieved and changes taking place in succession in the era of comprehensive development of socialism, the people of Kangwon Province built the Hoeyang Army-People Power Station.

It resulted in the completion of the six power stations the province had decided to build before the Workers' Party of Korea.

The province has a relatively smaller population and a weaker industrial foundation than other provinces in the country.

Under such unfavourable conditions the provincial people completed the construction of power stations with their own efforts because they have incredible spiritual strength.

Nine years ago, Kangwon Province had carried out the huge construction project of the Wonsan Army-People Power Station with death-defying determination to implement the Party's plan for economic construction. It was a gift presented by the provincial people to the Seventh Congress of the WPK.

The respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un visited the completed Wonsan Army-People Power Station on December 12 2016. He said that the dam of the power station was marvellous and that looking at the dam, he felt again how enormous and terrible the man's strength is. And he noted that it was the wall

of unwavering faith and immortal spiritual strength of the people of Kangwon Province to devotedly defend the idea of the leader and throw in their lot with the Party to the last even if the sky falls.

He added that the spirit of Kanggye was created in Jagang Province in the period of the Arduous March but this time the spirit of Kangwon Province was created in

Kangwon and if its people continue to fight in the same spirit and mettle as they displayed when they built the Wonsan Army-People Power Station, they could turn their province into a civilized province in the near future. And he expressed his firm belief that the people of Kangwon Province would open up the gate of a powerful socialist country before anyone else.

Later, the Kangwon people rose up again for the construction of six power stations.

The construction of power plants in the province was an arduous struggle to not only surmount difficulties arising in the course of building power stations but also overcome unforeseen critical situations.

However, the Kangwon people made a daring start with patriotism and waged

steady struggle.

They broke the existing formula that concrete placing cannot be done in winter and introduced innovative construction methods to push forward with the construction without interruption. And even when the dam was hit by a severe natural disaster and therefore should be built again, all the provincial population never lost courage nor hesitated,

but turned out like one for the construction project.

We are creators of the spirit of Kangwon Province, we must carry out the Party's policy without condition, no one can do it for us and we should carve out the path to happiness with our own efforts--with this viewpoint and attitude the people of Kangwon finally completed the construction of the six power stations.



A bird's eye view of the Hoeyang Army-People Power Station built in Kangwon Province.

## Province tames nature to reap benefits

By Kim Il Jin PT

Kangwon Province has built hydroelectric power plants so as to take a lot of benefits from them.

The province has many steep mountains and deep valleys and, therefore, mountain streams would flood fiercely once there was torrential rain.

But now strong dams stand across ravines creating great artificial lakes in deep mountains and abundant water resources flow along the man-made routes to produce electricity all the year round. They also offer many profits as domestic water and industrial and irrigation water in the province.

In Wonsan City, the problems of electricity and

water have been solved to put the citizens' life on a more civilized basis. In recent five years, the number of ornamental lamps has been increased in the city, adding beauty and ecstasy to its night view.

Munchon City solved the water problem successfully by completing the construction of the Munchon Army-People Power Station.

The province also solved the problem of afforestation and water conservation, which required much labour and had to be carried out every year, in the course of the construction of power plants so as to provide people with a safe life free from floods.

At present, projects are underway in the large artificial lakes of the province

to conduct cage-net fish farming extensively, create angling sites in their shores and operate sightseeing boats, which will improve the scenic beauty around the lakes.

The agricultural sector is enjoying great benefits from the water control projects.

In particular, tableland farms in the province ensured a sufficient supply of irrigation water by pushing ahead with irrigation projects on a large scale and increasing the water pumping power equipment by taking advantage of their favourable conditions of having abundant water resources. In addition, they are turning large areas of corn fields into rice paddy fields, which would bring great profits in the future.

## Regional economic development gains momentum

By Ri Sang Il PT

According to the manager of the Kangwon Provincial Power Distribution Station, the province can fully meet the demand for electric power needed for its economic development and the improvement of the local people's living standards with the power generation capacity developed by building hydroelectric power stations by last year.

The province sufficiently supplies its areas with additionally needed electricity without having to rely on the national grid.

As a result, the areas and units of the province now

plan and do new tasks at will.

The Kimhwa County Foodstuff Factory installed additional bread-making facilities to increase bread production capacity and the county's daily necessities factory replaced the raw material mixer with the one with larger capacity and ensures its full operation to further increase the production of soap.

Kosan County, too, set up more raw materials bases last year to supply enough raw materials to its newly-built regional-industry factories and is putting in effort to install additional facilities for processing grains and oil-bearing crops

from the bases.

Ichon County increased the production of fertilizer needed for farming by installing an additional production process of liquid compound fertilizer and last year it built a new artificial stone plate production base to fully supply building materials for rural housing construction.

The people of Kangwon Province, who have built strong power bases for self-sustenance, are growing thirstier for work day after day, and the economic development and improvement of the people's living standards are being accelerated in the province.



2025

# Achievements made in first year of public health revolution



The Pyongyang General Hospital.

By Pang Un Ju PT

The year 2025 was recorded in the DPRK's history as the first year of the public health revolution.

It is the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to develop the public health of the country into the most advantageous and advanced socialist one so that the people can fully enjoy the benefits of modern medicine and lead a happy life in good health.

The Pyongyang General Hospital, the first fruit symbolizing the first year of the public health revolution, was inaugurated in October last year marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the WPK.

It is the backbone and hub of the public health sector of the country and its technologies, experience and examples are to be disseminated throughout the country.

Many people receive excellent medical care at the hospital whose architectural style, components, space and environment are designed to ensure the scientific accuracy and smoothness of medical service while promoting patients' mental

and psychological stability.

Modern regional hospitals were also built. The Kangdong County Hospital was inaugurated last November and the Kusong City Hospital and the Ryonggang County Hospital in Nampho Municipality in December.

Dynamic efforts were made to help health workers acquire qualifications and abilities in conformity with the new era of the public health revolution.

Brisk activities were conducted to strengthen the medical forces of city and county hospitals in keeping with the establishment of modern hospitals in the regions.

Passing-on-technique sessions were actively run for medical workers of the hospitals in different regional areas including Kangdong and Ryonggang counties and Kusong City. As a result, the regional medical workers acquired advanced diagnostic and treatment methods and the ability to conduct check-ups and treatment while skilfully handling modern test and medical facilities.

In addition, many medical workers and researchers of the Pyongyang General Hospital,



The Kangdong County Hospital.

Kim Man Yu Hospital, Okryu Children's Hospital and other central hospitals actively performed joint operations and gave scientific and itinerant lectures at curative and preventive institutions across the country.

Various forms of symposiums and seminars took place for the development of medical science and technology of the country, while exhibitions were held briskly.

The 2025 Symposium on Medical Science and the national symposium in the fields of epidemic prevention and public health made a substantial contribution to the research on and completion of the diagnostic and treatment

methods that suit the trend of development of modern medicine and the constitution of the Korean people and to the consolidation of the country's anti-epidemic foundations.

The 18th national symposium on the experience of health workers held last November heard about the successes and experience gained by health workers in the medical care and scientific research for guaranteeing the people's life and safety and promoting their health.

At the National Exhibition of Sci-tech Achievements in the Field of Public Health-2025, lots of medicines, medical appliances, health foods, sanitary goods and health IT products produced by many



The Kusong City Hospital.

units in the capital and the regions were put on display and successes and experience gained in the work for the development of medical science and technology and the building of material and technical foundations of the public health sector were shared and disseminated.

And during the exhibition of products of Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factories-2025 held on the theme of "Diversification of effective Koryo medicines", the participants exchanged sci-tech successes and experience gained in the development and production of Koryo medicines that suit the constitutional characters of the Korean people and have powerful

therapeutic effects.

Brisk activities were conducted all year round to constantly bring the preventive and curative work closer to reality and improve the quality of medical service for the working people.

Field clinics set up by central curative and preventive institutions from the outset of last year steadily provided intensive medical service at major factories and enterprises of different economic sectors.

The local working people and residents, who witnessed the remarkable medical skills and sincere devotion of members of field clinics, said that they felt the benevolence of the socialist healthcare system.

## Clinic offers delight of recovery

Patients undergo treatment for functional recovery at the Munsu Rehabilitation Clinic. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The Munsu Rehabilitation Clinic is located in the Munsu area of Pyongyang.

According to Kim Hyon Ju, director of the clinic, a large number of people have received medical treatment and recovered their health over the past ten-odd years since the inauguration of the clinic.

The clinic is equipped with hundreds of kinds of medical facilities and appliances.

Patients with nervous system disorders are treated at the neuro-rehabilitation department in the exercise therapy room, ADL room and pediatric room. They say that

the conditions for treatment are excellent and the medical workers are highly skilled and devoted to patients.

In the mud and paraffin therapy room, they use mud of Lake Sijung which is well known for its efficacy.

According to medical workers of the clinic, various treatment effects of mud work well on the digestive, nervous and cardiovascular systems.

The hydrotherapy room is also popular with patients for its special treatment method.

According to a therapist, the underwater exercise therapy relieves pain with the stimulation by warm water of 31-33°C and it is efficacious for various diseases, especially arthritis.

Therefore, the hydrotherapy room is frequented by middle-aged women and old people.

The clinic also treats disabled people.

Pak Chol Song, a department head of the clinic, said that the treatment for functional recovery is regarded worldwide as the third medicine for improving the mental, physical and living abilities of patients and disabled persons, adding that various kinds of medical apparatuses made by the technical group of the clinic are highly appreciated by them.

As the clinic is winning greater favour with people, it is making greater efforts to further improve the quality of its service.







At the life science experimental education centre of Kim Il Sung University.



Driving practice room at Jonjin Senior Middle School in Rangnang District newly set up as an integrated school.



The newly built Pyongyang Municipal Education-support Program Centre.



Discussion is intensified to improve the qualifications of rural school teachers at North Hamgyong Provincial Continuous Teachers Training School.

# 2025 a year of stride forward in education

By Pang Un Ju PT

In 2025, too, the DPRK made considerable successes in education work that the Workers' Party of Korea and the government put forward as the most important state affair.

The work to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas in the educational level was steadily promoted throughout the year.

The country actively carried on the work for strengthening the teaching staff of rural schools, regarding the solution of the problem of teachers as a primary issue in raising the educational level of rural schools.

Many excellent graduates from rural senior middle schools entered the teacher training colleges and the teachers of rural schools were enrolled in the online education courses of teacher

training colleges to improve their qualifications as educators.

Graduates from universities of education across the country actively volunteered as teachers of rural schools.

Excellent teachers of urban schools were dispatched to improve the qualifications of rural school teachers and advanced teaching resources of Pyongyang and urban areas were briskly disseminated and transferred.

And large numbers of videos of real lessons and multimedia presentations were distributed to enable teachers of rural schools to raise their qualifications a level higher by regularly using the excellent teaching resources created by schools in Pyongyang Municipality and provincial capitals.

The higher education sector actively conducted the work to create and introduce

effective and advantageous teaching methods.

Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and other universities created and introduced superb research-oriented teaching and study methods for enhancing cognitive effects of students and cultivating their creative thinking faculties and application abilities. Kim Hyong Jik University of Education developed and completed a study support system of the teacher training sector and widely distributed it to universities of education and teacher training colleges across the country.

Many universities built modern experimental education centres and practical training rooms to suit the characteristics of each discipline and thus improved the educational environment for training creative talents.

There took place various exhibitions, seminars and contests to promote educational development.

In August, the National Education Support Program Exhibition-2025 was held in the form of object and virtual shows amid great interest of educators. And in November, the Seventh National Symposium on Education and Science took place, where achievements and experience gained in pedagogical research were widely shared.

Various contests were held in the teacher training sector to improve the students' practical abilities.

The National Programming Contest of University Students in the Teacher Training Sector-2025, the Eighth Memory Contest of University Students in the Teacher Training Sector and the Ninth Multilingual

Listening and Conversation Contest of University Students in the Teacher Training Sector served as a significant occasion for enhancing the overall abilities of students and preparing them as educators possessing comprehensive knowledge.

The exhibitions of invented educational experimental apparatuses and teaching aids held in the regions also contributed to laying the material and technical foundations of education and spurred the educational development in the relevant areas and units, encouraging them to share successes among them.

The enthusiasm for supporting education further grew across the country, resulting in a great deal of achievements in improving educational conditions and environment.

More than 20 schools were

newly built or renovated in Pyongyang Municipality in 2025. Most recently, Jonjin Senior Middle School in Rangnang District newly rose up as an integrated school which runs a kindergarten, primary school, junior middle school and senior middle school.

South Phyongan Province turned over 1 600 classrooms into multi-functional ones and completed the construction and renovation of more than 100 schools, branch schools and kindergartens.

Education support program centres, which are of great significance in putting education on an IT and modern basis, were built in Pyongyang Municipality and all the provinces, making it possible to realize the standardization of education support programs and collect and disseminate a wealth of data and programs needed for education.

## Last decade at renovated schoolchildren's palace

By Ri Sung Ik PT

On November 30 ten years ago, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the renovated Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

That day he looked round with satisfaction different places of the palace and gave precious instructions for the management and operation of the palace.

Later, after receiving modern educational equipment, musical instruments and sports apparatuses from the state, the palace put great efforts into improving the qualifications of the instructors so that the benefits of the state for children could prove effective.

Over the past decade, several honorary title holders, nearly 20 academic degree or title holders, dozens of October 8 model instructors, many holders of certificates of registration of new teaching methods, introduction of new teaching methods and invention of experimental apparatuses and teaching aids have been produced among the instructors of the palace.

The palace has steadily improved the contents and methods of the operation of the groups and further

raised their level in keeping with the modern education development trend and the pedagogical requirements.

A large number of schoolchildren have developed their talents in the renovated palace. Thousands of them became reserve scientists, artistes and sportspersons.

More than 30 group members of the palace fully

displayed their talents in the international arena.

During the period, the palace gave over 400 performances and also conducted brisk motivation activities for increased production at various units of socialist construction.

During a visit to the Maritime Territory of Russia last May the schoolchildren's

art troupe of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace gave an excellent performance, making the whole region bubble with great excitement.

Director Kim Song Hyon of the palace said that the palace is just a place where children develop beautiful dreams and an excellent future of the country grows.



At the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Online education faculty students on the increase

By Hwang Jong Ryo PT

Employees of regional-industry factories are eager to enrol at the online education faculty of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry.

According to a relevant official of the university, workers of regional-industry factories in Songchon County inspected by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un show great enthusiasm for learning at the faculty.

Taking into account the characteristics of online education for helping workers study while working in their workplaces, the university puts in much effort to enhance the practical abilities of students and make the contents of the education conducive to their production practice.

Officials and lecturers of

the faculty give education in various forms and by various methods, including real-time Q&A sessions and sci-tech courses as well as lectures.

They also work out and apply to education effective online teaching plans and relevant videos reflecting the modern sci-tech development trend.

In addition, they keep in constant touch with officials of regional-industry factories to acquaint themselves with the knowledge and technologies that are needed there. On the basis of this, they conduct lectures and courses in various forms, including lecture on demand.

This fires students' zeal for learning and studying, and the number of workers enrolling at the online education faculty increases every year.



# Occasions for promoting development of sectors

- Review of exhibitions held in 2025 -

By Choe Song Jun PT

In 2025, various exhibitions took place in large numbers in the fields of light industry and science and technology.

They fully showed the efforts and enthusiasm of the participants to make rapid progress in their fields.

## Higher, faster!

In the field of light industry, various shows were held one after another in Pyongyang and local areas, including the light industrial goods exhibition Development of Light Industry-2025, the National Foodstuff Exhibition-2025 and the 16th Commodity Exhibition at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.

In particular, the light industrial goods exhibition Development of Light Industry-2025, which took place in October last year, can be claimed to be an aggregation of all the successes of various exhibitions held earlier.

The Songdowon General Foodstuff Factory presented the distinctive products whose quality improved more than previously.

The other eye-catchers were the trainers of the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, several kinds of Maebongsan-brand shoes made by the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and various kinds of goods made with locally available raw material resources at the Kosan County Garment Factory, Jaeryong County Foodstuff Factory and other

modern regional-industry factories, which were built according to the Regional Development 20x10 Policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Also on display were lots of new products developed by many units with redoubled efforts.

The Pyongyang Hosiery Factory presented quality socks it produced by inventing new patterns while lowering production costs and the Pyongyang Automation Appliances Factory exhibited deep-freezers, electric irons, electric fans and other products with improved quality indexes.

The exhibitions demonstrated the aspirations and will to develop higher and faster, an official of the Ministry of Light Industry said.

## Strong attraction for economic development

Many exhibitions held in 2025 showed once again that the aspiration to more advanced and progressive things is becoming the trend of the times.

What was notable at the shows is that many units presented sci-tech achievements with strong attraction and made a remarkable change in their technological level and quality indices.

For example, the Advanced Science and Technology and Products Exhibition-2025 drew special attention of the relevant units as a technology of producing reduced iron, a new coal gasification technology of Korean style, a technology of producing synthetic fuel oil,

a technology of producing high-grade manganese concentrate from low-grade wad and a technology of producing basic chemical goods with glauberite as a starting material opened up bright prospects for boosting the independence of the economy and further developing the economic infrastructure of the country.

In addition, the sci-tech achievements related to the soap production process, bread production equipment and fine selection process for the production of wheat paste at regional-industry factories are highly conducive to implementing the Party's regional development policy.

Meanwhile, the Korean-style green cultivation and fish farming methods,

the industrialization of rice seedling growing in greenhouse, the increase of the proportion of work done by machines according to farming processes and others drew attention of visitors at the national presentation of technical experience and exhibition of scientific research achievements in the agricultural sector.

What was noteworthy at the exhibitions is that the dissemination and exchange of advanced technology and cooperation were more widely conducted.

At the shows, seminars, experience presentations, workshops and the like were held, fostering the atmosphere of sharing successes and experience and that of the capital helping the provinces and advanced units helping backward ones.



A scene of a light industrial goods exhibition.



A snapshot of the Spring Clothes Show-2025. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

# To usher in a new era of regional construction with domestic building materials

By Kim Il Jin PT

The provincial building materials exhibition-2025 took place at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang from December 9 to 16 last year.

The exhibition, which was held on the theme of "Writing new chapter of history of regional construction based on our building materials!", drew more than 27 000

exhibits of over 200 kinds.

Ri Song Il, a staffer of the State Commission of Science and Technology, said, "The provincial building materials exhibition has annually been held since 2019. The current show is aimed at exchanging and sharing the achievements made in the course of producing building materials in all provinces, heightening the enthusiasm for production and creative

activity of building material producers and making sure that more excellent building materials are produced in all parts of the country."

The exhibition assessed the level of quality and quantity of building materials production in every province by synthesizing the state of building materials production bases and the variety and quality of goods being produced in the provinces.

Eye-catchers were the goods produced at the city and county regional-industry factories built as the first entities of the implementation of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

In particular, the furniture, fixture boards, wood-particle boards and other products from the Songchon County Daily Necessities Factory drew the attention of visitors.

The building materials made by dint of recycling also drew attention at the exhibition.

Seeing the aggregate

made with recycled waste concrete and colour roofing tiles made with slag on display in the booth of South Phyongan Province, visitors were reluctant to leave it. Kwon Tok Il, head of the Hwangryongsan green technology company in Phyongsong City, said, "We established a labour-, energy-, cost- and site-saving process for recycling waste concrete which was regarded as useless rubbish. It is very profitable as it makes it possible to effectively recycle resources and protect environment. If everything on this land is valued, even the previously useless things will be turned into the valuable."

Every province also presented a lot of recycled building materials, including glass cloth, glass yarn and fibrous glass reinforced plastic pipe made with waste glass, putty made from scallop shells, and colour cement roofing tile made with industrial waste.

The attachment to one's own is the source of creation—this is what the exhibition participants said in unison.

Conspicuous in the exhibition was also the fact that it brought together practical and diverse building materials conducive to the development of relevant regions in great numbers.

Low carbon steel made from reduced iron produced at the Munchon Steel Works in Kangwon Province was registered as a sci-tech achievement, and the building materials produced by the Kanggye Wood-processing Factory in Jagang Province were registered as the February 2 Products which are recognized as excellent at home.

The architectural decorative pattern paint exhibited by North Hamgyong Province had already been rated as excellent in the national exhibition of sci-tech successes in the field of furniture and finishing building materials-2025

held last August. The heat-insulating material and refrigerating material produced by using expansion perlite registered as a patent product has reportedly been introduced at iron and steel works and other industrial establishments and different units across the country.

Hwang Chol Jin, staffer of the South Hamgyong Provincial Commission of Science and Technology, said that lots of building materials, including asphalt waterproof agent and colour cement roofing tile, produced by the province have been applied to the construction of rural dwelling houses and regional-industry factories and that more excellent products would be produced after the exhibition.

The exhibition served as a significant occasion for showing the development potential of the regions and raising the production of the building materials in the country to a higher level.



Visitors look round exhibits at the provincial building materials exhibition-2025. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



# Heads of state deliver New Year addresses

KCNA

Russian President Vladimir Putin delivered his New Year address on the occasion of the New Year 2026.

He said that the Russian people greeting the New Year have their future and that what the future will be depends on them in many cases.

Russia believes in its strength and is always ready to shoulder responsibility, he said, adding that this enables the Russian people to be confident that everything they are determined to do, all their hopes and plans, will surely come true.

He noted that everyone has their own personal and unique hopes and plans and that all these are unthinkable apart from the sincere aspiration to bring prosperity to the country.

After referring to the fact that the participants in the special military operations, heroes of Russia, accepted it as their responsibility

to fight for the land of the country, justice and truth, he congratulated all the combatants and commanding officers greeting the New Year, saying that a large number of people in Russia are with the participants in the special military operations.

He affirmed that all the Russian people form a great family, a powerful and united family, will continue to work and create together in the future to attain the goals set forth and will only advance for their children and grandchildren and for great Russia.

He wished all the people good health and happiness, success in everything and only love at all times.

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a New Year address on the occasion of the New Year 2026.

Saying that 2025 was the last year of implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan, he noted that in the past five years China successfully attained its goal and carried out its tasks by overcoming enormous difficulties

and challenges and thus made a reliable stride in the new journey for Chinese-style modernization.

Last year, the sons and daughters of China were encouraged to recollect history, remember forerunners, value peace and carve out the future on the occasion of national events including the celebrations held to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, he stressed.

Saying that 2026 is the first year of implementing the 15th Five-Year Plan, he mentioned the need to steadily push forward with the high-quality development so as to continue to write a new chapter of history of miracles.

He called for working hard all together to achieve dreams and happiness with unflagging ardour, thereby translating the grand prospects into a beautiful reality.

He concluded his address by

wishing everyone joy and success in their work and all other things.

Heads of state of different countries gave addresses on the occasion of the New Year 2026.

The Pakistani President called for devotion to the country, unity of the people, dialogue and negotiations, peace and stability, and set forth tasks to that end.

The South African President expressed his willingness to make 2026 a year of prosperity, saying that he greets the New Year with fresh hope, higher goal and confidence in the country's potentials and the people.

The Tanzanian President called upon all the people to unite with patriotism and strive for the country's development, peace and prosperity. The Ugandan and Kenyan presidents stressed their stand to increase state investment for economic development and take far-reaching measures to push ahead with national development plans.

## Toward multipolar world

By Choe Song Jun PT

Today, the multipolarization of the world has become the main trend of the international community.

The influence of BRICS is growing in the international arena.

Member nations of the BRICS account for more than half of the world population and over 40 percent of the world economy. And their GDPs according to purchasing power parity indexes markedly surpass those of the West's G7 and of a number of other associations of nations.

The BRICS summit held in September last year by way of video-conferencing with the heads of state and delegates of the member nations of BRICS in attendance stressed the need for the nations to intensify unity and cooperation, cope with crises and challenges hand in hand with each other and jointly safeguard multilateralism while adhering to the international trade system and defending the common interests of emerging and developing countries.

The Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are also developing dynamically.

Thanks to the strenuous and united efforts of its member nations including Russia, the EEU has become one of the main forces rejecting challenges and sinister attempts of the West in the international arena and working to build a multipolar world.

The union has served as one of the main centres for the development of the world as the total economic potentials of its member nations have remarkably increased. The merchandise turnover with a third state has increased by 38 percent, reaching US\$800 billion. This is reportedly equivalent to the merchandise turnover between major economic powers of the world. The

amount of mutual trade within the union has doubled and 93 percent of accounts are settled in the national currencies of its member nations.

At the plenary meeting of the Eurasian economic forum held on the theme of "Eurasian economic integration strategy: result and prospect" in late June last year, the Russian president said that the EEU has been further strengthened and become a successful integrated union over the past decade, adding that it will not rest on its laurels but continue to do the work for consolidating the integrated institutional mechanism and increasing its prestige and influence in the international arena.

The 24th conference of the council of heads of government of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization recently held in Moscow showed that the moves of its member states are getting brisk to establish a fair international economic order against the West's sanctions and arbitrariness.

The total exports of the member nations of the organization accounted for about one fifth of those of the world in 2024. Their GDP makes up one third of that of the world.

At present, the organization consists of ten member states, two observer states and 15 dialogue partners with wide geographical scope and huge potentials. Last year the member states connected through common historic memory and respect for each other's culture and traditions jointly commemorated the 80th anniversaries of the end of the Second World War and the founding of the United Nations.

The brisk activities of different regional and multilateral cooperation organizations have dealt a big blow to the Western forces which are trying to maintain the existing hegemonic order.

## Inevitable product of anti-popular social system

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The right to existence of the working masses is being trampled down in Western countries.

In December last year, farmers from Germany and other countries gathered around the building of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, and staged a demonstration against the unfair trade policy of the European Union. They protested against the European Union's attempt to enforce a trade policy that would worsen their living conditions.

Demonstrations were also staged in France, Poland, Greece and other countries day after day in protest against the EU's policy.

In the US, many people are losing hope for their future.

According to a recent opinion poll conducted by NPR of the US, about 60 percent of the respondents expressed pessimism about the prospect of 2026, saying that the US has already fallen into decline.

Such reality in Western countries is an inevitable product of the anti-popular social system.

In those countries, mass strikes, rallies and demonstrations are incessantly held by working people of all social strata against the anti-popular policies of capitalists and

governments obsessed with profit-making.

In 2024, a strike by engine drivers demanding improved conditions caused a complete halt of freight transport and almost paralyzed passenger transport in the rail transport sector of Germany, and farmers held demonstrations calling for their right to existence in France, Belgium, Spain, and other countries.

Three years ago, a strike action of the largest extent in the present century took place in the United States. Large-scale strikes were staged in many fields including the movie-making and manufacturing industries, the medical service and the press. At that time, the US media deplored the fierce strike of medical employees that shook the whole public health sector of New York, noting that it was the biggest strike in decades.

In a protest action taken in a European country in January 2024, the participants gave vent to their anger saying that they took part in the demo as they could not tolerate the inequality of society and that the heads of government are untrustworthy, and shouted the slogan "No to capitalism!"

It is a stern evaluation of the working masses for the anti-popular social system.

## Briefly

### Iran

#### Aggressive act to be countered fiercely

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a statement on December 30 2025 warned that his country would strongly counter any aggressive act.

The US ruler threatened to mount a large-scale military attack in case Iran resumed the ballistic missile and nuclear weapons program. As regards this, the Iranian president said that his country's counteraction to any cruel aggressive act would be strong and extremely fierce and gruesome.

### Mexico

#### US' interference denounced

The Mexican president rejected the US' attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of her country at a press conference on January 5.

Noting that the US is persistently threatening to dispatch troops into Mexican territory under the pretext of combating drug crime, she said Mexico does not feel the need to come face to face with the US.

She stressed that cooperation in the field of security should be based on mutual respect and subjugation-free assistance among countries.

### Russia

#### Ukraine's terrorism blasted

The Russian Foreign Ministry in a statement on January 1 strongly denounced the terrorist act of Ukraine against peaceful inhabitants.

The statement said that the criminal and neo-Nazi Ukrainian authorities mounted a drone attack on a village in Kherson that day, killing more than 20 inhabitants gathering by families to greet the New Year.

All the criminals who committed the heinous crime will be detected and punished, it noted.

### China

#### West censured for double dealing over Taiwan issue

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of China at a press conference on December 31 last year accused the Western countries of their double-dealing attitude toward the issue of Taiwan.

He said that the EU and some Western countries are finding fault with China's just action to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, while turning a blind eye to the separatist moves of the forces seeking the "independence of Taiwan" by force of arms and the outside forces' interference in China's internal affairs.

He stressed that no external interference is tolerable as Taiwan is an inseparable part of Chinese territory and the Taiwan issue belongs to China's internal affairs.

China strongly demands that Western countries strictly observe the one China principle, refrain from interfering in its internal affairs and stop conniving at and supporting the separatist moves for "Taiwan's independence", he stated.

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# DPRK sportspersons add glory to 2025 with gold medals

By Kim Hak Chol PT

In 2025, the DPRK sportspeople made notable achievements in succession in the international competitions.

In particular, the proud overwhelming victories in the events of football, weightlifting, wrestling and Taekwon-Do filled all the people with great excitement and joy.

The DPRK women's team lifted the 2025 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to emerge as the four-time World Cup holder for the first time in the history of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. And it became the team that has advanced to its final most (five times) and scored the largest number of goals (25 goals) in an U-17 Women's World Cup in its history.

Its players also secured the Golden Ball and Adidas Golden Boot and the Silver Ball and Adidas Silver Boot in it.

The DPRK players won over 30 medals including

13 gold medals and two cups in the international wrestling competitions last year including the 2025 World Wrestling Championships.

In particular, they bagged 20-odd medals including 17 golds and established ten new world records at the 2025 IWF World Championships.

The DPRK players won more than 70 medals including 46 golds and topped the total country rankings at the 23rd Taekwon-Do

World Championships, demonstrating once again the honour of the country as the homeland of Taekwon-Do. And its martial artists also earned

11 medals including seven gold medals in the four international competitions such as the ITTF Asian Para Games in 2025.

eight gold medals at the Second Asian Karate Championships and Cup.

Also noticeable were the achievements made by the DPRK women boxers in the international competitions. Pang Chol Mi was awarded a gold medal in the 52kg event of the 2025 IBF World Women's Boxing Championships to become a two-time world champion.

Besides, the DPRK sportspeople brought home victories in the shooting, marathon, rowing and acrobatic gymnastics competitions. They also finished in the top three at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatus World Cup 2025, the 2025 Asian Judo Championships, the Ninth Asian Winter Games and the Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy 2025.

The DPRK sportspersons with disabilities also achieved successes in international games



DPRK women footballers celebrate after winning the 2025 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.



DPRK medalists at the 2025 International Weightlifting Federation World Championships.



A scene of a men's individual sparring match at the 23rd Taekwon-Do World Championships.

## Natural monument—Ginkgo at Anguk Temple

By Choe Yong Nam PT

It grows at the Anguk Temple in Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province.

The tree was planted in

a bid to add beauty to the landscape of the temple in 503, when it was built, during the Koguryo dynasty (277 BC-AD 668).

It is over 30m tall and 11m and 9m round at the root

neck and the chest height respectively. Its crown is 24m wide from east to west and 19.5m wide from north to south.

Its lower part is so thick as to take several

people to encircle it with outstretched arms and its roots spread deep under the ground.

As a typical drooping ginkgo, it is of great academic significance.

