

## Crucial test demonstrating DPRK's definite reaction will and absolute superiority of its strategic strike capability

### Test-fire of DPRK's latest-type ICBM Hwasongpho-19 successfully conducted under guidance of respected Comrade Kim Jong Un



KCNA

The cause of the DPRK reliably defending the regional and global peace and security as a responsible nuclear weapons state and achieving the comprehensive rejuvenation of the country and promoting the well-being of its people is accompanied with vicious challenges of the most hostile and threatening rival states and an ever-growing war crisis.

The most hostile enemies of the DPRK

have evolved into a nuclear alliance and the US imperialists and the ROK puppets have recently intensified the frantic arms buildup and provocative attempts at the most serious level in history while often letting loose reckless threatening remarks against the DPRK government. All these are posing a grave danger to the DPRK's sovereignty and security environment and provoking the surging anger and retaliatory will of its army and people.

The present grave reality, seriously

reminding people of the instructive law of history that the disrupted balance of forces between friend and foe just leads to a war, more clearly emphasizes the necessity of the absolute power capable of deterring the enemy and controlling the situation at all times and the validity of its steady increase. It also calls for continuously developing and updating the strategic weapons as a deterrent capable of actively coping with any military threat and foiling the enemy's provocative attempt and will for war in advance.

At a time when the strategic option for reliably defending national security and regional peace from the adventurous military manoeuvres of the US and its vassal forces for aggression and the urgency of its powerful implementation are being further highlighted, another new entity has emerged to demonstrate the absolute edge of the DPRK nuclear combat forces rapidly developing with each passing day.

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FROM PAGE 1

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, issued an order to the Missile Administration to conduct a test-fire of the latest-type ICBM Hwasongpho-19 and oversaw on the spot the crucial test, which would set an epochal milestone in perpetuating the absolute superiority of the strategic armed forces of the DPRK, on the morning of October 31.

The tremendously powerful absolute weapon, a product of the DPRK's might and spirit which have been steadily augmented for the great dignity and honour of the country and people, for the duty of defending peace and the right to

existence that should never be conceded, and for a new world of justice where war, hegemony and injustice are not allowed, advanced to the launching position at dawn, showing signs of new strength the world has never experienced.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, assuming the noblest and heavy mission of firmly safeguarding the sovereignty of the DPRK and its absolute security and rights to development, went to the launch site to learn about the preparations and plan for the test-fire and went to the central command and observation post.

The launch site, prior to the historic moment when the DPRK's new updated ultra-powerful offensive means, an ICBM of ultimate version, would reveal its appearance, was seething with the will of all the defence scientists and

strategic missile soldiers to strike terror into the most ferocious enemies keen on nuclear confrontation with the DPRK by demonstrating its war deterrent which has reached the highest level in the world.

The moment has come to display the awesome force of the world's most powerful strategic missile.

When Kim Jong Un approved the test-fire, General Jang Chang Ha, director general of the Missile Administration, gave an order to the Honoured 2nd Red Flag Company.

The moment, the entity with absolute power lifted off revealing its imposing figure, loaded with the DPRK people's bitter enmity and strong will to punish all evils and injustice on earth and annihilate the enemy.

The missile travelled up to the

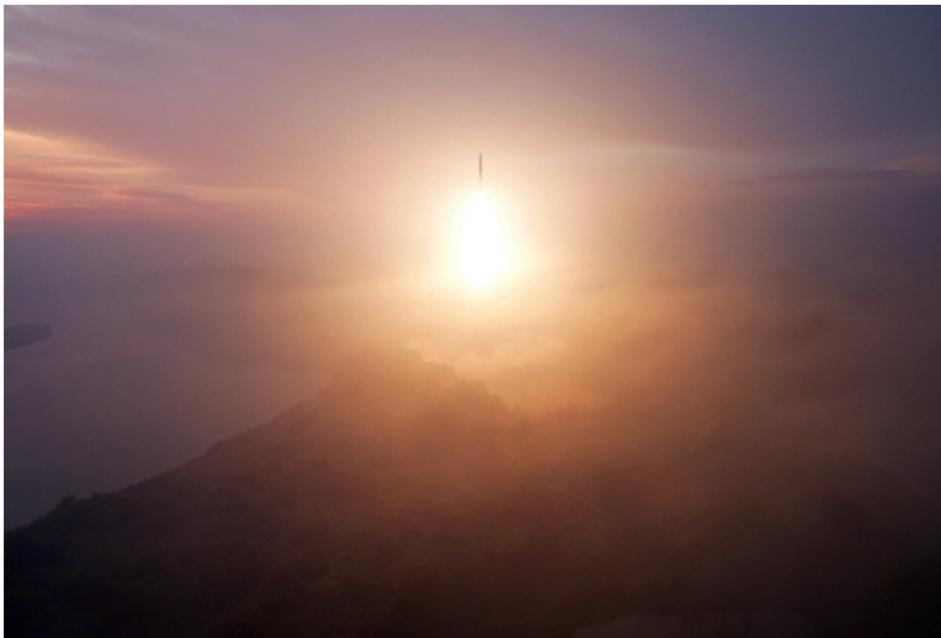
maximum altitude of 7 687.5km and flew a distance of 1 001.2km for 5 156 seconds before landing on the preset target area in the open waters of the East Sea of Korea.

The test-fire had no negative effect on the security of neighbouring countries.

The test of the ultramodern strategic weapon system updated the latest records of strategic missile capabilities and showed off the modernity and creditability of the world's most powerful strategic deterrent of the DPRK.

On the spot, Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction, saying that the successful test-fire of the new-type ICBM has come to prove to the world that the dominant position the DPRK has secured in the development and manufacture of

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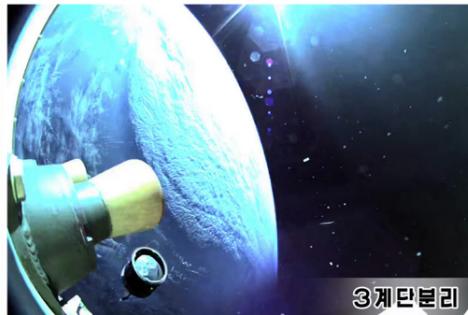




1계단분리



2계단분리



3계단분리



FROM PAGE 2

nuclear delivery means of the same kind is absolutely irreversible.

The perfected weapon system of ICBM Hwasongpho-19, to be used by the strategic forces of the DPRK along with Hwasongpho-18, pursuant to the long-term plan for building the state nuclear forces set forth by the Party Congress, will perform the mission and duty as the primary core means in defending the DPRK, thoroughly deterring the enemies' acts of aggression and reliably protecting national security.

Kim Jong Un said that the test-fire is an appropriate military action that fully meets the purpose of declaring the DPRK's counteraction will to the rivals who have recently escalated the regional

situation deliberately and posed a threat to its security, and also constitutes an indispensable process in the course of constantly developing its strategic strike forces.

He went on to say:

As we have witnessed these days, the rivals' dangerous moves to strengthen their nuclear alliance and various adventurist military activities further highlight the importance of the buildup of our nuclear forces. We should never allow any threat to approach the sphere of influence of our national security.

The security situation of our state and the ever-growing prospective threats and challenges require us to continue to bolster up our modern strategic strike forces and more perfectly round off our nuclear response posture.

He clearly reaffirmed that the DPRK would never change its line of bolstering up its nuclear forces under any circumstances.

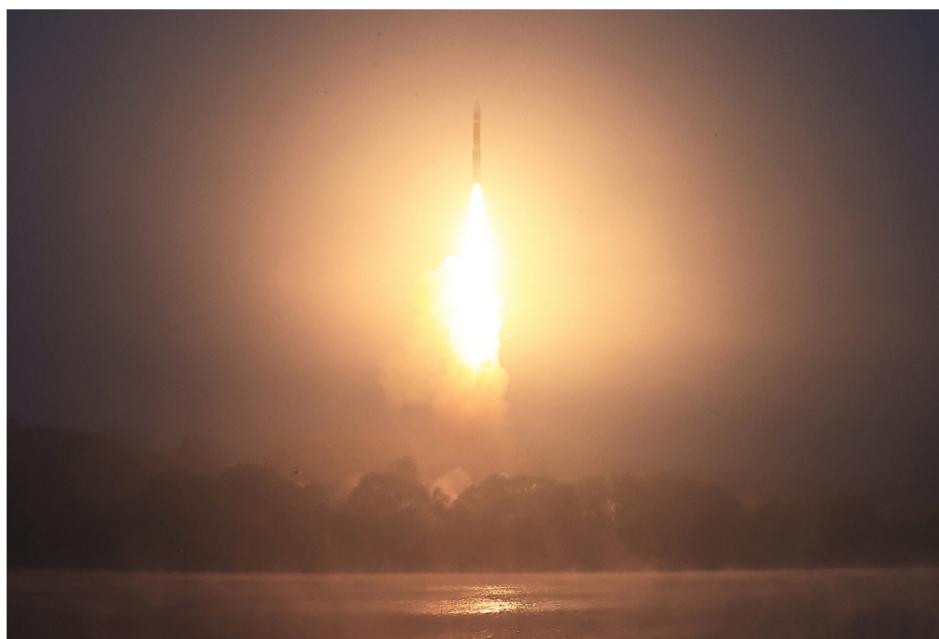
On behalf of the Party, the government and all the Korean people, he gave the highest thanks to the defence scientists and the munitions workers for their distinguished contribution to fully demonstrating the DPRK's matchless strategic nuclear strike capability to the whole world.

He once again stressed that only the peace that can be defended by the strength great enough to control and deter the enemy is the reliable, secure and durable peace and herein lies a sure guarantee for the peace and future of the DPRK and its people. And he clarified important tasks to be constantly tackled by the defence

science field in implementing the line of bolstering up the state nuclear forces.

Expressing expectation and belief that the defence science and technology group, always faithful and absolute in fulfilling the demand of the revolution, would achieve better defence development successes and thus always remain faithful to the sacred obligation and duty, he had a photo session with the masters of this great event at the historic site where the absolute prestige of the state was lifted once again.

All the defence scientists and strategic missile soldiers vowed to devote themselves with redoubled courage to the sacred struggle for building up the arsenal of the Juche revolution into an invincible one and strengthening the state's nuclear response posture.



# DPRK foreign minister leaves for Russia

KCNA

Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea, and her party left Pyongyang on October 28 to pay an official visit to the Russian Federation. They were seen off at Pyongyang International Airport

by Kim Jong Gyu, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK.

## DPRK-Russia IT Products Exhibition-2024

KCNA

The DPRK-Russia IT Products Exhibition-2024 was held in Pyongyang between October 29 and 31 in the name of the sub-committee for post and telecommunications, information technology and digital development under the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology.

Presented to the exhibition, held on the theme of "IT and digital development and cooperation", were high-tech IT products and scientific and technological achievements developed by educational and scientific research units and enterprises of the DPRK and the Russian Federation.

Present at the opening ceremony were Ju Yong Il, minister of IT Industry, Jon Kyong, vice-chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, officials concerned, officials, teachers, researchers and technicians of the exhibiting units, and the delegation of the DPRK-Russia IT products exhibition led by Andrei Zarenin, vice-minister of



The DPRK-Russia IT Products Exhibition-2024 takes place at the Sci-Tech Complex between October 29 and 31.

Digital Development, Post and Telecommunications and Public Information of the Russian Federation, and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, and his embassy staff members.

The practical IT products and sci-tech achievements presented by the best IT enterprises of the DPRK including the High-tech Development Institute of Kim Il Sung University and the Samwon IT Company and different companies of Russia drew the attention of experts and visitors.

During the exhibition, achievements and experience of advanced enterprises

of the two countries were shared and various exchanges and cooperation made through presentations on various themes including mobile communications, information security, industrial information system and digital technology and economy.

Certificates of participation in the exhibition in the name of the Posts and Telecommunications, IT and Digital Development Sub-committee of the DPRK-Russia Inter-governmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology were awarded to members of the Russian side.

## Farmers move into new houses in rural community

KCNA

More dwelling houses appeared at the Unjong Stock-breeding Farm under the North Hwanghae Provincial Rural Economy Committee.

The beautiful village with modern houses and nurseries built along the sunny foot of a mountain shows the development of rural areas in the country.

Present at the ceremony for moving into new houses were Mun Chang Il, secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials of the Party and power organs and agricultural workers in Pongsan County.

Kim Il Hwan, vice-chairman of the provincial people's committee, made a congratulatory address.

Then, the licences for the use of houses were conveyed to the agricultural workers and speeches made there.

New villages have appeared at the Kumchon and Chilgol vegetable farms in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

A meeting for moving into new houses took place on

October 30.

Present there were Kim Su Gil, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials of the Party and power organs, builders and agricultural workers in Mangyongdae District.

Choe Hui Thae, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, made a congratulatory address. Then licences for the use of new houses were conveyed and speeches made.

Amid a cheerful dance party, the moving into new houses began and officials visited houses to share joy

with their owners.

New villages have appeared in Sunghwa-ri and Yonhap-ri of Unsan County, South Phyongan Province.

Present at the ceremony for moving into new houses were Kim Man Jo, secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials of the Party and power organs, builders and agricultural workers in Unsan County.

Amid a cheerful dance party, farmers began moving into their new houses. Officials visited new houses to share joy with their owners.



Agricultural workers are happy to move into new houses.

# Statement of spokesperson for DPRK Foreign Ministry

KCNA

A spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued the following statement, titled "The DPRK will further intensify its practical efforts to deter the military threat of the hostile forces and maintain the balance of forces in the region", on November 1:

The test-fire of the latest-type ICBM Hwasongpho-19 recently conducted by the DPRK constitutes a legitimate and just exercise of the right of a sovereign state to self-defence from A to Z as it is part of the practical counteraction to the provocative reckless moves of the hostile forces to openly destroy peace and stability in the region around the Korean peninsula while blatantly challenging the sovereignty, security and interests of the DPRK.

However, the US and its vassal forces revealed their provocative intention to convene a meeting of the UNSC with an aim to seriously encroach upon the DPRK's right to self-defence, not content with staging joint air drills of aggressive nature on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity while viciously slandering its reasonable exercise of sovereignty.

The Foreign Ministry of the DPRK expresses serious concern over the hostile forces' confrontational behaviour to create a critical situation against the security environment of the DPRK by means of illegal double standards and sophism just like a guilty party filing the suit first. It strongly denounces and rejects this as a wanton violation of the UN Charter and other recognized international laws with sovereign equality and noninterference in

other's internal affairs as their core and a grave challenge to international peace and security.

There is no such place on earth as the Korean peninsula where touch-and-go and acute nuclear confrontation continues and unilateral military provocations against a sovereign state and extremely malicious and provocative rhetorical threats like the "end of regime" are rampant.

This year alone, the US and the ROK have given a more concrete shape to a dangerous nuclear war scenario while holding different sorts of war confabs more than 20 times to use nuclear weapons against the DPRK, including the third meeting of the "Nuclear Consultative Group" and the fifth meeting of the "Extended Deterrence Strategy and Consultation Group".

Accordingly, various strategic

assets of the US including the Theodore Roosevelt nuclear carrier task force, Bermont nuclear submarine and B-52H nuclear strategic bomber were deployed on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity more than ten times and various forms of war drills against the DPRK including "Freedom Shield", "Ulji Freedom Shield", "Freedom Edge", "Iron Mace", "Nuclear Consultative Group simulation drill" and "Freedom Flag" were staged without a break this year.

The reckless military confrontation racket kicked off by the hostile forces far beyond the sphere of stereotyped threat constitutes a grave challenge to the DPRK's right to security and a root cause of disruption of the balance of forces in Northeast Asia and Asia-Pacific region beyond the Korean peninsula.

It is the steadfast strategic option and will of the DPRK to thoroughly check the danger of outbreak of a nuclear war and powerfully control and manage the political and military situation in the region by countering the ever-dangerous military threat of the US and its vassal forces with the overwhelming and absolute power.

The DPRK will perfectly defend its sovereign right, security and development interests under any circumstances and further intensify its practical efforts to ensure the permanent stability of the Korean peninsula and the region in a responsible manner and resolutely counter any threat and challenge in the present and future.

The more provocative actions the hostile forces take in defiance of the DPRK's grave warning, the stronger counteraction they will face.

# Spectacular view of town in mountain valley



By Kim Il Jin PT

The Komdok area, widely known as a leading mineral production base along with the appellations of “Kumgol (gold valley)” and “Paekkumsan (white gold mountain)”, is turning into a civilized mining town in a mountain valley.

Along the long valley from the Ryongyang Mine to the Tachung Youth Hero Mine through the Komdok Mining Complex, single-, low- and multi-storey and high-rise apartment houses and service networks have been built harmoniously in graceful

and distinctive styles, commanding a breathtaking view.

In October four years ago, General Secretary Kim Jong Un visited the area through a long dangerous journey to relieve the inhabitants in the area hit by a typhoon of their misfortunes and suffering.

That day, saying that he would be conscience-stricken indeed if he built new houses for only the flood victims, he stated that though it was true that the country was facing economic difficulties at present, it could be delayed no longer to provide the

people in the Komdok area with splendid houses, and pointed to the need to build modern houses for the local people at an early date so that they could lead a more civilized life.

Afterwards, a large-scale construction project started and everything began to undergo change in the area.

The project is to build houses for 25 000 families at the Komdok Mining Complex, Tachung Youth Hero Mine and Ryongyang Mine and complete the building of a town in the mountain valley in a few years.

It is as good as performing

a miracle to build such a large number of houses in a short span of time in the area which has more unfavourable conditions for construction than other areas.

Soldiers of the Korean People’s Army mobilized in the construction have built many dwelling houses every year as planned.

The residents could not imagine that they would be provided with such wonderful houses when they were still under construction and heard such words as a town in a mountain valley and mining town for the first time after the Komdok area came into being. They said excitedly

that a great change just refers to this.

The simple and honest voices of the inhabitants reflected their gratitude to and trust in the great Workers’ Party of Korea which steadily writes the history of devoted service for the people on this land.

New houses continue to be provided gratis to ordinary working people every year by the state to bring them a happy life.

In June this year, frameworks of dozens of blocks of houses were completed in the Namphung pit area and several sections of the Ryongchon Mine of the

Komdok Mining Complex and internal and external wall plastering was started. And the building of frameworks of houses reached the final stage in the areas of Roun, Youth and Muhak pits.

And by late August, over 70 percent of the total workload of the housing construction in the Komdok area was carried out and the project is being pushed more dynamically.

At present, miners of the Komdok area are full of enthusiasm to return the favour shown by the country with increased production of minerals.

## Construction of students’ shoes factories completed

By Song Kwang PT

The construction projects of students’ shoes factories have been completed one after another across the country.

Students’ shoes factories were newly built in Nampho, Wonsan, Phyongsong, Sariwon and Hyesan and those in Hamhung and Chongjin are nearing completion.

The Ministry of Regional Industry grasped the progress in the construction projects of those factories, training of skilled workers, manufacturing and installation of equipment every day and took measures

to ensure they were pushed forward as scheduled. It also supplied dozens of pieces of equipment needed for establishing modern production processes to each province and organized passing-on-technique sessions at the advanced footwear production units including the Ryuwon Footwear Factory so that they could be a substantial help to training skilled workers who would work at the students’ shoes factories.

Pyongyang Municipality built a similar factory in a short time, completed the production and installation of equipment in close contact with Kim Chack University of Technology, Pyongyang

University of Mechanical Engineering and other scientific and educational institutions and made full preparations for full-scale production.

Kangwon Province finished the construction of such a factory at a high qualitative level and sent dozens of workers to the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and other advanced units to acquire technical skills for operating modern equipment.

Other provinces are now directing efforts to perfecting production processes by introducing the experience gained in those provinces which had completed the construction projects.

## Branch factory increases production processes

By Ri Myong Jun PT

The Pyongyang special fittings branch factory under the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill has newly set up more than ten processes for producing special fittings for looms including the processes for producing spools and wooden bobbins.

“Our factory has established one production process after another by relying on its own technical force in order to develop and produce new special fittings,” said senior engineer Hwang Ju Nam.

For its high utility value, the newly developed replaceable flat heddle is very popular.

According to Hwang, as a loom comprises thousands of flat heddles, when one of them went wrong in the middle part while the loom was in operation, the machine had to be dismantled and it took considerable time and effort to reassemble it after repair.

The technicians of the factory, in collaboration with scientific research units, hit upon a rational structure of a replaceable flat heddle which they can replace with other one without dismantling the loom and set up its production process, thus remarkably reducing the expenses and time for the replacement.

The factory brought great

benefits to the country by ensuring the domestic production of the gripper spring which was imported previously.

It also intensified research into the improvement of the hardness of the rapier band header of an elastic staff loom and established a production process relying on the carbon fibre material, thus increasing the lifespan of the header over two times.

In addition, it devised and introduced various jigs and other devices needed for cutting, bending, die forging and heat treatment of materials and newly established some production processes to normalize production.

# Agricultural workers joyful with year-end



Many farms hold meetings for year-end account settlement and income distribution after reaping rich harvest this year.

By Song Jong Ho PT

## Naejung Farm overfulfils grain production plan

The Naejung Farm in Yomju County of North Phyongan Province has reaped a bumper harvest this year.

A meeting for year-end account settlement and income distribution took place at the farm.

Kim Kwang Un, chairman of the North Phyongan Provincial Rural Economy Committee, Ryu Song Hyok, secretary of the provincial

committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned congratulated the agricultural workers on glorifying the honour of a high-yielding farm again.

The distribution venue was filled with joy of agricultural workers and their boundless gratitude to the motherly Workers' Party of Korea which provided them with this auspicious event.

## Peak-year level exceeded at farm of South Phyongan Province

The Yoltusamchon Farm in Sukchon County of South Phyongan Province reaped a rich harvest again, following

last year. The rich harvest gathered by the farm this year is a precious fruition of the

officials and the agricultural workers of the farm who devoted all their sincerity to farming all the year round, true to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on scientific farming.

The farmers held a meeting for account settlement and income distribution on

## Farm in South Hwanghae Province increases per-hectare rice yield by over 1.5 tons

Workers of the Toksong Farm in the Orori Plain of Anak County, South Hwanghae Province, the "granary" on the west coast, exceeded the peak-year level.

It increased the per-hectare paddy rice yield by more than 1.5 tons over last year, produced a large number of high-yield farmers and overfulfilled its quota for the

October 17 with the pride of exceeding the peak-year level again.

Ri Kyong Chol, chief secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned attended the meeting to congratulate the agricultural workers.

national grain procurement plan.

With a determination to repay the favour shown by the Workers' Party of Korea, which supplied modern farm machines and farming materials to them on a top priority basis, with high yields, the workers of the farm tended every paddy field and every

bunch of rice seedlings with sincerity.

The farm spread quality manure on all the fields to improve soil fertility and actively employed such advanced farming methods as the method of raising rice seedlings by means of heat-preserving large seedbeds and the effective one of applying fertilizer through drawing water into rice paddies, thus harvesting 7 or 8 tons of grain per hectare even from hundreds of hectares of low-yielding areas as well.

The farm made progress in the domain of cultural

life by building a modern comprehensive service base.

Officials and workers of the farm held a meeting for account settlement and income distribution with the joy of having reaped a bumper harvest on October 13.

Pak Thae Dok, chief secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the WPK, Won Kyong Mo, chairman of the provincial rural economy committee, and officials concerned attended the meeting to congratulate the farmers.

## Farms in North Hwanghae Province increase per-hectare yield by over 1 ton

Farmers of the Kangan Farm in Unpha County and the Woram Farm in Kumchon

County of North Hwanghae

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# income distribution throughout country



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Province have reaped rich harvests.

The farms, which had lagged behind others in the province because of their poor agricultural productivity, increased per-hectare yield by more than one ton on an average and thus overfulfilled their national grain production plan before holding meetings for the settlement of accounts and income distribution.

The Kangan Farm worked out detailed plans for each farming process from a scientific and innovative point of view and conducted effective dissemination of agricultural science and technology to inspire its primary officials and farmers to diligently learn advanced science and technology and farming methods and actively employ them in farming.

While directing primary efforts to realigning land,

improving soil fertility and readjusting and reinforcing irrigation systems, the farm raised the proportion of farm work done by machines and introduced rational water management and fertilizing methods to provide a guarantee for high and safe yield.

The Woram Farm, too, held fast to the five factors for agricultural development, made low-yielding areas fertile by securing organic manure a lot and rationally allocated strains on the principle of the right crop on the right soil and at the right time.

The farms ensured full operation of farm machines and thus finished rice harvesting, rice-sheaf gathering and threshing in a short span of time.

There took place meetings for account settlement and income distribution amid the joy and pride of having reaped rich harvests.

## Honam Farm in Jongphyong County boosts per-hectare grain yield by over two tons

Farmers of the Honam Farm in Jongphyong County,

South Hamgyong Province, piled a huge stack of grains.

By increasing per-hectare grain yields by more than two tons on an average over last year, the farm exceeded the peak-year level and overfulfilled its plan for the national grain production target.

It finished rice-transplanting in time and applied fertilizer to suit the characteristics of varieties and soil conditions in a responsible manner to raise crops healthily and finished rice harvesting 15 days earlier than last year by increasing the proportion of farm work done by machines.

While pushing ahead with a mass movement for successfully concluding

## Peak-year level exceeded at Yombun Farm

Agricultural workers at the Yombun Farm in Kyongsong County of North Hamgyong Province reaped rich harvest.

They harvested over 2.5 tons of more rice per hectare than last year, surpassing the peak-year level and producing a large number of high-yield farmers.

farming of this year, it gave wide publicity to innovators and properly generalized their experience, thus ensuring that the boosted morale of its working people who turned out in threshing led to good results.

The farmers held a meeting for account settlement and income distribution with the pride of having brought about great success in farming in the flat area on the east coast.

Pak Tong Chol, chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial Rural Economy Committee, Kim Yong Hak, secretary of the provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials of the county attended the meeting to congratulate the farmers for high yields.

The farm increased the per-hectare grain yield to over 5 tons, 11 tons at maximum, even at low-yielding fields.

The year-end account settlement and income distribution took place on the spot on October 24.

Kim Yong Hwan, chief secretary of the North

Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Sin Chol Ung, chairman of the provincial rural economy committee, and officials concerned congratulated the farmers on their success.

Agricultural workers at the Yombun Farm in Kyongsong County of North Hamgyong Province reaped rich harvest.

They harvested over 2.5 tons of more rice per hectare than last year, surpassing the peak-year level and producing a large number of high-yield farmers.

## Peak-year level exceeded at Chollyong Farm in Kosan County

The Chollyong Farm in Kosan County of Kangwon Province has over-fulfilled the national grain production plan by 10 percent by raising the grain output 1.2 times over last year to surpass the peak-year level.

The farm gave effective agricultural and technical guidance to ensure full crop yield while introducing advanced farming methods.

It further perfected the irrigation system, raised the rate of mechanization in farming and manured and cultivated the crops

The farm increased the per-hectare grain yield to over 5 tons, 11 tons at maximum, even at low-yielding fields.

The year-end account settlement and income distribution took place on the spot on October 24.

Kim Yong Hwan, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Sin Chol Ung, chairman of the provincial rural economy committee, and officials concerned congratulated the farmers on their success.

meticulously, thus in increasing per-hectare grain output by more than one ton on an average over last year.

A meeting for year-end account settlement and income distribution took place at the farm amid a lively peasant dance party.

Pak Jong Ho, chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Rural Economy Committee, and officials of Kosan County congratulated the high-yield farmers and other working people on overfulfilling the national grain production plan.

## Steady efforts put into national heritage conservation

Many historical sites and scenic spots have been restored or repaired according to an overhaul plan for more than 20 objects for this year

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Sustained efforts are being made for the protection of national heritage all across the country.

The National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage has restored or repaired many historical sites and scenic spots according to an overhaul plan for more than 20 objects for this year, while carrying on the preservation and management of historical sites and relics on a regular basis.

The Taedong Gate, a historical relic showing the excellent architecture of the Korean nation, was repaired successfully.

The Pyongyang Municipal National Heritage Protection and Management Station repaired the left and right stairs and pillars of the gate and repainted the colourfully decorated tanchong to preserve them in their original state.

Jagang Province has also made positive efforts to conserve national heritage.

It completed the repair of the Myohyangsan History Museum, one of the representative historical relics of the country, and the Songgansan Fort in Songgan County.

Officials of the South Hamgyong Provincial National Heritage Protection and Management Station finished the repairs on the Tacung Hall of the Kathu Temple in the city of Tanchon and Yowonsan Fort in Hongwon County in collaboration with the national heritage protection and management stations of counties. And North Hamgyong Province repaired a major building of Kyongsong Confucian School and the roofing tiles and repainted the tanchong decorations of the pavilion of the Monument to the Great Victory in the Northern Area in Kim Chaek City.

The Tonghungsan District People's Committee of Hamhung City secured timber, roofing tiles and other materials and completed the repairs on the Kuchon Pavilion in the city.

South and North Phyongan provinces have achieved successes in the conservation of national heritage by carrying it out as a mass undertaking.

In its efforts to preserve the Anguk Temple in its original state, the city of Phyongsong replaced the angle rafters, gable boards, extended eaves and common rafters

of the monks' dormitory and repainted 3 000 square metres of tanchong decorations. Regarding natural disasters as a fait accompli, South Phyongan Province revetted the embankment in the reserve area once again to make the area impervious to natural disasters and built the resting places wonderfully.

The inhabitants and students in Phyongwon County gave an overhaul to the relic of Midusan Fort covering well over a hundred square metres as they carried earth and covered the ground with turf. And many students in North Phyongan Province completed the repairs on Ryonju Fort in Phihyon County, a precious historical relic showcasing the excellent architecture of the nation.

North and South Hwanghae and Jagang provinces and the city of Kaesong, which have lots of historical sites, are making a good job of heritage conservation.

Repairs were completed for the lodgings of Sohyon Confucian School in Pyoksong County, South Hwanghae Province, and the Pogwang Hall and Chongphung and Sansin pavilions at the Simwon Temple in Yonthan County, Thae Fort in Pongsan County and Thaebacksan

Fort in Phyongsan County in North Hwanghae Province. Kangwon Province also mended the Jogye Gate of the Sogwang Temple in Kosan County, Haksongsan Fort in Anbyon County and the Kungnak Hall of the Myongjok Temple in Wonsan.

The Kaesong City National Heritage Protection and Management Station completed a restoration project by replacing the common rafters, roofing tiles, gable ridges, door paper, etc of the pavilion used as a shrine at the Mokchong Hall and the shrine at Sungyang Confucian School.

The Ryongmun Cavern, a scenic spot, also underwent repairs.

The Ryongmun Cavern Scenic Spot Management Station completed the repairs on the 7.2km-long interior route and the replacement of railings two months ago.

According to an official of the National Authority for the Protection of

Cultural Heritage, 21 out of 27 projects for the restoration of historical sites and scenic spots planned for this year have already been completed as of October and the remaining six projects are being carried out at the final stage.

## Attracted by charm of potted plants

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Potted dwarf trees cultivated by a plant fancier attracted special interest of visitors at the recent national plants exhibition, "Plants of the DPRK-2024".

The presenter of the trees was Kim Son Hwa, who is just around 60 and lives in Misan-dong No. 2 of Taesong District, Pyongyang. She was satisfied with her success at the

of a reduced old tree. Admiring it for a long time, she had an impulse to grow a potted dwarf tree.

"However, it was not an easy job to be well versed in the cultivation of potted trees. I had to trim an attractive plant in a formative artistic way after planting it in a pot, while restricting its growth. I also had to acquire profound knowledge and artistic insight and skills," she recalled.



Kim Son Hwa tends a potted plant. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Korean folk song



## Arirang

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

National music is widely sung among the DPRK people as they have continuously carried on the soul and tradition of the nation.

But no other song is known by everybody and sung frequently like folk song Arirang.

The song truthfully reflects the sorrow of separation between man and woman and the joy of their reunion, joyful working life and the desire to live happily in a bright world.

Many stories about the origin of the song have been handed down, but a typical example is the folktale "Songbu and Rirang".

Once upon a time a young man named Rirang and

a young woman named Songbu worked as servants of a landlord in a village. Then the whole village had a bad year. The cruel landlord deprived the peasants of everything. Peasants staged an uprising against the oppressors and there was a fierce battle. After breaking through the encirclement by the oppressors, the young man and woman decided to set up a home in a remote mountain. But the man made up his mind to go back to the battlefield at the thought of the villagers falling at the bayonets of the enemy. So he left the woman with a promise to return home three months and ten days later. One hundred days passed since they parted, and the day of their reunion came, but they had to part again because of

unexpected misunderstanding. Overwhelmed with grief, the woman saw him off in tears and the pass resounded with her voice as she shouted, "Ah, Rirang!" anxious to follow him. His feet refused to take him over the hill of separation. And he came back down the hill to soothe her as he could not forget her, his beloved. It was really a sad separation.

Later, the pass was called Arirang Pass and the song the woman sang in a choking voice, missing her beloved, was called Arirang.

Thanks to the song's zestful verse of Arirang arariyo and its lyrical melody, the folk song has widely been sung as Sodo Arirang, Tanchon Arirang and so on in different parts of the DPRK.

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and waged under the leadership of General Kim Il Sung, the building of a new country after national liberation and the historic years of socialist construction, the folk song was newly adapted and widely sung as Arirang of Prosperity, Arirang of Army-People Unity and others reflecting the aspirations of the times and the people.

The melody of Arirang played in the prelude to the multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" well known to the DPRK people is quite impressive.

In 2014, the folk song, an intangible cultural heritage element of the DPRK, was put on the Representative List of ICH of Humanity.

show.

In the course of cultivating potted plants, people keenly feel the beauty of nature and come to have noble personality, rich emotion and optimism about life, she said.

It was seven years ago that Kim, who had been growing only flowering plants in her family, developed an interest in potted plants when she saw a potted dwarf zelkova tree in her friend's house.

The tree taking roots in all directions, fresh moss covering the earth surface, rough tree trunk and green leaves reminded her

At the beginning, she suffered mental agony, but with strenuous efforts and perseverance, she could make progress a few years later and her relevant skills got refined gradually.

In the course of representing plants on philosophical themes in an artistic way, she also grew up spiritually, she said, adding such charm can be felt only from the cultivation of potted plants.

She hoped that other people would cultivate their life more beautifully and excellently while cultivating potted plants.

# Powerful strength supporting the state

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The DPRK is now faced with manifold difficulties and obstacles standing in the way of its advance.

But the Korean people are bravely advancing without hesitation and standstill in all aspects—politics, the economy, military, culture and others, overcoming all these trials.

On what strength do they advance towards victory, surmounting the difficulties?

It is patriotism peculiar to the Korean people.

Whenever manifold difficulties and trials stood in the way of the country, the Korean people supported the country by waging various mass movements.

They were not forced by anyone, but voluntarily bore the burden of the country as its citizens, and such voluntary act spread like a wildfire.

In November 1946, a peasant in Jaeryong County, South Hwanghae Province, contributed 30 straw bags of cereals he had harvested in the first year after the agrarian reform to the country. With it as a momentum, a nationwide movement for donating “patriotic rice” to the country began.

Who and how much did they contribute in the movement was not important. What was important was that the movement made ordinary peasants join their simple minds that they do something for the country.

Similar mass movements were conducted not only by the peasants but also by engine drivers.

After the country’s liberation from Japanese military rule, the workers of the then Jongju railway section formed a coal-mining shock brigade to produce coal and provide railway service, while repairing locomotives. The movement was recorded in history as Kim Hoe Il movement. They worked hard, but they never demanded any reward for what they did.

Such mass movements were not recorded only after the country’s liberation. Many of them have so far been staged throughout the history of the DPRK, including the periods of the great Fatherland Liberation War, post-war reconstruction and great Chollima upsurge.

Among them were the ones initiated by schoolchildren, women, workers and service personnel.

These movements are highly praised as patriotic mass movements in the DPRK as they were not promoted for any reward or remuneration, but by regarding national affairs as those of their families.

With such a movement the Korean people completed a huge construction project, which was believed to take 3-4 years, in a matter of 75 days in the past. They also launched a movement for everyone finding out more than one reserve to build over 20 000 flats with the materials, funds and manpower for 7 000

flats. Similar movements are still going on in the country.

They include the volunteering zeal of young people that has continued unabated since the Eighth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the 10th congress of the youth league, the socialist patriotic movement for increased coal production and the mass movement of women’s union members now under way across the country.

In July when a natural disaster unexpectedly hit different parts of the country causing enormous damage, many people helped the people in the flood-hit areas with a single mind to share sorrow and overcome the difficulties together. And in hearty response to the call of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, Party members and young people from across the country rushed to the flood-hit areas and are now engaged in their reconstruction.

The high sense of patriotism the Korean people have shown for decades and which has become their everyday life was the source of powerful strength that supported the country in good and hard times.

The Korean people are optimistic about their future as they have such a history, tradition and reality which have been proved to be a truth.

It is their will to attain the goals set forth by the Party and usher in a new era of prosperity on the strength of patriotism.

# Press statement of External Policy Office chief of DPRK Foreign Ministry

KCNA

The chief of the External Policy Office of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on October 26 released the following press statement, titled “The US will be held wholly responsible for pushing the situation on the Korean peninsula to an uncontrollable state”:

Amid the extreme tension lingering on the Korean peninsula due to the recent crucial provocation of the ROK against the DPRK, the US more openly reveals its attempt at military confrontation against the DPRK.

From October 21, the US, together with the ROK military warmongers, has staged a large-scale joint air drill Freedom Flag by drawing the Australian Air Force into the Korean peninsula. And it has resorted to extreme confrontation hysteria, openly claiming that the purpose of the drill is aimed at the DPRK.

The US and the ROK are trumpeting that they would master the compound operation capability by mobilizing fighters and drones for the first time and conduct

exercises for increasing the survivability in airborne infiltration into an enemy’s position through the large-scale joint air drill integrating the annual combined joint formation drill and the joint air drill Vigilant Defense.

The military drill of the US and the ROK, which assumes clearer offensive and aggressive character in scale, content and nature, is a very dangerous military provocation aimed at preemptive and surprise attack against the DPRK.

The US is staging “joint air re-supply drill” and “joint river-crossing drill” with the ROK and a large-scale marine corps’ joint military drill Keen Sword with Japan. At the same time, it is further escalating the military tension by dispatching the super-large nuclear carrier George Washington task force around the Korean peninsula.

We strongly denounce the US hostile act of resorting to reckless military demonstration with its allies, not content with the present political and military tension on the Korean peninsula which is exposed to the danger of a touch-and-go explosion, as a clear threat and a grave provocation to

the security of the region. The US can never cover up its criminal nature with any rhetoric as it is driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to an uncontrollable state.

It is a fact known to the world that the ROK committed illegal and grave provocation of openly infiltrating military attack means into the airspace of a sovereign state with the backing of “military cooperation” from whom.

The DPRK keeps in sight the dark shadow of the US which is hidden behind the fearless provocative acts of the ROK.

The US has patronized the ROK’s scattering of political agitation rubbish over the territory of the DPRK as the “freedom of expression” and instigated the bellicose hysteria of its ally with frequent deployment of strategic assets and ceaseless joint military drills. The US confrontation history will be exactly recorded and calculated.

If a situation that no one wishes is created on the Korean peninsula, the US, the arch criminal and mastermind escalating the tension in the region, will be held wholly responsible for it.

# Sinister ambition behind shameless double standards

By Choe Song Jun PT

The US has recently announced another round of sanctions against Iran.

The US Department of State imposed sanctions on six entities involved in the Iranian oil transactions and registered six ships as sanctioned assets, and the Treasury Department put on the sanctions list ten entities and 17 vessels involved in the transportation of Iranian oil and petrochemical products.

The White House national security advisor said that these sanctions would offer additional help in blocking Iranian financial resources used to lend assistance to “terrorist organizations” and support its missile

programmes.

The sanctions have reportedly been applied as a response to the retaliatory missile attack against Israel by Iran on November 1.

It is a clear revelation of the shameless and gangster-like US-style double standards that it keeps mum about Israel’s brutal military attack and massacre that turned the Gaza Strip into a large mass grave and ruins, while taking issue with Iran’s exercise of the legitimate right to self-defence and brandishing a stick of sanctions.

As a retaliation for the heinous crimes committed by the Zionist regime including the assassinations of the leaders of Palestinian

and Lebanese resistance movements and the Iranian military commander, the missile attack mounted by Iran is a just measure to protect the security and interests of the country from the ever-increasing threat of war from Israel.

Therefore, Middle East countries and the resistance forces in the region fighting against Israel’s aggression assert that the retaliatory strike by Iran is a due punishment to the Israeli warmongers who have turned the Gaza Strip into a sea of blood and stretched out their tentacles of aggression to Lebanon under the patronage and military support of the US, while perpetrating unprecedented

massacres.

Experts on the situation also commented that Iran has switched over from the stage of “strategic patience” to that of direct retaliation.

However, the US is hell-bent on the sanctions racket, while shifting the blame for having plunged the Middle East into a vortex of war onto Iran by giving military and political support to the Israeli warmongers despite the protest and denunciation by the international community.

Immediately after Iran made the retaliatory strike on Israel, US President Biden openly took Israel’s side, saying that the US fully supports Israel, and the National Security Advisor said that it is a

serious act of escalating dispute and serious consequences would follow, stunning the international community.

Why then is the US eager to direct such a play of the thief crying “Stop thief!”?

Lurking behind it is its sinister intention to isolate and weaken the major rivals in the Middle East, drive Israel into a war of aggression, further foster instability in the region and avail itself of this opportunity to rake in money and implement the strategy for dominating the Middle East.

Recently, the US Defense Department has deployed THAAD in Israel with a blitz, talking about the bolstering of its missile

defense capability, thus providing the Zionist regime with conditions for expanding the war of aggression free from worry under its “protecting umbrella”.

Greatly encouraged by the patronage and active protection of their master, the Israeli warmongers are now driving the regional situation to a touch-and-go situation, arguing for a “meaningful” retaliatory attack on Iran.

Stability and peace can never settle in the Middle East as long as the US continues to pursue the interventionist policy consistent with extreme prejudice, deception and double standards.

# Spokesman for DPRK Ministry of National Defence makes public final results of investigation into case of grave infringement upon sovereignty by drone from ROK

KCNA

A spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence of the DPRK released on October 27 the final results of investigation into the case of infringement upon its sovereignty which confirmed the take-off point and route and purpose of intrusion by the drone from the ROK found in the area of the DPRK capital.

According to the spokesman, under the instruction of the DPRK government on scientifically and thoroughly proving the truth behind the case of the grave infringement

upon the country's sovereignty by drone, a military means recognized by the world, the joint investigation group involving the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of State Security and other relevant specialized organs completely dismantled the flight control module from the remains of a crashed enemy drone and analyzed the flight plan and flight log in a comprehensive way.

The results of analysis of the flight control program of the enemy drone made by the joint investigation group unjustifiably

and clearly proved the most vulgar and shameless provocative nature of the ROK military gangsters who have persistently evaded the responsibility for the illegal intrusion by their drone into the sky above the capital of the DPRK.

The collected evidence data include 238 flight plans and flight logs worked out between June 5 2023 and October 8 2024 and the remaining data except the data of October 8 are the data of flight in the territory of the ROK.

According to the analysis of the flight control program, a plan

for scattering political agitation rubbish is to be worked out when the flight plan is drawn out, and when the drone reaches the position reflected in the scattering plan, the flight control module is to send an electrical signal to the scattering means.

The flight data number of the enemy drone that crashed after intruding into the DPRK on October 8 was analyzed.

The plan for scattering political agitation rubbish and the scattering log were recorded correctly in the enemy drone.

It was proved that the drone of the ROK military gangsters which took off on Paengnyong Island at 23:25:30 on October 8 and intruded into the airspace of the DPRK flew over Jangyon County of South Hwanghae Province and the waters around Cho Island to the waters around Namjoap Island, and then veered to fly over Chollima District of the city of Nampho and intruded into the capital of the DPRK.

The enemy drone scattered the political agitation rubbish in the sky above the area between the building of the DPRK Foreign Ministry and Sungni Station of the Pyongyang Metro at 01:32:08 on October 9 and in the sky above the building of the Ministry of National Defence at 01:35:11.

The confirmed objective and scientific evidence data expose that the intrusion by the drone is aimed at scattering the anti-DPRK political agitation rubbish and that the principal of the hostile infringement upon the DPRK sovereignty is none other than the puppet ROK military gangsters.

The spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence stressed once again that the last warning to the dangerous and reckless political and military provocation by the ROK military gangsters which went beyond the limit of patience has already been made.

In case the infringement upon the sovereignty of the DPRK reoccurs due to the blind trust in the master, seizing the ROK, the most vulgar and malignant rogue state, and its extremely bad habit of challenge, the source of all misfortunes and provocations will disappear forever by the merciless offensive of the DPRK.

Planned flight track of enemy drone

Actual flight path followed by enemy drone on October 8



번호	시 간	위도(북위)	경도(동경)	해발고	주변지명
1	2024년 10월 8일 23시 25분 30초	37° 57' 23"	124° 38' 7"	16.1m	백령도
2	2024년 10월 8일 23시 30분 30초	37° 56' 52"	124° 38' 8"	133.5m	백령도
3	2024년 10월 8일 23시 33분 30초	37° 56' 57"	124° 37' 54"	775.5m	백령도
4	2024년 10월 8일 23시 34분 10초	37° 56' 59"	124° 37' 37"	817.3m	백령도
5	2024년 10월 8일 23시 34분 30초	37° 57' 13"	124° 37' 19"	821m	백령도주변 해상
6	2024년 10월 8일 23시 35분 50초	37° 57' 32"	124° 35' 34"	813.1m	백령도주변 해상
7	2024년 10월 8일 23시 36분 30초	37° 58' 13"	124° 35' 32"	815.1m	백령도주변 해상
8	2024년 10월 8일 23시 45분 50초	38° 7' 11"	124° 34' 27"	818.6m	장연군주변 해상
9	2024년 10월 9일 0시 17분 2초	38° 35' 13"	124° 43' 17"	820m	초도주변 해상
10	2024년 10월 9일 0시 50분 28초	38° 56' 53"	125° 6' 35"	819.3m	남조암도주변 해상

번호	시 간	위도(북위)	경도(동경)	해발고	주변지명
11	2024년 10월 9일 1시 18분 36초	38° 57' 27"	125° 37' 55"	688m	남포시 천리마구역 교창리
12	2024년 10월 9일 1시 27분 00초	38° 57' 22"	125° 47' 29"	689.1m	평양시 력포구역 소삼정리
13	2024년 10월 9일 1시 27분 42초	38° 57' 44"	125° 48' 11"	691.1m	평양시 력포구역 소신동
14	2024년 10월 9일 1시 28분 40초	38° 58' 43"	125° 48' 11"	688.8m	평양시 사동구역 송화2동
15	2024년 10월 9일 1시 32분 8초	39° 1' 20"	125° 45' 4"	690.3m	평양시 중구역 대동문동
16	2024년 10월 9일 1시 32분 36초	39° 1' 38"	125° 44' 43"	672.9m	평양시 중구역 경루동
17	2024년 10월 9일 1시 33분 4초	39° 1' 56"	125° 44' 22"	607m	평양시 보통강구역 신원동
18	2024년 10월 9일 1시 35분 12초	39° 3' 37"	125° 44' 14"	321.9m	평양시 서성구역 석봉동 (국방성청사)
19	2024년 10월 9일 1시 35분 44초	39° 4' 1"	125° 44' 13"	248.1m	평양시 형제산구역 석전동
20	2024년 10월 9일 1시 37분 22초	39° 5' 9"	125° 44' 8"	47.7m	평양시 형제산구역 서포1동

번호	시 간	위도(북위)	경도(동경)	해발고	살포위치
1	2024년 10월 9일 1시 32분 8초	39° 1' 20"	125° 45' 4"	690.31m	외무성 과승리역사이 상공
2	2024년 10월 9일 1시 35분 11초	39° 3' 36"	125° 44' 14"	321m	국방성상공

Log on the scattering of political agitation rubbish by enemy drone

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Flight log recorded in enemy drone on October 8

# DPRK WOMEN ADVANCE TO WORLD CUP FINAL

KCNA

A quarterfinal match for the 2024 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup took place between the DPRK and Polish teams on October 26 (local time).

The DPRK team beat the Polish opponent 1-0 in the match.

A semifinal match between the DPRK and US teams will be played on October 30 (October 31 in Pyongyang time). The semi-final of the 2024 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup between the DPRK and US teams took place on October 30.

The DPRK beat the US 1-0 to be qualified for the final.

The final match is to take place on November 3.



The DPRK team beat the US opponents 1-0 in the semi-final of the 2024 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup on October 30. RODONG SINMUN

# DPRK men's football team qualifies for 2025 AFC U-17 Asian Cup



The DPRK team obtains 12 points in the total score and takes the first place in the group to qualify for the 2025 AFC U-17 Asian Cup finals. RODONG SINMUN

KCNA

The 2025 AFC U-17 Asian Cup qualifying matches are being held divided into ten groups.

The DPRK team belongs to group A and the matches of the group A are taking place in Jordan.

The DPRK team beat the

Chinese Hong Kong team 8-2, Syrian team 2-1 and Iranian team 4-1 and played the last match with the Jordanian team on October 25. It beat its opponent 3-0 in the match.

The DPRK team obtained 12 points in the total score and took the first place in the group to qualify for the 2025 AFC U-17 Asian Cup finals.

# Best footballer prize of AFC awarded to DPRK player

KCNA

Chae Un Yong, a player of the DPRK, won the 2023 best junior female footballer

prize of the AFC.

Chae has become the third winner of the prize in the DPRK after Ra Un Sim (2007) and Sung Hyang Sim (2017).

She won the best player prize for having shown her excellent performance as the captain of the DPRK team in the 2024 AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup.



# DPRK championships and inter-provincial games close

KCNA

The final matches of the Inter-Provincial Games in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Day of Sports-2024 and the closing ceremony of the DPRK Championships and the Inter-Provincial Games took place at the Taekwon-Do Palace in Pyongyang on October 30.

Present there were Kim Myong Hun, vice-premier of the Cabinet, Kim Jong Sun, department director of the Central Committee

of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, officials in the field of sports, sportspersons and the participants in the inter-provincial games.

First, there were the final matches of the Inter-Provincial Games in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Day of Sports-2024.

The Pyongyang municipal team defeated the South Phyongan provincial team in the men's volleyball game. South Hamgyong and

North Hwanghae provinces took the first place respectively in the running while carrying balls on the head and in arms and driving a ball, and the hurdling and crossword puzzle and North Hamgyong Province in the arm-wrestling.

The Pyongyang municipal team beat the North Phyongan provincial team 2-0 in the tug-of-war final match.

Then followed a closing ceremony of the national championships and the inter-provincial games.

# FA Cup tournament begins

KCNA

The FA (Football Association) Cup tournament

began in the DPRK on October 25.

Attending it are teams which took the top six

places in the 2023-2024 DPRK men's and women's premier football leagues.



# Sci-Tech Complex

The Sci-Tech Complex shaped like an atom seen from the air.

## National instruments manufacturing technology gets sophisticated

By Kim Hak Chol PT

People often appreciate the refined, soft and tuneful sound peculiar to national instruments as they listen to music from TV and radio.

The Korean ancestors created various instruments and developed them on a constant basis to meet the sentiments of life and emotion.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla that existed between the mid-3rd century BC and AD mid-7th century, various musical instruments were already made by famous musicians such as Wang San Ak, U Ruk and working people.

Musical instruments numbered over 50 in kind in that period and increased to more than 60 in the period of Koryo that existed between 918 and 1392 and nearly 80 during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

Most of the Korean national instruments have characteristics distinct from

foreign national instruments.

Though they had unique sound and delicate presentation abilities in the past, they had such shortcomings as narrow pitch range and relatively low sound volume.

But the defects were repaired under the concern of the DPRK which pursued the policy of inheriting and developing the advantages of national instruments.

In such efforts, the National Institute of Musical Instruments, which was founded in 1968, played a leading part.

Researchers and manufacturers intensified research into and manufacture of musical instruments to overcome a series of the limitations they had in the form, shape and material while preserving their original tone quality, and improved their tune system so that modern executions could be applied.

In the course of updating several national instruments from the five-tone system into the seven-tone one,

they increased the number of strings and enlarged the sound boxes of such stringed instruments as kayagum, and boosted the number of finger holes of wind instruments and newly introduced keyboard equipment (key levers) into them.

As a result, clear, soft, refined and elegant tone was further enriched, and sound range and volume were extended remarkably.

They continued to conduct research in order to overcome even slight disadvantages revealed in the course of performance in close contact with professional musicians, while constantly improving them.

As a result, many national instruments were improved and material and technical foundations were provided for creating a mixed orchestra combining with national and Western instruments.

The improved national instruments can be played while harmonizing national and Western music at the same time and be widely

used in different forms of performance including solo, ensemble and concert.

They also wrote various kinds of books that help understand national instruments and the theoretical basis for the manufacture of instruments.

The institute also intensifies the work to introduce modern science and technology into inheriting and developing national musical instruments.

It developed a string instrument quality assessment program for making a scientific analysis of the acoustic characteristics of national instruments and thus made progress in the evaluation of tone quality which was carried out by relying on hearing alone.

The work of developing traditional national musical instruments continues to be carried on under close national concern and the methods of making several national instruments were registered in the national intangible cultural heritage list.

## Ryongnim brown bear, living monument

By Song Jong Ho PT

The bear inhabits an area over 1 400 metres above sea level in a region where there stand such high peaks as Wagal Peak (2 260 metres above sea level), the highest peak of the Rangnim Mountains.

Some of the animals are 150-180cm long. They usually weigh 180-250kg. Their fur colour

varies according to zones and seasons, but it is generally dark brown or black.

The bear hibernates in a rock cave, a hollow tree or a lair it digs under a fallen tree. It goes into the hibernating place between November and December and comes

out of the place between March and April. It does not leave its fixed living place.

