

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

**He learns about the progress of the final stage of construction of the museum, the arrangement and exhibition of details about combat feats and the fixing of sculptures and symbolic memorials and highly appreciates them**



KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations under construction.

He was accompanied by senior officials of the Central Committee of the WPK and officials of the design and creative institutions.

The construction of the memorial museum is now being conducted at the 97 percent level of the total construction project.

Comrade Kim Jong Un learned about the progress of the final stage

of construction of the museum, the arrangement and exhibition of details about combat feats and the fixing of sculptures and symbolic memorials and highly appreciated them.

Saying that the museum will be a monument to the times praising the great heroic spirit of the proud sons of the DPRK and an edifice for education in patriotism, he added that a solemn ceremony of burying the remains of the martyrs there would be held in mid-April and the museum be inaugurated with due ceremony on the occasion of the first anniversary of the conclusion of the operations for liberating Kursk.

That day he ratified a structural plan for assigning the museum to a relevant department of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army.

## Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un inspects service facilities in fourth-stage district of Hwasong area nearing inauguration

**He specifies important tasks to be tackled in creating a new Korean-style service culture**

KCNA

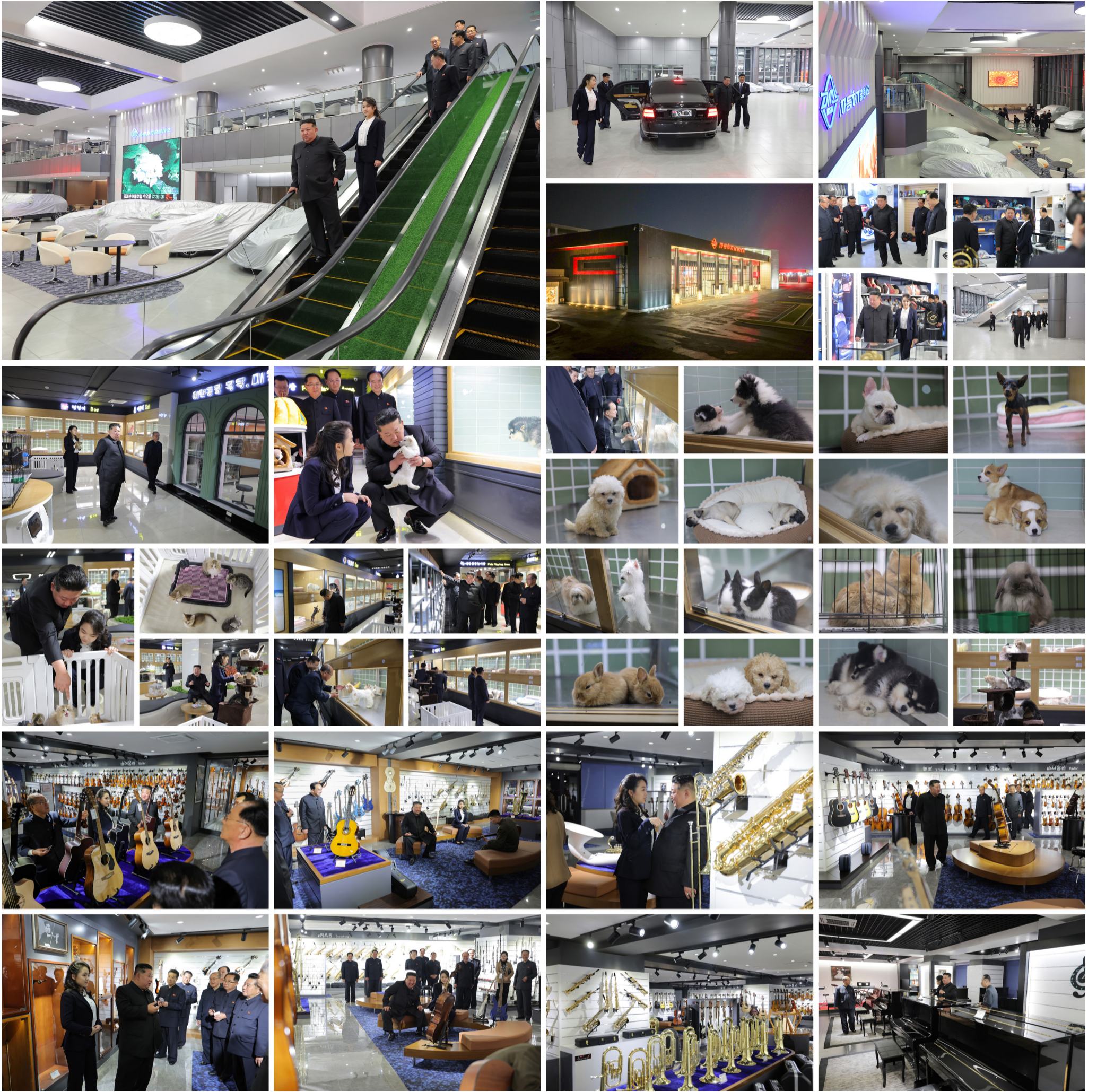
The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un,

General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic

of Korea, went around various service facilities in the fourth-stage district of the Hwasong area nearing inauguration in

order to learn about the preparations for

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their operation.

The new street in the Hwasong area, which has turned into a splendid symbol of civilization in the present era according to the grand capital city construction plan of the Party and under its energetic guidance, is now brimming with the joy and excitement of citizens marking the auspicious occasion of moving into new houses. Against this backdrop, various service bases which will contribute to improving the wellbeing of the people are finalizing the preparations for inauguration.

Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the Misan Motor Service Centre first.

He appreciated that all components of the service centre, which is fully furnished with modern equipment and a comprehensive repair service system necessary for technical service for

different kinds of vehicles and which envisages providing various car parts and accessories and various other goods capable of fully meeting the tastes and hobbies of customers, are arranged immaculately to ensure convenience and specialization.

Saying that the Misan Motor Service Centre is the second of its kind in the Hwasong area, built according to the Party's policy on steadily pioneering and expanding in various forms and ways new service categories for rapidly improving the material and cultural welfare of the people, he pointed to the need for the centre to contribute to promoting the business and cultural life of institutions and enterprises at all levels and working people through specialized technical and repair service activities.

Then he visited the Hwasong Pet Store.

He saw different kinds of pets on the first and second floors of the shop.



He said that as the households keeping pets are increasing in the capital and regions nowadays, he saw to it that a new shop was built to sell pets and various accessories and offer specialized service, and gave official instructions on a series of issues arising in management and veterinary service.

Referring to the production state of various kinds of pet-care tools, feeds and veterinary medicines, he stressed the need to take measures to increase production in the future.

Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the Hwasong Musical Instrument Shop and looked round its exhibition areas.

He said it is praiseworthy for the shop to have furnished itself with age-specific and various musical instruments and a variety of supplies for music enthusiasts, students and professional players and applied a new innovative display method so as to ensure convenience in service.

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# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un oversees training of special operations sub-units at all levels of KPA

## He expresses his views on the direction of the reorganization of the special operations forces of the army, to be implemented in the future, and the relevant measures



KCNA

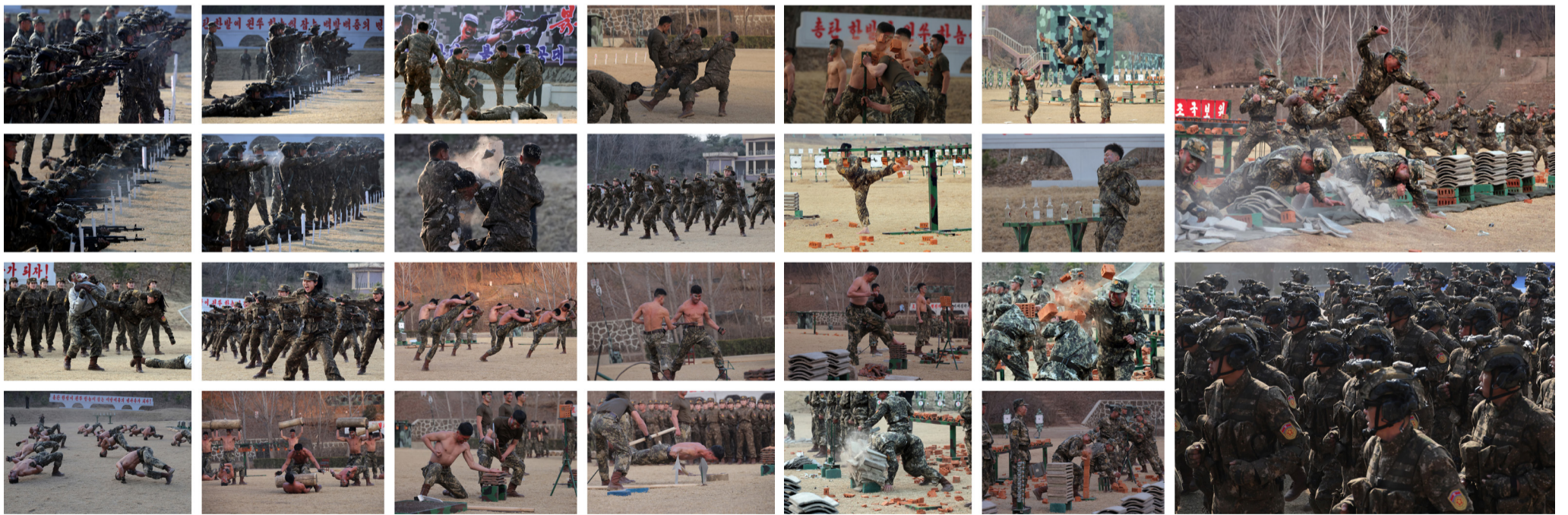
The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic

of Korea, visited the special operations training base directly under the authority of the Operations Bureau of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army to acquaint himself with the training of special operations sub-units at all levels.

The training base overflowed with the high spirit of combatants of special operations sub-units, full of a burning desire to give pleasure and satisfaction to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who steadily continues to visit the

frontline posts for bolstering up the military capabilities for defending the security of the country and the people, through their demonstration of the

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Saying it is very important to raise the level of specialization according to business types also in service like in all other fields and realms of cultural life, he referred to the need to set up various service types capable of satisfying the people's ever-growing material and cultural demands in the arrangement of service facilities and focus on raising the

level of specialization. That day, he also learned about the preparations for operation of a new barber's and beauty parlour. Saying that neighbourhood-serving amenities constitute essential elements in creating a cultured and hygienic environment and civilized living space in the formation of city blocks, he called for steadily improving the quality of service on the principle of fully meeting

the aesthetic tastes and convenience of customers. Noting that it is a responsible undertaking, as important as a huge construction project, to manage and operate the leisure facilities well so that they could serve as a valuable foundation for the development of socialist civilization, now that such assets for the people are increasing, he specified important tasks to be tackled in creating a

new Korean-style service culture. He warmly encouraged the service workers in Hwasong Street, hoping that they would achieve successes in their activities with the viewpoint that they are loyal servants of the masses of the people. And he instructed the officials to open the service facilities on the occasion of the significant Day of the Sun, the birthday of President Kim Il Sung.



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greatest fighting efficiency.

He was greeted on the spot by No Kwang Chol, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, Ri Yong Gil, chief of the KPA General Staff, Kim Song Gi, director of the KPA General Political Bureau, and other military and political commanding officers of the headquarters of the Ministry of National Defence and services and large combined units.

All the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers, looking up to the ever-victorious and iron-willed brilliant commander who is ushering in a great heyday in building a powerful army with his outstanding military strategic idea and extraordinary commanding art.

The training of the day was aimed at assessing the capabilities of physical and military actions of the combatants of special operations sub-units at all levels.

It was observed by major leading officials of the Party and the government.

The special operations sub-units of services and large combined units at all levels, which have substantially boosted the matchless combat efficiency, leaving vivid footprints of loyalty and patriotism in the difficult and arduous training course, true to the Party's training-first policy, fully displayed their excellent marksmanship and military technical and physical abilities in a competitive way.

Our army at all levels should get perfectly prepared in conformity with the trend of modern warfare by thoroughly implementing and applying the Juche-oriented policy of bringing about a radical turn in training, well aware of the iron truth that sweating more in training in peacetime can result in bleeding less in the battlefield, Comrade Kim Jong Un stressed.

He expressed his views on the

direction of the reorganization of the special operations forces of the army, to be implemented in the future, and the relevant measures.

That day, there was a power demonstration by ace combatants of special operations sub-units.

The soldiers in the demonstration strikingly showed the physical and technical abilities they have acquired to be a-match-for-a hundred combatants with iron fists, unrivalled fighters.

Watching with pleasure the women special warfare soldiers full of self-confidence under training, Comrade Kim Jong Un warmly encouraged them.

The leading officials extended warm applause and unstinting praise to the soldiers, watching their training pulsating with the heroic stamina and the fighting spirit to surely annihilate the enemy and emerge victorious, once they fight.

Expressing great satisfaction at the

absolute might and matchless courage of the special operations forces, the pivotal component of the KPA reliably defending the sovereignty of the DPRK and the wellbeing of its people, Comrade Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with the reliable and admirable officers and soldiers.

After the photo session was over, the passionate guards broke into thunderous cheers of absolute loyalty as a token of their determination to devotedly defend the Party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Comrade Kim Jong Un expressed belief that the units at all levels of the KPA, the main force for national defence in direct charge of fighting a war, would as ever remain faithful to the sacred mission of defending the country, the revolution and the people and reliably guarantee the victorious advance of the DPRK and its cause with powerful military strength.

# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un oversees test organized by Armoured Weapons Institute of Academy of Defence Sciences

## He expresses great satisfaction over the excellence of the new-type main battle tank



KCNA

The respected Comrade 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 a test of assessing the tank performance organized by the Armoured Weapons Institute of the Academy of Defence Sciences.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction over the relevant test, saying that it served as an occasion to show well through practical

action, not by words how excellent the DPRK's new-type main battle tank is and how dependable combat means it is.

Today's test, he said, proved that the functionality of our new-type MBT's interceptor system is fully equipped with a capability for thoroughly destroying almost all existing anti-tank means.

It has been confirmed again there is little doubt about our already declared

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view that no tank in the world would be comparable to this tank, he said,

commenting on the new-type MBT which demonstrated remarkable combat performance. The tests, conducted in various

aspects on the day to check the active self-defensive system of the new-type MBT, examined in detail the combat effectiveness of the self-defensive system

against anti-tank means attacking from different directions and confirmed the perfect defensive function with 100 percent probability.

# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un oversees static firing test of high-thrust carbon fibre solid-fuel engine

## He refers to the strategic significance of the test on the upgraded engine



KCNA

The respected Comrade 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 a static firing test of high-thrust solid-fuel engine using the composite carbon fibre material.

The maximum thrust of the newly upgraded solid-fuel engine is 2 500kN and the test is part of the national defence development plan in the new five-year

period which set the steady upgrading of strategic strike means as a major goal.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was accompanied by Jo Chun Ryong, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK.

He referred to the strategic significance of the upgraded engine's test.

He said that the test of great significance in putting the country's strategic military muscle on the highest level fully conforms with the national strategy on

the modernization of strategic forces and the relevant military demand.

He affirmed that the development trend of the DPRK's defence capabilities, which has already entered a significant phase of change in the building of the strategic forces, would be further promoted and accelerated by the development and introduction of better components with superior economic and technical effectiveness as those proven in the test.

He referred to the major tasks for further stepping up the development

of the national strategic forces both in quality and quantity.

Present at the test were Kim Jong Sik, first deputy department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, Jang Chang Ha, director general of the Missile Administration of the DPRK, officials of the Missile Administration and the missile research sector and scientists, technicians and officials of the relevant sector including the Institute of Solid-fuel Engine and the Missile Engine Production Factory.

# Enlarged plenary meeting of Cabinet Committee of WPK held

KCNA

An enlarged plenary meeting of the Cabinet Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held on April 1 to vow to carry through the important tasks set forth in the historic policy speech made by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly.

Present there were Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central

Committee of the WPK, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, Kim Tok Hun, first vice-premier of the Cabinet, Pak Jong Gun, vice-premier of the Cabinet and chairman of the State Planning Commission, Ri Yong Sik, chief secretary of the Cabinet Committee of the WPK, and members and alternate members of the Cabinet Committee of the WPK. And officials concerned were on hand as observers.

The plenary meeting discussed and decided on

measures for thoroughly carrying out the important tasks set forth in the historic policy speech by firmly adhering to the line of the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural.

There was an in-depth discussion on the draft decision drawn up on the basis of the policy speech.

The decision calls upon the Party organizations of the Cabinet, ministries and national agencies to hold fast to the strategic line of the WPK and conduct effective organizational and political

work for consolidating the political and ideological unity of the whole society and all the people.

It also expounds the ways for more vigorously accelerating the three revolutions by consistently sticking to the principle of independence, self-sustenance and self-reliance in defence and the people-first ideal in the state building and activities.

It stresses the need for all the Party organizations to intensify the control and guidance for successfully carrying out the new five-

year plan, true to the Party's economic development strategy for stabilizing and consolidating the national economy and bringing about its gradual qualitative development.

The decision clearly clarifies the issue of more strictly establishing the socialist lifestyle and moral discipline throughout society and the issue for the officials of the state economic guidance organs to fulfil their duty in the struggle for the prosperity and development of the country and the wellbeing of the

people.

The plenary meeting underlined the need to map out a rational methodology for realizing the unified state command over the overall economic work, establish the strict discipline for carrying out plans and bring about a remarkable change and epochal advance in socialist economic construction.

The decision, perfected amid the great enthusiasm of the participants, was unanimously approved at the plenary meeting.

Then resolution-making speeches were made.

## Russian TASS delegation visits DPRK

KCNA

A Russian TASS delegation led by its Director General Andrei Kondrashov visited the DPRK from March 28 to 31.

An agreement on exchange of news articles and cooperation between the Korean Central News Agency and TASS was signed in Pyongyang on March 28.

Present at the signing ceremony from the DPRK side were Kim Pyong Ho, general director of the Korean Central News Agency, and officials concerned, and from the Russian side a delegation of TASS led by its Director General Andrei Kondrashov and Vladimir Topcha, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Russian embassy in Pyongyang, and staff members of his embassy.

Kim Pyong Ho and Andrei Kondrashov signed the agreement.

The TASS delegation

visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on March 29 to pay high tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Andrei Kondrashov made an entry in the visitor's book.

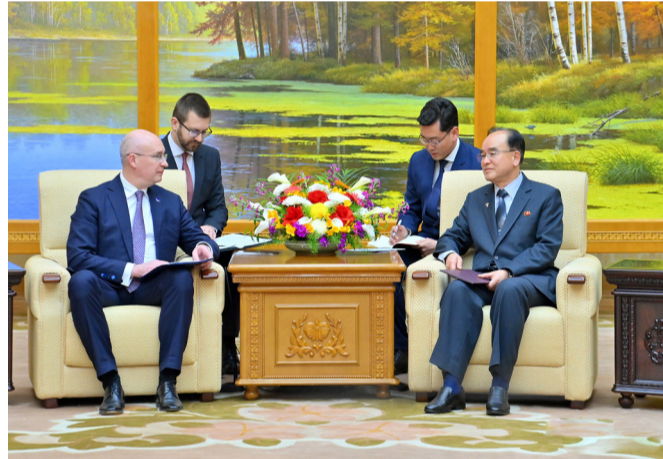
Jo Yong Won, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, met with the Russian delegation at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on March 30.

He had a talk with the delegation in a friendly atmosphere.

Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the DPRK, met with the TASS delegation on March 30.

She warmly welcomed the delegation's visit to the DPRK.

Andrei Kondrashov explained his impressions of being deeply moved by the development of the DPRK and the kind hospitality during his visit, expressing the willingness to sincerely



Jo Yong Won, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, meets with the Russian TASS delegation led by Director General Andrei Kondrashov at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall on March 30.

implement the agreement between the news agencies of the two countries in the spirit of the treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership between Russia and the DPRK.

Present there were officials of the DPRK foreign ministry and the charge d'affaires

ad interim of the Russian embassy in Pyongyang.

The delegation visited Mangyongdae, the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung, the National Gifts Exhibition House, the Pyongyang Metro, the Liberation Tower and the Jongback Church.

## 34th April Spring Friendship Art Festival opens in Pyongyang

KCNA

The 34th April Spring Friendship Art Festival opened in Pyongyang to mark the 114th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

The festival has brought together famous art troupes, dance troupes and circus troupes of dozens of countries and art troupes of overseas Koreans.

Introduced through a video dealing with the news of the festival opening were the form, method and scale of the current festival and congratulatory speeches made by personages of various circles and performances of artistes in different countries.

Hyon Un Chol, minister of Culture of the DPRK who is chairman of the festival organizing committee, warmly congratulated the creators and artistes of different countries and overseas compatriot artistes participating in the festival. And he declared the opening of the festival, expressing belief that the festival would mark a significant occasion in boosting cultural exchange and cooperation in line

with the expectations of the DPRK people and the world progressives.

The minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, the minister of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, the minister of Culture and Tourism of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and other personages of various circles said that the April Spring Friendship Art Festival is an important occasion for cultural and artistic exchange and collaboration among countries as worldwide art festival which has been well known for a long period. They wished the festival success.

Artistes of the Russian Army Academic Song and Dance Ensemble Named after Alexandrov presented such colourful numbers as mixed choruses of immortal revolutionary hymns "Song of General Kim Il Sung" and "Song of General Kim Jong Il", mixed chorus "Care of My Destiny" (Korean song), male solo and chorus "On Steppe under Bright Sun" and others to significantly decorate the opening of the festival.

## Prizes conferred on scientists and technicians

KCNA

A ceremony for awarding the February 16 Science and Technology Prize, Natural Science Prize, Technical Innovation Prize, certificates of Best Scientist and Technician of the State and Prize for Best Inventor in 2025 was held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on March 31.

Present there were Jon Sung Guk, vice-premier of the Cabinet, Sin Il Chol, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Song Bin, chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, Kim Sung Jin, president of the

State Academy of Sciences, officials concerned, scientists and technicians.

Announced at the ceremony was a decision of the non-permanent committee for the examination of the February 16 Science and Technology Prize.

The diploma and medal of the February 16 Science and Technology Prize were conferred on ten projects which contributed to the country's economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, the diploma of the Natural Science Prize on one project and the diploma of the Technical Innovation Prize on six projects, together with relevant awards.

Certificates of the February 16 Science and Technology Prize were awarded to 134 scientists, technicians and lecturers of universities and scientific research units, certificates of the Natural Science Prize to eight researchers and certificates of the Technical Innovation Prize to 59 scientists and technicians of different units.

Kim Song Mu, section chief of the Material Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University, Pak Hyon Uk, director of the Geology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, Min Kwang Sik, a researcher of the Metal Engineering Faculty of Kim Chack University of Technology, Sin Kyong

Il, dean of the Hydraulic Engineering Faculty of Hamhung University of Hydraulic Engineering, Ri Jong Guk, section chief of the Agrochemistry Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science, Hong Song Sik, institute director of the Academy of Poultry Science, and Hyon Chol Ung, a researcher of the Phohang District Sci-tech Commission in Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province, were selected as the best scientists and technicians of the state in 2025 and certificates were awarded to them.

The Prize for Best Inventor in 2025 and the relevant awards were conferred on other persons.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Centenarians receive birthday spreads

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent birthday spreads to Choe Ho Won, a woman living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 55, Samma-dong, Jongju City, North Phyongan Province, and Ri Mun Hwa, a woman living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 20, Ryongsan-ri, Ryokpho District, Pyongyang, on their 100th birthdays.

They expressed their deep gratitude to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un for having shown his loving

care for the ordinary old women.

### Students in Pyongyang give grand chorus performances

Grand chorus performances were given by students of graduating classes of senior middle schools in different districts of Pyongyang.

They clearly demonstrated the noble spiritual world of students in the capital city who are determined to glorify their worthwhile youth with feats at the posts for national defence.

# Children provided with school things

KCNA  
On the occasion of the school-opening day, the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un sent Haecbaragi(sunflower)-brand

school things to the children at all the revolutionary schools and primary and middle schools for orphans across the country and those at schools in the villages and army posts on islands.

Receiving the school things, the children of the revolutionary schools, including Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, Chilgol Revolutionary School and Nampho Revolutionary

School, hardened their will to steadfastly carry forward the traditions of loyalty and patriotism as their parents did. All the primary and middle schools for orphans and island villages and posts in

the east and west seas of the country overflowed with the warm affection of the tender-hearted father. Seeing the pupils receiving school supplies with pleasure, the teaching staffs vowed

to devote themselves to the education of the younger generation. The schoolchildren and their parents extended thanks to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un.

# New school year for 2026 begins in the DPRK

KCNA  
School-opening ceremonies took place on April 1 at all educational institutions in the DPRK, from the capital city to remote mountain and island villages.

devoted their wisdom and enthusiasm to the preparations for the new school year to implement the second universal 12-year compulsory education programme and the educational programmes of universities according to subjects.

entrants of primary and junior middle schools, were seen going to schools in new uniforms with Sonamu bags carrying Mindulle notebooks and Haecbaragi-brand school things.

Universities, colleges and other schools in Pyongyang were in a festive mood ahead of school-opening

ceremonies. The educational bases in other parts of the country were also overflowing with excitement and joy of the new generation.

National flag-hoisting ceremonies took place at universities, colleges and other schools prior to the school-opening ceremonies

for the new school year. Officials of the Party and power organs and relevant organs, teaching staff and students congratulated the new entrants, giving them bouquets.

At the school-opening ceremonies, speakers stressed that as it is led by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un,

the DPRK will turn into a country of education prospering with education. Schoolchildren expressed their determination to grow up to be successors to the revolution and pillars in building a thriving nation. After the ceremonies, the first lessons for the new school year began.



School-opening ceremonies are held at all educational institutions across the country from the capital city of Pyongyang to remote mountain and island villages on April 1.

## Title of 10 best teachers for 2025 awarded

KCNA  
Those educators who have devoted their pure conscience and sincere efforts to the education of the rising generation were selected as the ten best teachers for 2025 in the DPRK.

A meeting for awarding the title of the ten best teachers for 2025 took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on March 31.

Present there were Jon In Chol, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials and teachers in the field of education.

Jon Sung Guk, vice-premier of the Cabinet, made a speech at the meeting.

The certificates of ten best teachers for 2025 were conferred on Ri Chol, a lecturer

of Kim Chol Ju University of Education, Rim Hye Sim, a teacher of Jungdok Primary School in Phyongsong City affiliated to Phyongsong Teachers Training College, Kang Sun Hwa, a teacher of Jongju Primary School in Jongju City, Kim Un Hye, a teacher of Haeun Primary School in Haeju City, Kim Hyang Gum, a teacher of Anchang Senior Middle School in Rinsan County, Kim Myong Ok, a teacher of Phyonggang Primary School in Phyonggang County, Kim Yun Bong, a teacher of Kwangpho Senior Middle School in Jongphyong County, Yun Jong Hwa, a teacher of Hyejang Primary School in Hyesan City, Kim Un Suk, a teacher of Nongsa Senior Middle School in Taehongdan County, and Ri Un Chol, section chief of Kanggye Teachers Training College.

## School-opening ceremony held at Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities

KCNA  
A ceremony took place to start the new school year at the Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities on April 1.

Present there were Jon

Chol Hi, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, officials concerned, children, nurses, kindergarten teachers and doctors of the rehabilitation centre and parents.

At the ceremony, Song Hyang Chun, director of the rehabilitation centre, made remarks to be followed by speeches.

The speakers said that the children with disabilities will enjoy a brighter and more cheerful life under the benefits of the grateful

socialist system, expressing the resolve to fulfil their responsibility and duty in upholding the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea for protecting the disabled. Then the participants looked round various places of the rehabilitation centre.



The new school year for 2026 begins after due ceremony at the Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities on April 1.

# New rural villages continue to spring up

By **Kwon Hyo Song** PT

Many rural villages have undergone transformation in different parts of the country.

Since the programme of a rural revolution in the new era was put forward at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, tangible progress was made in its implementation in the past four years, resulting in the construction of modern houses for over 113 000 families in more than 1 860 farm villages at 500-odd farms across the country.

At the plenary meeting held in December 2021, the respected General Secretary

Kim Jong Un set it as the most important task in socialist rural construction to radically change the appearance and environment of the countryside. Later he unfolded a bright blueprint for rural construction at the historic plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee that followed.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly and other meetings adopted the laws of the DPRK on the development of cities and counties, socialist rural development and provision of cement to cities and counties for their construction.

A unified work system was established to

provide guidance on rural construction, the strong architectural design and construction forces were formed in the provinces, and the material and technical foundations of the building-materials industry and the construction units in cities and counties were consolidated. And the state took timely measures to supply materials necessary for the construction of farmhouses.

A nationwide and all-people campaign was waged vigorously to implement the Party's policy on rural construction.

Thanks to the noble intention of the General Secretary, the housing construction started at the

farms with the poorest conditions and the outlying mountain villages and continued without letup even in the worst situation of the emergency anti-epidemic campaign. As a result, modern houses for more than 25 600 families were built across the country in 2022, the first year of rural housing construction.

With the scenes of moving into new houses unfolding in the socialist rural areas every year, many farm villages across the country underwent a complete change over the past four years.

Modern farmhouses for more than 6 700 families were built in 50-odd villages of over a dozen farms in Pyongyang and those for

over 13 000 families sprang up in more than 200 villages of over 80 farms in North Phyongan Province including the Ryonghung Farm in Thacchon County and the Tokjang Farm in Jongju City. In total, over 1 860 villages of 500-odd farms turned into ideal socialist villages in the recent years.

The goals and standards of creation were steadily updated as the rural housing construction went full steam ahead.

The styles of farmhouses constantly evolved according to the plan of the WPK to design them in such a way as that they preserve the local topographical features and in non-repetitive and diverse

styles and steadily develop the designs.

Last year alone, over 32 000 farmhouses were built across the country in various structures and forms, thousands of more than those in 2022, adding to the beautiful scenery peculiar to the countryside.

True to the Party's intention to include not only dwelling houses but also public and production buildings in the rural construction programme, modern public and production buildings were newly built at several farms such as the Tapsang Farm in Unsan County, the Yokkudo Farm in Pacchon County and Yombun Farm in Kyongsong County.



New dwelling houses rise up in large numbers of rural villages.

## Masters of totally changed village

By **Kim Il Jin** PT

As the people's happiness grows with the appearance of beautiful socialist villages across the country, the fourth ceremony of moving into new houses took place at the Janggyo Farm in Kangnam County in September.

The beautiful and charming farm village built against the vast fields, changed beyond recognition in the past four years.

Each of the new single- and low-storey and terraced houses is quite spectacular as it boasts its own unique architectural and modern beauty.

The farm village, lined with various fruit trees in harmony with other trees like metasequoia, thuja, zelkova, pine and ginkgo, unfolds an idyllic setting.

Seeing the village, people say that it looks like a picture

or a village of nice villas.

The masters of the totally changed village are ordinary agricultural workers.

They enjoy a happy life in new houses allotted by the state gratis.

Ri Chan Jin, workteam leader living in a terraced house, said, "The stairs in the house are so convenient that even my old parents say they feel no difficulty using them. And the kitchen is quite good as it is sunny with its floor covered with white tiles. The communal domestic animal shed, where pigs, goats, rabbits and others can be raised, is furnished with an anti-epizootic room and hygienic passing room and provided with a condition for treating animals' excrement to produce manure a lot. I really feel like I am dreaming."

Jon Sang Su, an old man living in a low-storeyed

house, said that he is in good health in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea and his new house has a balcony where he finds himself refreshing as he can take the air and do exercises there and enjoy the panoramic view of the village from it at any time. Now the local farmers are living happily in a world of wonders of civilization with nothing more to desire.

The state has provided farmers with all the new houses built with much effort since the first year of the implementation of the programme for the rural revolution.

"I'm so grateful to the country for providing us farmers with such wonderful houses built with much effort. I feel ashamed of myself for having failed to work hard in the past. I will fulfil my duty as a master responsible for the country's granary," said

Yun Song Hui, a farmer of the farm.

Amid the events of moving into new houses taking place continuously in Janggyo-

ri in the past four years, all farmers there have keenly felt gratitude for the country's great love and made a firm resolve to repay the

country.

All residents of Janggyo-ri are now working hard for the good of the country and farm.



Residents lead a happy life in the village of Janggyo Farm in Kangnam County which has undergone a remarkable change.

# Pleasant time at Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp

By **Kim Hak Chol** PT

The Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp opened in February after being renovated as a comprehensive recreation and medical service base.

A large number of working people now visit it to enjoy themselves.

## Holiday camp for working people

The word *onpho* means a hot spring.

The Onpho hot spring has been well known for being very good for human health and medical treatment since olden times.

As for its pharmacological effect, the hot spring helps treat such diseases and conditions of chronic gastritis hyperacida, chronic enterocolitis, chronic bronchitis, mild diabetes,

obesity, neuralgia, eczema, urticaria and autonomic nerve dysfunction.

The Onpho hot-spring area, which is in a quiet valley surrounded by high and low mountains, is the best for climate and spa therapy as the hot spring never dries up all the year round.

It was in 1947, after Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (August 15 1945), that a holiday camp for the working people was built in the area. It is said that hundreds of thousands of working people visited the camp for 70 years until 2017.

In July 2018, General Secretary Kim Jong Un visited the Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp in North Hamgyong Province during his field guidance over various sectors of the province. At that time, he gave

instructions that the holiday camp in the famous hot-spring area should be newly built into a comprehensive recreation and medical service base so that the people can receive spa therapy while enjoying highly-civilized cultural and leisure activities.

While giving his guidance over the construction project in March 2025, he learned in detail about the progress in the construction and set forth important tasks to be tackled in the construction of the holiday camp and its future management and operation.

Last January, the General Secretary attended the inaugural ceremony of the Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp spruced up as a monumental edifice that can represent the hot spring culture of the country and was so pleased to see another excellent cultural life base

for the people that he cut the inauguration tape and looked round different places of the holiday camp.

## Without knowing the passage of time

On arrival at the holiday camp, holidaymakers make for spas, eager to enter the world of hot spring civilization, after taking off their travelling attire.

There are indoor and outdoor spas, and they are connected by an access corridor so that people can move freely between them at any time.

People beam warming themselves in the steamy pools of the indoor spa.

March is spring in the country, but trees and several places of the outdoor spa are still covered with snow in contrast to the steamy pools there.

To enjoy the distinctive feelings aroused by the circumstances, people soak in diverse forms of pools, cheerfully laughing with joy and optimism.

After sweating in spa bath, they get out of the pools and lie on recliners to cool themselves or go to the soft drink stand to refresh themselves while enjoying the view of the spa.

Strolling round the camp in the fresh air also produces therapeutic effects.

Jo Mi Suk, director of the holiday camp, who has been working at the holiday camp for over three decades, said it is climate therapy as effective as spa therapy, adding that the air in the Onpho hot-spring area is clear and clean and rich in anion and that the view of the modernized holiday camp might produce better therapeutic effects as it adds

to the holidaymakers' sense of security and happiness.

Around the spa there is a spa treatment facility which has rooms for the combination of spa bath and sand bath, underwater traction for the treatment of spinal diseases, limbs bath, inhalation and so on, where the holidaymakers receive kind medical service from medical workers.

After getting spa therapy, the holidaymakers get such services like haircut and beauty treatment at various welfare service facilities or have a good time playing sports and amusement games at a gym, sports park, table tennis house and indoor golf course.

The night of the holiday camp inspires optimism in the holidaymakers in its own way.

They relish the view of the brightly-lit holiday camp while having photos taken here and there.



## 'I want to come here again'

We high-yielding farmers of Jagang Province have had a pleasant holiday here.

It was a special pleasure to have a spa bath, enjoying beautiful topographical features, and I felt as if I were young again after getting beauty treatments.

Besides, we met labour innovators, meritorious persons and high-yielding farmers from different parts of the country, who, like us, had the privilege of coming to this holiday camp for the first-term holiday since its inauguration, and built friendship and exchanged experiences with them.

Life at the holiday camp has restored our health and vitality and provided us with unforgettable pleasure.

**Pak Kyong Ok**, farmer of the Hwachang Farm of Wiwon County

It must be us people of North Hamgyong Province who are most glad of the construction of the Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp.

We were very envious of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort built in South Phyongan Province.

Now that a wonderful hot spring resort has been built in our province, we can enjoy a pleasant holiday there at any time.

I have had a really pleasant time here with my family.

**Hyon Kum Suk**, resident of Phohang District, Chongjin

My family and I stayed at one of private lodgings of the holiday camp.

It is the one the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un looked around after attending the inauguration ceremony of the camp.

We have really had a fun-filled holiday at the camp associated with the loving care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who intends to provide the people with all the best things in the world.

I want to come here again and I'm reluctant to leave here.

**Ju Il Hyon**, resident of Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province



Many working people have a pleasant time at the Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp.

# Immutable principle and ideal in state building and activities

By Pak Song Min PT

Independence is an immutable principle in state building and activities.

The DPRK has invariably worked out the way of its development despite the changes in the situation thanks to the principle of independence it has applied to the state building and activities in the whole period since its founding.

Today the cause of building a socialist state in the country has entered the period of switching over to the next stage after achieving a stage of development in all fields.

This is also the result it has obtained by stoutly carving out the path of its own style for its development and steadily increasing its potential by its own efforts, not the one provided by any external help or the accumulation of time.

Over the past seven years from 2019, when the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held, to the recent First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, the DPRK has successfully fulfilled its long-term development plan for

the first time in the economic field in decades to lay a foundation for the growth of production, opened up a new era of overall development for simultaneously transforming the whole country and further expanded the policies for the people.

In the period of the past five-year plan for the development of the national economy the state investment in the major economic sectors increased 2.4 times more than before, with that in the core sector rising over eight times, and marked progress was made in the economic growth and upgrading of the technological infrastructure.

As compared to previously, more national forces and financial resources have been directed to providing the people with cultured living conditions and environment and promoting their well-being, including the massive housing construction and expansion of cultural and service facilities, and changes have taken place in succession and simultaneously in the capital and all other parts of the country.

It is a source of our pride and proud asset that we have not yielded to the harsh

ordeals and difficulties, but defended the right to independent development with which we can decide and shape our present and future according to our own faith and that our self-confidence, courage and ability to support its realization have grown.

This is our asset which we would never have achieved if we had believed in others and expected help from others.

The people-first principle is the immutable political ideal of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In his policy speech at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un indicated the tasks and practical ways for further expanding and developing the new trend of overall development and the ever-increasing people-oriented policies.

During the period of the new long-term plan, many projects for the people will be pushed forward, such as the development of agriculture, fisheries and light industry and the proper settlement of the housing problem which are directly linked to the people's living, the

development of the Samjiyon area and other local beauty spots into distinctive tourist and cultural areas and the building of cultural and holiday resorts throughout the country, the consolidation of educational foundations, the correct implementation of socialist policies for students, the eternal state policies of the DPRK, and the modernization of public health.

The regional development programme to improve the living conditions of the regional people will also be forged ahead without delay.

Five years later, the 70-percent areas of the country will be filled with new entities of development and civilization including the already completed projects.

And all coal-mining villages will undergo a complete change during the period of the new five-year plan.

As in the past, the DPRK government consistently adheres to the principle of independence and the people-first ideal in state building and activities, opening up a new stage of the overall development of socialism.

# Juche idea eternal banner of victory

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The history of the Korean revolution is the course in which the Juche idea was embodied and won victory in full measure.

On March 31, 1982, Chairman Kim Jong Il made public the work "On the Juche Idea" to comprehensively clarify the principles of the Juche idea founded by President Kim Il Sung.

In the work the Chairman set the philosophical, socio-historical and guiding principles of the Juche idea as the main topic and elucidated them scientifically and theoretically, extensively and in depth.

The Juche idea is a powerful ideological weapon to strengthen the internal driving force of the Korean revolution in every way.

An important idea of the work is that you can promote the revolution on your own initiative when the internal driving force has been prepared and the masses' ideological level is high, even though other conditions are unfavourable.

The Juche idea specifies matters of principle and ways arising in strengthening and developing the Party and revolutionary ranks into a body which is ideologically pure, organizationally integrated and unified in action.

The thoughts and theories clarified by the Juche idea, including the idea on the position and role of the leader in the revolutionary struggle and the idea of building up political forces by firmly uniting all the people around the Party and the leader, are the precious guidelines that should consistently be held fast to in constantly strengthening the internal driving force of the revolution.

The Juche idea is a banner which makes it possible to reliably defend Korean-style

socialism by bolstering up national defence capability.

In the work the Chairman pointed to the need to keep faithfully following the line of self-reliance in national defence so as to further strengthen the armed forces for self-defence to be invincible ones and reliably protect the country and the gains of the revolution from any aggressive moves of enemies.

Self-reliance in national defence is a fundamental principle in building an independent and sovereign state.

The Juche idea contains profound thoughts that give clear answers to practical issues arising in building an independent and sovereign state. They include the idea that the decisive factor for victory in war is the great political enthusiasm and revolutionary devotion of the masses of the people, the one on building and developing national defence industry and the one on establishing a defence system involving all the people and the whole country.

The Juche idea is the motive power to make uninterrupted leaps forward and innovations in socialist construction under the uplifted banner of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

In the work the Chairman also set forth the idea that only when you enlist the strength of your people and the resources of your country and rely on your financial resources and technology on the principle of self-reliance will you be able to develop the economy at a fast rate on your own initiative and achieve national prosperity by overcoming all difficulties.

For nearly half a century since the publication of the work, the Korean revolution has recorded victory and glory in its history, demonstrating the validity and truthfulness of the Juche idea.

## People's belief—Party's policy is best

By Pang Un Ju PT

Scenes of moving into new houses have been unfolded in Saepyo Street and the Hwasong area in Pyongyang.

The Korean people now regard it as commonplace to hear the news about the appearance of new houses, factories and hospitals everywhere in the country.

However, they are impressed by the voices of sincere gratitude that can be heard everywhere.

The Workers' Party of Korea's policy actually ensures the people wellbeing and a happy life. When the Party puts forward a policy for the people, it soon becomes a true entity.

"Our Party's policy is best." This is the public sentiment in this country.

The past five years filled with auspicious events

were all so inspiring, and the public sentiment in December last year grew stronger as they greeted the second inauguration season which highlighted the perfect implementation of the Party's regional development policy.

An old man at the advanced age of 80, who visited new regional-industry factories built in Rangnim County, a remote mountainous county, saying he was determined to go to see them even with the help of a walking stick, said:

"This is the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, I've now understood. I never imagined I would be able to see its entities with my own eyes so soon. I wish I could live long in the good era of the Workers' Party of Korea in which the benevolence of our Marshal Kim Jong Un reaches even this remote

mountain region."

As its residents say in unison, Rangnim County used to have few visitors and no particular laudable speciality as it is a remote mountain region.

Now, however, the country has built regional-industry factories in the county and its residents are benefiting from them.

New smart factories have been built in other counties with poor economic foundations, including Puryong, Taegwan and Janggang counties, to mass-produce goods with the local brands and all the locals can hardly repress their excitement.

In retrospect, everybody was surprised when the Party's policy to develop onto a higher stage the basic material and cultural living standards of regional people across the country

at the earliest date possible by pushing forward with the regional industrial development was named Regional Development 20x10 Policy at the Tenth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

Later, however, the first entities of the policy sprang up in less than a year thanks to the warm care of the Party intending to provide the people with a new, civilized and prosperous life as soon as possible.

The second year in implementing the Party's regional development policy witnessed the appearance of hospitals and leisure complexes more wonderful than visualized as well as modern regional-industry factories.

As the people's assets increase with the passage of time, all of them say that the Party's policy is best.

## BYWORD

## Capacity for self-development

The capacity for self-development is the ability to make oneself stronger by one's own efforts. In other words, it is the integrated whole of political, military, economic and technological power with which to guarantee

the dignity, well-being, prosperity and happiness of the country and people by their own efforts, not relying on others.

The Korean people, aware that they are masters of their own destiny and that they have the power to shape their

destiny, are stepping up the revolution and construction vigorously, upholding the self-development-first principle.

The Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea stressed that the new five-year struggle would

also rely completely on the country's internal force, the great might of the people, and that the ideals of "The people are god," single-hearted unity and self-reliance will be invariably uplifted as a banner of struggle and advance.

## Contact us

Address: Sochon-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang  
Tel: 850-2-18111(8456)  
Email: flph@star-co.net.kp  
Fax: 850-2-3814598

URL: www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp



# Development of nuclear energy, growing international interest

By To Kyong Chol PT

Nuclear power generation is attracting worldwide attention these days, amid the serious energy problems.

The second nuclear energy summit meeting took place in Paris, France, on March 10.

In his opening address, the French President said that nuclear power generation would play a key role in simultaneously attaining the three goals of offsetting carbon, boosting economic competitiveness and creating jobs by 2050, and called on all stakeholders in the public and private sectors to play their part in steadily increasing investment in the generation of nuclear power, a genuine

energy source of the future.

At the meeting, the Rwandan President said that nuclear energy is not complicated or dangerous, asserting that if international standards are clear and powerful cooperation is made, it is possible to safely introduce this technology also to developing countries. He stressed that abundant and stable electric power is needed to attain the national power generation goals and that this is the reason why his country's nuclear energy programme constitutes the core of its energy development strategy.

The Ethiopian minister of irrigation and lowland development said that reliable electricity supply is vital to meeting the needs of the citizens in their

living and maintaining economic growth, adding that as Ethiopia cannot meet the future demands with renewables alone, it will push ahead with a strict peaceful nuclear energy programme.

Ethiopia has continuously expanded its power generation capability by using its abundant renewable energy resources, such as geotherm, hydropower, wind power and solar heat. However, as the demand for energy has rapidly increased and the serious climate crisis has given rise to various problems in the use of the renewables in recent years, it is directing its attention to the use of nuclear energy and taking relevant positive measures. It has established independent nuclear control bodies and pushed ahead

with the work to use nuclear energy in conformity with international law and safety standards.

Heads of state and government and high-level delegates of more than 30 countries and heads of international organizations, who attended the second nuclear energy summit meeting, issued a joint statement calling for making all the people benefit from safe and controllable nuclear energy.

On the same day, the energy ministers of the Group of Seven also got together to discuss the use of nuclear energy at the International Energy Agency headquarters.

Amid the intensifying research for enhancing the safety of nuclear energy use,

the European Union recently announced a strategy for the introduction of a small modular nuclear reactor.

The president of the European Commission stressed the need to put the reactor into operation by the early 2030s and stated that Europe would invest 200 million euros in developing innovative nuclear energy technologies.

Many countries have set it as their national policies to return to the use of nuclear energy and are encouraging investment and cooperation to that end.

Experts predict that the proportion of nuclear power generation will increase rapidly in the future in the field related to energy development and use around the world.

## 'Together for Science'

By Choe Song Jun PT

It is everyone's desire to enjoy longevity in good health. Therefore, healthcare for human life and health is actively conducted not only in individual countries but also on an international scale.

With the founding of the UN after World War II, the issue of setting up an international organization related to public health came up as an important topic for discussion.

On April 7 1948, the World Health Organisation was officially established, and this day was designated as World Health Day.

Since its founding, WHO, whose mission is to provide all people with health on the highest level, has rendered technical assistance in health services to its member states, coordinated cooperation among them to prevent and treat diseases and promoted training of health workers and research efforts, thus making a great contribution to the promotion of life security and health protection of mankind.

In accordance with the ever-growing interest of mankind in health, WHO worked out a detailed plan to attain its medium- and long-term strategic goals and has made constant efforts to this end.

The theme of this year's WHD is "Together for Science".

WHO has proposed this theme in the sense that innovative activities led by science should be actively conducted for the health of all as one, comprising the whole planet from human health to animal and plant health and ecosystems.

With the rapid development of science and technology,

great progress has been made in the field of public health.

A foreign research group succeeded in treating breast cancer by using polyphenol, a component of wine, to make antibodies reach cancerous cells correctly during an animal experiment.

Many successes have been made in the treatment of cancer which has been recognized as an incurable disease, including the confirmation of the fact that the duration of inhibition of the growth of liver cancer near blood vessels can be increased by half with the administration of two conventional medicines.

Positive efforts are directed worldwide toward achieving innovation and development in the field of public health by giving priority to science and technology.

In the DPRK, where human life is regarded as the most precious thing, advanced medical sciences and technologies are actively introduced to provide excellent medical assistance to people and promote their health fully.

As the public health revolution has been initiated to put the country's public health service on an advanced basis, projects have been undertaken to further consolidate the material and technical foundations of the public health sector and ensure its normal operation so that all people can enjoy quality medical service.

The country continues to put big efforts into developing the public health service while systematically increasing state investment in the sector. It is also strengthening cooperation with WHO.

The DPRK joined WHO in May 1973.

## Population problems get serious due to falling birth rate

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Populations are rapidly decreasing in many countries.

The Japanese Ministry of Welfare and Labour announced in August last year that the number of children born in the first half of that year decreased by 3.1 percent as compared to the same period of the previous year. The Japanese media expressed concern that the circumstances show no sign of improvement although the authorities say they are taking measures.

Populations lessened by more than half in seven big cities of the US, including Pittsburgh and Detroit, as compared to the 1950s. Detroit has been counted as one of five large cities which might disappear from the earth due to serious population decline.

The number of births dropped to a record low in Finland in 2024. At

that time, the statistics agency of the country said that the birth rate reached the lowest index since the start of the recording in 1776, adding that such tendency is pronounced in big cities in particular.

The number of births decreased by over 20 000 in Poland in the same year as against the previous year. It has reportedly reached a record low since the Second World War.

The birth rate has been very low in most of the European countries for the past decades.

A UN official asserted that the birth rate has lessened further than anticipated in some countries and it is more rapidly falling in some areas where it was high.

The birth rate has continued to decrease because people marry late or give up marriage and because even though they marry, women give birth to few or none.

The dropping birth rate has caused many problems.

According to a report on the prospect of population, the worldwide population increase will stop decades later and the population will continuously decrease thereafter.

One characteristic of such a population change is population aging.

A relevant organ of the UN said that people above 65 years of age worldwide increased from 5.5 percent to 10.2 percent of world population between 1974 and 2024. The rate is considered to increase by 20.7 percent during 50 years from 2024 to 2074.

Such a phenomenon has a negative effect on the socio-economic development of relevant countries.

Expressing concern over the decline in the birth rate, the UN warned that if such a situation continues, it might result in a world population crisis in the future.

## Briefly

### Russia

#### Putin refers to causes of deteriorating relations with Europe, Ukrainian crisis

Russian President Vladimir Putin referred to the causes of the deterioration of relations with Europe and the Ukrainian crisis in a consultative meeting with permanent members of the Security Council on March 27 through video-conferencing.

Now the relations between Russia and Europe are in a critical situation, he said, adding that it is not due to Russia.

Saying that the responsibility for it lies with the authorities of major European countries and with the US, he emphasized that the coup staged in Ukraine in 2014 with the backing of the West was the very starting point for the tragic situation that has so far lasted in the country.

### China

#### Representative to UN demands permanent ceasefire in Gaza

The Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations asserted that a permanent ceasefire should be achieved in the Gaza Strip as he addressed the recent open session of the UN Security Council on the Palestine-Israel issue.

He exposed that lots of Palestinians have lost their lives in the Gaza Strip even after the ceasefire deal was concluded, due to Israel's persistent attack.

Israel has tightened restriction on the introduction of humanitarian materials and closed the border route to Rafah on several occasions, thus further aggravating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, he criticized.

China urges Israel to honour the ceasefire agreement in full measure, fulfil its obligation with respect to international humanitarian law and open up border routes, he stated.

### Lebanon

#### Hezbollah strikes oil refining facility in Israel

Hezbollah, an organization of the Lebanese patriotic forces, mounted a missile attack on an oil refining facility in Haifa of Israel on March 30.

According to the Israeli authorities and mass media, the attack caused a fire at the refining facility to raise billows of black smoke and disrupted power supply in different areas.

An Israeli TV broadcasting service reported that missiles hit oil tanks and industrial structures.

### UN

#### GA brands transatlantic slave trade as crime against humanity

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution branding the transatlantic slave trade as an extremely grave crime against humanity on March 25.

In connection with this, the Benin government referred to the past slave trade committed against Africans to make them slaves as the harshest act that infringed on human dignity, stressing that the UNGA resolution is a step forward to historical justice.

Palestinian women vent their wrath at the massacre committed by Israel.



# New street in Hwasong area at dusk



## News of football matches in spring national sports festival

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The first-division men's and women's football tournament started on March 25 as part of the 2026 Spring National Sports Festival.

Excellent male and female football teams at home will play league matches, divided into three groups, before the first and second placers from each group and two third placers with higher scores will play knockout games

to decide the rankings.

The contest has been drawing the attention of people since the beginning.

What had a particularly lingering effect was the men's match between the April 25 and Hwaeppl teams played on the third day.

The April 25 Team, known as a national power, took first place in the first round of the 2025-2026 DPRK men's and women's premier leagues and the Hwaeppl Team, though it took

sixth place, left a deep impression on experts and spectators for the dynamic activity of a tall forward and backs.

Of course, many people predicted the April 25's win. But the result contradicted the prediction of experts and fans.

To their surprise, the Hwaeppl scored the opener in the 19th minute. Though the April 25 scored an equalizer in the 34th minute through its persevering efforts to recover the loss, the

Hwaeppl succeeded in scoring another goal four minutes later by speeding up attack without giving the opponent a breathing space.

As no more score was made afterwards, the Hwaeppl beat the April 25 2-1 in the game.

Everyone is eager to know which team will be the winner, looking forward to spectacular goals.

Spectators have big expectations for the current soccer tournament.



Scenes from the first-division men's football match between the April 25 and Hwaeppl teams.

## Living monument Black-faced spoonbill in Tok Island



By Pang Un Ju PT

Tok Island is in the West Sea of Korea. It is 1 500m in circumference and 86m in height. The southeastern side is a steep cliff at an angle of almost 90 degrees, but the top and the eastern slope are covered with a thin layer of humus, and therefore various plants grow there.

The island is home to the black-faced spoonbill which was designated as a living monument.

In May, when warm spring is in full swing, the birds fly to the island from their wintering ground and build nests with dry grass on wormwood stalks and shrubs to breed.

The black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) is a summer bird belonging to *Threskiornithidae*. The body length is about 74cm.

In summer, the yellowish brown ornamental feathers on the back of the head and the pattern at the lower neck are conspicuous, but they disappear in winter.

Black-faced spoonbills breed in flocks and one female lays four to six eggs.

In October, they leave the island for their wintering ground.

