

## Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un goes to the polls for electing SPA deputies and encourages workers at Chonsong Youth Coal Mine

### He votes for Jo Chol Ho, manager of the coal mine under the Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, who was a candidate for SPA deputy



KCNA

The election of deputies to the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK took place at all the constituencies across the country on March 15 when the whole country was overflowing with the people's joy of greeting the historic day which would mark an occasion to further consolidate the people-centred socialist system of a Korean style and

provide a powerful sovereign guarantee for the comprehensive development of the state.

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 Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex to vote at the polling station of Sub-constituency No. 48 of Constituency

No. 150 for the election of SPA deputies.

When Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the polling station, the coal miners and other local residents broke into enthusiastic cheers representing their boundless emotion and delight of being honoured to have him, whom they had longed to see even in their dreams, at their constituency on the meaningful election day for consolidating the supreme power of the DPRK as firm as a rock by the

people themselves according to their will.

Kim Jong Un headed for the polling station, extending warm greetings to the coal miners for having increased coal production to positively contribute to the growth and development of the national economy with pure loyalty to the Party and the revolution, the country and the people and with gem-like patriotism.

SEE PAGE 2





FROM PAGE 1

He was courteously greeted by Ri Kyong Chol, chief secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK, and leading officials of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine.

Accompanying him were Kim Jae Ryong, Ri Il Hwan, Kim Tok Hun and Kim Yo Jong, senior officials of the Party and the government.

Kim Jong Un received a ballot from the chairperson of the election committee and voted for Jo Chol Ho, manager of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, who was a candidate for SPA deputy.

As he met and had a conversation with Jo, he warmly encouraged him, hoping that he would faithfully discharge his responsibility and duty as a genuine representative of the people, a person in direct charge of activities of state power and a political activist, deeply mindful that the trust and expectations of the coal miners and other residents there are just the earnest requests of the country and the people.

Then he made a historic speech to the voters of the coal mine.

All the participants were deeply moved by the impassioned speech of Kim Jong Un who most highly appreciated the pure conscience and unassuming efforts of the coal miners before the country and the times and unveiled a brilliant blueprint for transforming the coal mines across the country.

When he finished his speech, they raised enthusiastic cheers, offering their boundless thanks to the outstanding leader of the Korean revolution and the benevolent father of the people.

He learned about the conditions and production of the coal mine.

Underscoring again the importance of the coal-mining industry's mission and role in ensuring the stable and sustainable development of the national economy, he said that to shore up the coal front is a keystone of strategic significance not only in the implementation of the new five-year plan but also in the long-term development of the country. Then he continued:

As it is necessary to raise good crops for the living of the people, it is needed to increase coal production for the running of a state. The Party and the state should attach importance to the production of coal, the food of industry, and increase the state investment to it. Building up the Chonsong Youth

Coal Mine into a standard one, where mechanization and informatization of the work inside its pits are realized, is a starting point of the long-term project to transform the material and technical foundations of all the coal mines across the country and the working conditions of coal miners.

Whenever I look back upon the arduous journey of our victorious struggle, I have first thought of the unassuming efforts of coal miners and always felt thankful to them. We should spare nothing for the coal miners. It is the firm determination of the Party Central Committee to turn, during its ninth term, all the coal-mining villages into modern, cultured villages and towns just like the Komdok area which has been ideally transformed in recent years. A short-, medium- and long-term strategy for realizing it will be discussed at an earlier date.

That day, Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with the coal miners, labour innovators and officials of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine in commemoration of his visit to the mine.

When the photo-taking was over, the enthusiastic cheers the participants raised again, looking up to Kim Jong Un, shook the mountains of the Chonsong area.

Warmly encouraging the coal miners

full of great excitement, Kim Jong Un expressed his expectation and belief that the workers of the coal mine would glorify the first year of implementing the decisions of the Party Congress with proud successes in increased production in the redoubled and soaring spirit and filled with fresh confidence and optimism.

The workers of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine, deeply moved by the strong passion and affection, warm love and trust of the great father, firmly pledged to demonstrate their absolute support to the decisions of the Ninth Congress of the WPK through patriotic efforts for increased coal production and reliably guarantee the prosperity and development of the country, bearing deeper in mind the sense of honourable mission of defending an outpost for the development of the self-supporting economy.

Kim Jong Un's visit to the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine marked a historic occasion that declared a fresh start for civilization and modernization of the coal-mining industry, finally breaking with its technical and cultural backwardness, and an important political occasion that injected great vitality into the dynamic advance of the state towards its comprehensive development.



# Comrade Kim Jong Un's speech to workers and officials of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine

Dear voters,

Workers and officials of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine, who are working with devotion for the country's prosperity at an outpost of our self-supporting economy,

Comrades,

Today, here at the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, one of the leading coal mines in our country, I voted for a representative to the supreme power organ of our state.

I feel very pleased to have voted for a working-class candidate on the day of election to the Supreme People's Assembly, the 15th of its kind in the history of our Republic, and to be seeing you, coal miners, whom I have always respected in my mind.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend warm encouragement to the workers and officials of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine, who are reliably defending a part of the coal-mining front with a pure heart of faithfully and sincerely supporting the Party and the state and through an indomitable labour struggle.

I also express my gratitude to all the voters across the country, who are taking an active part in the election of the Deputies with a faith and pride in our socialist cause, with the awareness of being masters of state power and with patriotic enthusiasm.

I am in firm belief that, through today's election, our people's power will be consolidated as firm as a rock once again with the genuine representatives of the people and the functions and role of our Republic's government further enhanced as required by the new stage of transformation.

Comrades,

Today is a significant day when the coal miners of Chonsong elect their representative who will take part in administering state affairs.

Every citizen of our Republic exercises the right to vote, but I don't think it is easy for everyone to go to the polls with great pride and honour.

In our country advancing the socialist cause while blazing a new path of history, the working class is the most powerful force of creation and transformation and the vanguard that leads the whole society by dint of steadfast revolutionary spirit and noble traits.

Among them, the workers in the coal-mining sector are the hard core of the country performing the most valuable feats in the vanguard of state building.

The achievements the coal miners here in Chonsong made through a devoted struggle also formed part of the cornerstones of the steps of eye-opening advance and development our state ascended in the especially difficult and arduous last decade.

By writing an admirable chronicle of struggle in every decade of the revolution in defending the lifeline of the national economy and the rejuvenation and prosperity of the country, they have made uninterrupted innovations



in coal production, rising up more vigorously without hesitation even in the face of hardships in the recent years.

It is impossible to describe their painstaking efforts with a few words.

I cannot but feel deep reverence for them to think that there is the path of patriotism the most beautiful and purest persons follow all their life under this ground people tread on casually and that the traces of unyielding efforts are unmistakable at every bend of the path.

There are a lot of families of patriotic miners working here at this colliery for three generations. Without genuine affection for this country, they could not have worked in such deep pits generation after generation—a job which other people find it hard to engage in.

As they are honest citizens who live for the good of their country with such faith and conscience, our coal miners are all the more valuable and trustworthy.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to you again for your invariable patriotic heart of devoting your precious sweat and enthusiasm unsparingly to the buildup of the lifeline of our self-supporting economy and to the stronger pulse of our era, as well as for your heroic struggle for, and exploits in, supporting our Party and state with devoted efforts at deep underground pits.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I also extend warm greetings to the miners' wives and mothers who are making sincere, devoted efforts for the country's coal production, sharing mind with their husbands and children, and also to the retired meritorious miners.

Comrades,

Coal is, as ever, the food for our industry and driving

force for the development of our self-supporting economy.

The faster our progress gets and the faster our ideals turn into reality, the more urgent the need for coal is.

The fuel and raw materials for the backbone industries that serve as an engine of our state in pursuing prosperity and rejuvenation come just from coal.

For this reason, the Ninth Party Congress held recently set it as the struggle target of the coal-mining industry for the coming five years to boost its output 1.2 times what it is now.

As the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine has dug mountains of coal with great patriotic enthusiasm from each of the pits sharing their lifeline with the capital city of Pyongyang all the time, I believe that the mine will play the active role of a powerful engine in the lead of the struggle to attain the target of the new five-year plan by displaying such daring fighting morale and mettle.

You have been heroic and innovative, and I hope you will continue to exalt your great honour as eternal pacesetters and paragons of the coal-mining industry.

Comrades,

The Party Congress decided it as a major strategic task during the new long-term plan to build dwellings for coal miners, facelift the coal-mining areas and technically upgrade the coal-mining industry.

In the era, when the whole country is undergoing transformation and making progress, it is an important task which brooks no further delay and slackness and which our Party and state have to carry out without fail.

Along with another resolute revolution to eliminate the backward appearance of the coal-miners' villages far removed from the country's prestige and the requirements of the reality, the most advanced new life and new culture of the working class will take its undisputed position in the centre of our times.

Comrades,

It is unavoidable for us to face challenges and obstacles in the way of our advance, but the citizens of our Republic who love their state and system and cherish steadfast faith in socialism and indomitable revolutionary spirit will always achieve successful results on the strength of their concerted efforts and unity.

Respected comrade coal miners in Chonsong,

The Party Central Committee firmly believes in you.

Let us achieve our beautiful and sacred ideals without fail, giving full play to the dignity and courage, wisdom and bravery of the heroic working class.

Let us make more passionate, innovative and persistent efforts to glorify ours as a country which will be powerful and prosperous for ever.

I wish all the coal miners of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine good health and their families delight and happiness.

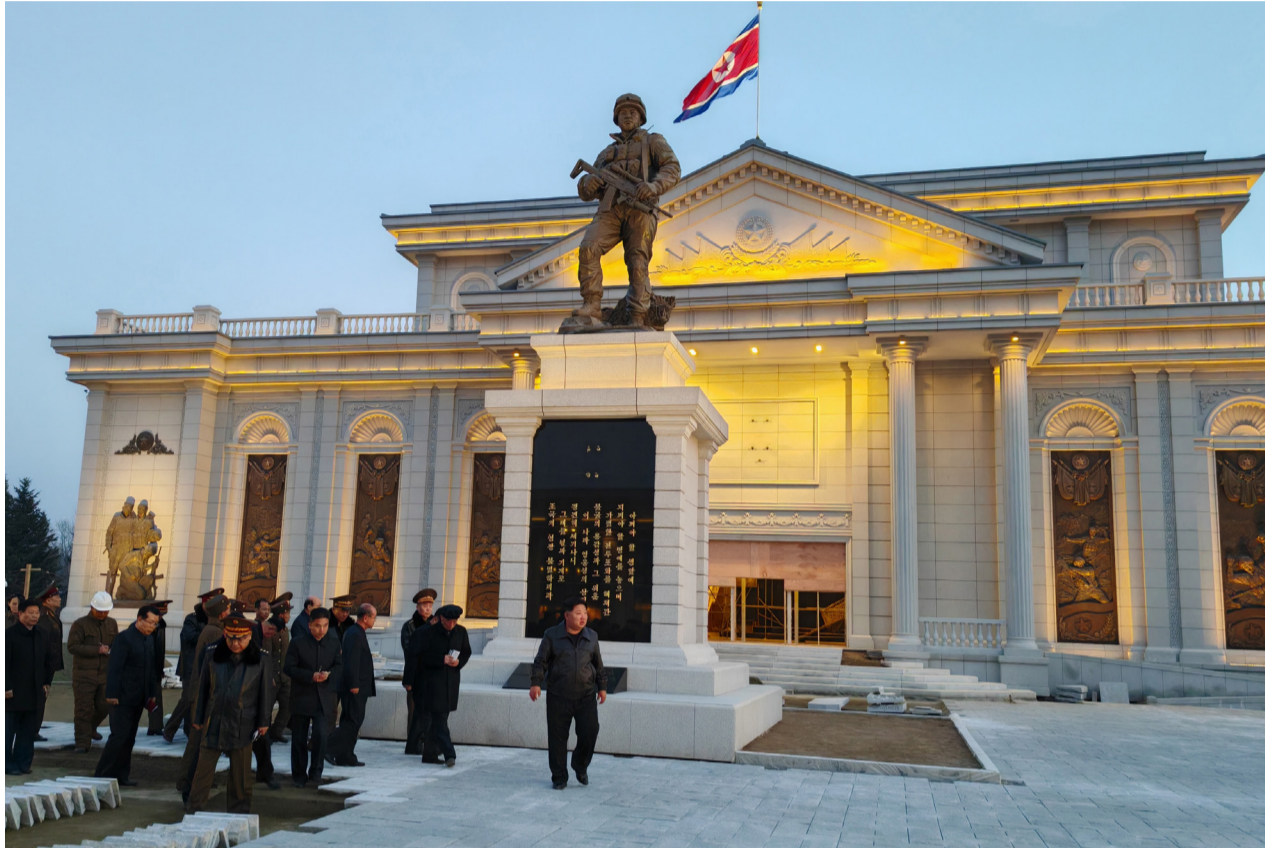
# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un inspects Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at Overseas Military Operations under construction

## He gives an instruction to successfully complete the memorial museum as an immortal sacred sanctuary

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave on-site guidance at the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations under construction on March 16.

Accompanying him were the members of the WPK Central Military Commission, senior



He stressed once again the important significance of this construction project, saying that the memorial museum should be an ensemble, and an integration, of our architecture and fine art creation.

The Memorial Museum of Combat Feats will be inaugurated on the occasion of the first anniversary of the liberation of Kursk, he said, giving an instruction that the service personnel, designers and creators, involved in

officials of the Party Central Committee and generals of the Korean People's Army.

He was greeted on the spot by commanding officers of the military units involved in the construction and officials of the design and creation institutions.

The construction is now under way at 93 percent of the total project.

Going round the interior of the memorial museum, the heroes' cemetery area, the captured weapons exhibition area and other places of the construction site, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un learned about the finishing of the project and the

installation of sculptures and symbolic memorials.

Pointing out some irrational elements in the interior of the memorial museum, he clarified the direction of correcting them and gave detailed instructions on ensuring the highest quality in finishing the project.

the noble work for recording in history forever the matchless bravery and mass heroism displayed by our soldiers at overseas military operations, should successfully complete the memorial museum as an immortal sacred sanctuary with the solemn reverence of all the people.



# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un plants trees in Saeppyo Street on Tree-planting Day

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, planted trees at the pondside park in Saeppyo Street on March 14, Tree-planting Day.

Present at the tree planting were major leading cadres of the Party and the government, families of the martyrs who participated in the overseas military operations who moved into their new houses in Saeppyo Street, officials of the Party and power organs in Hwasong District and students of revolutionary schools.

The participants were filled with deep emotion and joy as they were to plant trees in Saeppyo Street, a new street in the capital city where the feelings of respect of all the people across the country converge and which is a source of honour for our generation and of pride for our state.

Ri Il Hwan, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, made a speech on tree planting.

He said today's tree-planting ceremony, being held along with the start of the spring of 2026, is a manifestation of the sincere mind to always remember the true patriots who added a new page to the history of glorious dignity of the DPRK

and to fulfil the desire of the martyrs who wished their beloved motherland eternal prosperity with youthfulness, and an expression of the noble will to spruce up the country more beautifully and improve the environment of the capital city more wonderfully.

Noting that the unanimous intention and mind cherished in the hearts of all the people are to be planted here together with trees, he added that it represents the sincerest love for and thanks to the heroes and a sense of patriotic mission and mind, fervent and invariable like theirs.

Comrade Kim Jong Un, together with the participants, planted for a long time the trees which will become new witnesses

to the prospering capital, saying that the true image of our generation, who are following the noble spirit of heroic soldiers and reliably carrying forward the tradition of invincibility, should be reflected, along with the history of the country growing stronger, in every tree that will grow by embodying the souls of the martyrs who participated in the overseas military operations to add beauty to the landscape of Saeppyo Street brimming with the joy of moving into new houses.

He said that the martyrs were men of burning affection who loved their native places, parents, wives and children more warmly than any others, and men with great ideological and spiritual

strength who turned the scent and beautiful memory of the hometown, provided by a handful of earth they each had taken from the homeland, into their indomitable heroism in the showers of fire on the alien battlefields.

He hoped that the noble spirit of the martyrs would deeply permeate this land to help build a solid pillar of patriotism in the hearts of all the people and train all the coming generations to be the most righteous human beings.

Patriotism is the source of enthusiasm giving birth to the unlimited miraculous might and the driving force behind creation and changes, he said, adding we will surely build a

prosperous and strong country, the most powerful one in the world, on the great strength of patriotism.

The participants showed every sincerity to tree planting, cherishing the noble intention of the great father as the immutable truth and true value of patriotism.

The meaningful tree planting in Saeppyo Street, which took place in the presence of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, was an event of great significance that added vitality to the capital city and great country to be eternally prosperous and implanted the source of true patriotism in the minds of the people.



# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un oversees coordinated offensive tactical drill of infantry and tank sub-units

## He says with pride that the Korean People's Army will be equipped with the most powerful tanks

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited Pyongyang Training Base No. 60 under the Capital City Defence Corps of the Korean People's Army on March 19 to oversee a coordinated offensive tactical drill of infantry and tank sub-units.

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, Kim Jong Sik, first deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, and major commanding officers of the KPA.

The tactical drill was aimed at making the tactical sub-units, which expand

successes in their attack through an assault by tanks and infantry after striking, raiding and occupying the enemy's anti-armour defence line, get familiar with the coordination order and combat methods during offensive action.

Involved in the drill were a company of the cavalry regiment, the main armoured unit belonging to the reserve operational

group of the General Staff, and special operations sub-units.

When the tactical drill was launched, various kinds of attack drones struck the enemy's commanding base and anti-armour firing positions on the basis of real-time reconnaissance data.

Anti-tank missiles of an armoured car sub-unit hit targets in a salvo with the

tactical fire support against the unexpectedly-emerging armoured defence means of the enemy.

The rear strike sub-units destroyed the enemy drones and armed helicopters from their ambush position and then raided and occupied the enemy's anti-armour defence line and firing positions to provide the tanks and infantry with the conditions for attack.

There took place a demonstration charge by the tank company of the cavalry regiment equipped with the new-type main battle tanks.

Through the drill, its aim was attained to confirm the tankmen's capabilities for an actual battle and each sub-unit's combat cooperation and action methods according to different tactical missions.

Kim Jong Un said that he came to

SEE PAGE 7



FROM PAGE 6

clearly recognize that the principle of intensifying practical trainings under the simulated conditions of an actual war has been strictly adhered to recently in the training of tactical units, too, as he saw all sub-units in the drill share real-time information and ensure cooperation in combat and unity of action under various unexpected and extremely difficult combat situations to break through the enemy's strong anti-armour defence line by means of powerful strike, speedy raid and occupation and high mobility.

Watching with great pleasure the tanks violently make a charge, rocking the earth, he expressed satisfaction that the majestic appearance of the tanks imposingly advancing forward encapsulates the inherent bravery and pluck of the KPA.

Saying that the new-type main battle tank, which made its appearance to demonstrate the amazing combat performance again, is really superior, he noted this is unequalled in the world in the striking power and mobility and, especially, self-defensive capacity. Our army will be equipped with the most powerful tanks, he said with pride.

That day, there were various tests for examining the active self-defensive system of the new-type main battle tank.

The tanks intercepted 100 percent anti-

tank missiles and drones attacking them from different positions and directions to clearly prove the efficiency of its superior active self-defensive system.

Acquainting himself again with its combat performance after the tactical drill was over, Kim Jong Un said:

"We have attained great successes and progress in modernizing the tank-building industry.

"This new-type main battle tank, a proud fruit of the strategic plan the Party Central Committee worked out and has resolutely pressed ahead with for the second revolution in the armoured forces, encapsulates our-style technology of armoured weapon system.

"The development of the tank's core technology, to which we directed special efforts, has taken seven years.

"The Party Central Committee, through the role of its guidance team, and the Academy of Defence Science, through its correct specialist guidance, have opened a brighter prospect for the tank-building industry.

"The armour structure and power system designs, integrated automatic remote-controlled strike system, electronic warfare complex, guided missile and active self-defensive system have remarkably improved. All the components of this tank are completely suitable for ensuring its powerful striking

capability, improving its survivability and providing convenience for the service by its crew.

"In developing this tank, we have attached special importance to improving the rate of its survival.

"Applied to this tank are various special technologies developed for improving its survival rate, and it is equipped with a mobile self-defensive complex capable of reliably destroying such attacking air targets as different kinds of anti-tank guided missiles and UAVs at a high level of precision through a system of detecting threats from all directions. Therefore, I am sure that no armoured weapon with as strong self-defensive capability as that of this tank exists in the world.

"In particular, it is a great change that our armoured forces that were ineffective during night operations have completely overcome their combat limitations.

"The combat performance of our main battle tank is incomparably superior.

"From now on, our ground forces will be equipped with these superior tanks extensively, and our armoured forces developed onto a higher stage."

He stressed, in particular, that it is important to pay careful attention to the issue of steadily improving the main battle tank's performance so that it can hold a leading position and make good use of its combat value in the battlefields

in conformity with the trend of ever-developing modern warfare.

Highly appreciating that all the drills have recently been turned to taking and adopting scientific and practical forms and methods for an actual war, he said that the KPA units at all levels should achieve rapid successes in completing war preparations by giving full play to the soaring spirit without letup.

As I have repeatedly stressed, the KPA should organize and carry out training in the atmosphere of actual war and training competitions aimed at improving the combat efficiency, more intensively and more frequently, so that it can swiftly and exactly perform any combat missions under different situations in contingency, he said. He called for taking a revolutionary measure to further intensify the training revolution.

Commanding officers of the KPA and the combatants involved in the tactical drill pledged to achieve proud successes in perfecting combat preparations and unsparingly dedicate their sweat and efforts to increasing the combat power and thus remain loyal to Kim Jong Un who left his immortal and sacred imprints in the training ground to bestow great honour upon them and inspire them with a high spirit and boosted the militant will and matchless bravery of the KPA.



# KPA long-range artillery sub-unit in western area conducts firepower strike drill

## Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un oversees drill on the spot



forces hostile to the DPRK, the enemies within the 420km striking range, feel uneasy, with the power stronger than the aimed one, and give them a deep understanding of the destructive power of our tactical nuclear weapon.

He affirmed that the drill is a regular one for

At the central command post, Jang Chang Ha gave an order to open fire.

Making a deafening sound rending the air, the multiple rocket batteries opened fire in waves.

The launched rockets battered the target island in the East Sea of Korea 364.4km away with the accuracy of 100 percent, proving once again the destructive capability of their concentration strike and the system's military value once again.

After overseeing the firing drill, Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the soldiers of the artillery sub-unit for being prepared for skilfully handling the state-of-the-art multiple rocket launcher system. Then he once again praised the combat performance of the 600mm-calibre ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers, saying:

"It is indeed a very deadly yet attractive weapon.

"Worldwide, there exists no tactical

KCNA

A long-range artillery sub-unit of the Korean People's Army in a western area conducted a firepower strike drill on March 14.

Enlisted in the drill were twelve 600mm-calibre ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers and two artillery batteries.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, oversaw the drill on the spot.

Comrade Kim Jong Un stated briefly that the drill was aimed at making the army do what it should do.

He said that the drill would make the

checking the DPRK's defensive posture and war deterrent and such drill will be frequently conducted in the future, too.

He authorized Full General Jang Chang Ha, general director of the Missile Administration accompanying him, to command the drill, and came out to the launching position to give instructions on the firing method.

SEE PAGE 9



FROM PAGE 8

weapon that surpasses the performance of this weapon system.

“This will be so in the coming few years.

“Certainly, however, we will never mark time till that time, being content with this.

“I always hold our defence scientists in respect and appreciate them for developing such a weapon system.

“As I have already stated, our powerful attacking capability is, in effect, for defending ourselves.

“It is because the most powerful attacking capability precisely means a reliable defence capability.

“It is, in the true sense of the word, a means of deterring war.

“But in case such deterrents of a defensive nature do not prevent foreign forces from launching an armed provocation or invading our state to

jeopardize the security of its sovereignty, they will immediately be used for their second mission, i.e., as a means of massive, destructive strike.

“As I have said several times, if this weapon is used, the opponent’s military infrastructure within its striking range can never survive.

“Our Party and the government of the Republic will maintain durable peace by means of powerful military capabilities.

“Peace is something that should be defended rather than desired.”

Kim Jong Un stressed the need for the army units at all levels to organize and wage high-intensity practical manoeuvres under the simulated conditions of an actual war, true to the Party’s policy of bringing about a radical turn in training, and maintain their full response posture to thoroughly frustrate any provocation by the enemies with overwhelmingly great power.

## Press release of Central Election Committee On returns of election of deputies to 15th SPA of DPRK

KCNA

The Central Election Committee for the Election of Deputies to the 15th Supreme People’s Assembly of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea issued the following press release on March 16:

The successful election of deputies to the 15th Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK took place on March 15 2026, amid high political enthusiasm of all the voters at a time when the whole country launched a new gigantic struggle for greater creation and transformation along

the brilliant path indicated by the Ninth Congress of the glorious Workers’ Party of Korea.

The election was held in strict conformity with the Law on the Elections of Deputies to the People’s Assemblies at All Levels.

All the voters, well aware of the importance of the voting card associated with the highest dignity and honour of their great country, took part in the election with solemn reverence for the DPRK national emblem and flag shining brightly at the polling stations.

According to the election returns, 99.99 percent of all the voters registered on the voter rolls

across the country attended the election, with 0.0037 percent of the voters failing to vote as they are currently abroad or working in oceans and 0.00003 percent abstaining.

Among the voters who attended the election, 99.93 percent balloted for the candidates and 0.07 percent against. As a result, under the Law of the DPRK on the Elections of Deputies to the People’s Assemblies at All Levels, 687 workers, farmers, intellectuals, servicepersons and officials were elected to be SPA deputies.

The result shows that, as patriotic citizens who have dedicated

themselves to the country and the people, the elected SPA deputies have necessary qualification and ability of a state political activist for fulfilling important mission and responsibility in the struggle for implementing the decisions of the Ninth WPK Congress, as required by the new period of great upsurge.

Through the election, all the voters clearly demonstrated their ardent desire and self-confidence to reliably defend their glorious state political system and successfully realize all ideals and happiness on the great strength of loyalty and patriotism.

The DPRK is the eternal state of the people and its national sovereignty is the one of the people being built by all the Korean people.

The election of deputies to the 15th SPA of the DPRK marked an important political occasion in further glorifying the great state-building ideas and exploits of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and providing the powerful sovereign guarantee for accelerating the prosperity and development of Korean-style socialism, true to the fighting programme set forth by the Ninth WPK Congress.

## Voters take part in election of deputies to 15th SPA across nation

KCNA

The election of deputies to the 15th Supreme People’s Assembly took place in all parts of the DPRK.

All people and service personnel of the People’s Army took part in the election held amid the grand struggle for attaining the new long-term goals set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea, out of their will to consolidate the Korean-style socialist system centred on the popular masses, the cradle of life and home of happiness.

The election was attended by revolutionary forerunners including the war veterans, victors of the great years who have defended the dignity and sovereignty of the DPRK with their ardent patriotism and through heroic struggle decade after decade since the national liberation.

The officials and employees of the Sangwon Cement Complex voted for the candidate displaying patriotic devotion for the prosperity of the country, saying that the DPRK and the government are the genuine country and government of

the people.

All parts of the country including the leading grand metallurgical bases and the coalfields and large power production bases in South Phyongan Province were filled with the revolutionary enthusiasm of workers for electing representatives of the people.

The farmers at the Chongsan Farm in Kangso District, Nampho, and the Samjigang Farm in Jaeryong County and all other agricultural workers across the country expressed their determination to devote patriotic sweat and passion to every farm field by carrying forward the spirit of the farmers of the preceding generation.

Officials and working people in the fields of education and public health, including Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang Baby Home and Okryu Children’s Hospital, voted in the election with the revolutionary enthusiasm to give full play to the advantages of the socialist education system and the people-oriented public health system of the country.

Jon Yong Suk, secretary

general of the election committee of Sub-constituency No. 37 of Constituency No. 567 for the election of deputies to the SPA, said that the advantages and democratic character of the election system of the DPRK were clearly demonstrated through the election.

Ryang Il, director of the North Hwanghae Provincial Posts and Telecommunications Management Bureau, and Kim Ju Song, crew leader of a furnace of blast furnace workshop No. 1 at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, candidates for deputies, pledged to work

devotedly for the prosperity and development of the country and strengthening of the people’s power, always keeping in mind the trust and expectation of the masses.



The election of deputies to the 15th Supreme People’s Assembly takes place at constituencies in different areas. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

# New streets full of joy and excitement as house-moving goes on

KCNA

People began to move into new houses on Pyongyang's Saeppeol Street.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the inaugural ceremony of the new street, which was splendidly built in an excellent place of the Hwasong area as an embodiment of eternal respect and reverence for the war heroes, and personally gave the bereaved families licences for the use of flats and took benevolent measures to make them all lead a happy life as soon as possible.

The bereaved families, who are to settle down in the modern flats in the capital city under the care of the great father, entered the new street amid a warm welcome

by the commanding officers of the Korean People's Army units, officials of Pyongyang Municipality and military and civilian builders.

Party and government officials including Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, greeted the bereaved families on the spot.

The senior officials presented bouquets to the bereaved families moving into new flats and warmly congratulated them. They also told about the love and benevolence of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who greatly values the bereaved families, who became



The bereaved families of the combatants who participated in the overseas military operations move into new flats on Saeppeol Street in Pyongyang.



the inexhaustible source of patriotism of the war heroes and redoubled their dauntless strength and courage so that they could defend the dignity and

honour of the country, and is determined to make them the first to enjoy all the benefits of socialism.

They said that it was their duty and an expression of the moral obligation of the people across the country to the martyrs to take sincere care of the destiny and life of the parents, wives and children of the participants in the war, adding that they would do their best to make the bereaved families experience the joy of prosperity before anyone else and lead a proud and happy life.

According to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's grand plan for capital city construction and under his energetic guidance, the construction of 10 000 flats at the fourth stage in the Hwasong area was completed, and the new street is full of the excitement and joy of the owners of new houses who came to enjoy socialist civilization.

Officials of the organs of the Workers' Party of Korea and the people's power in Pyongyang Municipality and builders congratulated those working people moving into new flats with the licences for the use of houses.

The people were greatly excited as they looked round different places of their flats overflowing with the parental affection of Kim Jong Un.

Rim Chun Sil, an old woman who presented a bouquet to him at the significant inauguration ceremony, said that families of ordinary people like her could receive such wonderful flats free of charge, thanks to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un who regards the people as God.

Ri Hye Suk, a war veteran, said that she received a new flat in the Hwasong area wonderfully built as an ideal street of the people under the loving care of the Marshal, expressing her determination

to fulfil the duty of the victorious wartime generation in glorifying the benevolent social system generation after generation.

Yu Yong Guk and Ri Kyong Chol, special-class honoured disabled soldiers, said that the Workers' Party of Korea, which shows all meticulous care for disabled soldiers, gave them modern new flats before anyone else on the best floors, lest they should feel any inconvenience in their living. They vowed to support the country as they did in the days of their military service.

The flats of families of discharged officers and educators, families with many children and other families were full of boundless gratitude to the motherly Party, which brings the people greater joy, louder laughter and deeper happiness, and the resolve to work harder for the prosperity of the country with loyalty and patriotism.



People move into the fourth-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area day after day.

## DPRK SPA session to be convened

KCNA

The First Session of the

15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK will be convened in

Pyongyang on March 22 2026. The SPA Standing

Committee of the DPRK issued a relevant decision on March 16.

## New stamps produced

KCNA

The State Stamp Bureau of the DPRK has produced new stamps (two sheets and six individuals) in commemoration of the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Seen in the sheets bearing letters "Ninth WPK Congress" together with the Party emblem is the ennobling image of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who made an important concluding speech at the Party Congress and was elected as the general secretary of the WPK according to the unshakable will and desire of all the delegates and millions of Party members, all other people and service personnel across the country.

The individual stamps visually show the important tasks set forth by the Ninth Congress of the Party.

A stamp dealing with the content of bringing about a fresh turn in strengthening the whole Party and developing its work reflects the ideology of the WPK on dynamically conducting the three revolutions and embodying the principles and requirements of the five-point Party-building programme in the new era in its work and activities while invariably holding high the ideas of "The people are god", single-hearted unity and self-reliance as the banner of

struggle and advance.

Another stamp stresses the importance of the duty and role the metal, chemical, power, coal and machine-building industries have to play in giving continuity to the era of comprehensive national rejuvenation.

One of the stamps deals with the idea of holding fast to the seed improvement, scientific farming, tideland farming, double cropping and land improvement as an important guarantee for increased grain

production in the agricultural sector and the idea of boosting the production of consumer goods with the main stress on the improvement of quality and development of new products in the light industry.

There are also stamps reflecting the intention and idea of the WPK that more vigorous struggle should be waged for the development of science and technology and socialist culture and the building of powerful national defence capabilities.



Newly issued stamps.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

KCNA

### Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends birthday spread to centenarian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Kim Su Il living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 9 in Ryongjam-ri, Tanchon City of South Hamgyong Province, on her 100th birthday.

After receiving the birthday spread, the centenarian expressed her gratitude to Kim Jong Un for showing such a loving care for an ordinary old woman living in a rural village far from Pyongyang.

Born as a daughter of a peasant in the mountainous area, she always felt the sorrow of a stateless nation before national liberation. She could lead a genuine life only after President Kim Il Sung liberated Korea.

Her house was crowded with officials of the Tanchon City Workers' Party of Korea

and neighbours who came to share joy with her family.

### Aesthetic symposium in field of urban management held

The 2026 winter aesthetic symposium in the field of urban management took place at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang on March 13 through video conferencing.

Attending the symposium on the theme of "Creating green areas and protecting ecological environment" were officials and scientists from relevant sectors, including the urban management, land and environment protection, design and construction in Pyongyang and the provinces (municipalities).

The participants watched a video on the successes made in landscaping for the past five years.

A lecture on scientific and technological issues arising in the creation and management of green areas was given and a video on advanced landscaping technology shown at the symposium.

# To cover mountains of country with green woods

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

March 14 is Tree-planting Day in the DPRK.

The Workers' Party of Korea put forward tree planting and afforestation as important tasks for the development of the country, wellbeing of the people and prosperity of all generations to come throughout the whole period of its revolutionary leadership and has pushed ahead with them.

Though he was busy leading the building of a new country after Korea's liberation, President Kim Il Sung climbed Moran Hill and unfolded a far-reaching plan for turning all mountains into a people's paradise covered with thick forests.

During the grim Fatherland

Liberation War, he was so deeply grieved by the fact that many forests were burned by the bombings of the US imperialists that he said many forests should be planted through a mass movement.

That day was March 14 1952.

From then on, the mountains of the country got greener day by day.

Chairman Kim Jong Il worked heart and soul to turn the whole country into thick forests and gardens till the last period of his life, especially at the hard times when the country was faced with severe ordeals due to the hostile forces' vicious moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK and successive natural disasters.

The noble desire of the President and the Chairman to turn the whole

country into a people's paradise full of green woods is being translated into reality under the wise leadership of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

In November 2014, he visited the Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and said that there was no room to step back with bare mountains left as they were, calling on the entire Party, the whole army and all the people to turn out in the forest restoration campaign, regarding forest restoration as a war with nature, just as the whole country had turned out for reconstruction on the debris after the war.

In February the following year, he published a historic work "Let the Entire Party, the Whole

Army and All the People Conduct a Vigorous Forest Restoration Campaign to Cover the Mountains of the Country with Green Woods", clearly indicating the tasks and ways for the restoration of the country's forests.

He clarified afforestation and forest conservation as a consistent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea at the historic Eighth Congress of the WPK, the Fifth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly and other major meetings.

Over the past ten-odd years since the start of the forest restoration campaign, the country's forests have changed beyond recognition.

Modern tree nurseries where the sapling production is on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis have

been built across the country, thus more than doubling the production of saplings.

And a dynamic movement was launched involving all people to turn all the mountains in their local areas into "gold and treasure mountains", newly creating more than one million hectares of forests.

A forest science research base was established and an agroforestry management method was actively introduced to raise the utilization rate of forest lands.

Meanwhile, the nationwide forest fire monitoring information service system has proved effective and forest pest control has been pushed forward as a mass campaign, bringing about a radical improvement in forest conservation.

## Tree-planting Day observed in DPRK

KCNA

Tree planting was conducted across the country on the occasion of Tree-planting Day.

Officials of the State Planning Commission, the State Inspection Commission, the Agricultural Commission, the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, the Ministry of Light Industry, the Ministry of Land and Maritime Transport, the Ministry of Information Industry, the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Commerce and the Korean Revolution Museum planted trees in different places

of Pyongyang including the vicinities of the Party Founding Museum, the Monument to Party Founding and the Central Botanical Garden.

Officials and working people of districts and counties in Pyongyang planted trees of good species in streets, villages, parks and surrounding mountains with the patriotic will to increase the natural resources of the country and spruce up its appearance.

Working people and youth and students in South Phyongan, South Hwanghae, South Hamgyong and other provinces devoted their sincerity to tree planting around revolutionary sites,

revolutionary battle sites and cemeteries of fallen soldiers of the Korean People's Army with the determination to glorify forever the immortal revolutionary exploits of the peerlessly great men associated with their residential areas.

Workers and members of the women's union in North Phyongan Province and Nampho Municipality devoted patriotism to creating forests of economic value while planting trees in a scientific way.

Residents in North Hwanghae, North Hamgyong and Jagang provinces directed big efforts to raising the survival rate of trees, bearing deep in mind

the importance of covering the whole country with trees and flowers in the effort for turning their worksites and villages into more civilized ones. They added beauty to their regions and units by planting trees of different species.

After securing enough tree saplings of different species and uses by substantially pushing ahead with the strengthening of the material and technical foundations of tree nurseries and by cultivating them in a responsible manner, Kangwon Province and Kaesong Municipality concentrated manpower and means on planting trees in a highly qualitative way.

## Afforestation put on a more scientific basis



Researchers analyse data on forest resources at the forest survey and analysis institute under the Academy of Forest Science. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Academy of Forest Science is channelling great efforts into providing a scientific and technological guarantee for the creation of forests of economic value.

It has made achievements in the efforts to breed more tree species that suit the climatic and soil conditions of different regions, research and introduce new tree planting methods and acclimatize good species of trees.

It has ensured that all the regions positively introduce scientific and technological methods in creating such forests of economic value as oil-bearing forests, forests for paper materials and forests of wild fruit trees in treeless places and shrubberies in keeping with the specific conditions of their regions.

It has also made positive efforts to propagate trees of great economic value including bog bilberry, *Acer truncatum*, black matrimony vine and tara vine and breed superior strains by applying the genetic recombination technology, genome editing

technology and molecular marker technique.

On the basis of the scientific elucidation of the influence of the topography, geography and soil conditions on runoff in different regions, it has worked out flood risk estimates and plans for the constriction of anti-erosion and landslide control structures and introduced them throughout the country in order to minimize flood damage in forest areas.

It appraised forest resources and estimated changes in the resources by combining the satellite and drone image analysis and field survey, thereby achieving successes in laying the scientific and technological foundations for the sustainable management of forest resources.

It has controlled the massive multiplication of forest pests and maintained the stability of the forest ecosystem, while actively introducing the genetic analysis into the diagnosis of tree pathogenic bacteria.

It has also established a sci-tech diffusion system in order to introduce and disseminate latest afforestation techniques throughout the country.



Working people plant trees in different parts of the country on Tree-planting Day.

# Production of school things boosted

By Kil Chung Il PT

Light industry factories across the DPRK are speeding up the production of uniforms, satchels and shoes for new students of the coming new school year.

Uniform producers of the country are making innovations, true to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to preferentially supply all the students with school uniforms.

Employees of different knitwear factories are making every sincere effort to produce good quality uniforms with the mind of the parents making their children's clothes, while giving precedence to the technical preparations according to designs and enhancing the efficiency of equipment.

Those of the Pyongyang, Hamhung, Phyongsong and Kaesong school uniform factories have contrived and introduced various jigs and tools and applied advanced processing methods to increase the actual cutting rate.

Workers of satchel and shoes production units are also devoting their sincerity

to their products.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill carried out their first-stage plan for the production of canvas for satchels for new students by bringing about a collective innovation.

Those of the Pyongyang, Phyongsong and Songchongang bag factories are positively making technical innovations to improve the quality of goods and their processing rate.

Excellent techniques and experiences, presented at several rounds of the meeting for assessing the quality of products of bag factories in all parts of the country held last year and the needle workers' competition as part of the contest of skilled workers with different jobs in various sectors of the national economy-2025, have been introduced into production to prove effective.

In order to produce convenient, light and smart shoes, shoe manufacturers have established a well-organized system for ensuring quality and met the technical indexes of products by enhancing the role of process inspectors and quality controllers.



Production is accelerated at the Pyongyang Schoolchildren's Footwear Factory and the Pyongyang School Uniform Factory. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



## Emulation among regional-industry factories intensifies

By An Hyok Chol PT

Production is going on at the modern regional-industry factories built as the first outcomes of the regional development policy of the new era in 20 cities and counties across the country driven by the long-cherished desire of the Workers' Party of Korea for providing regional people with a rich and civilized life.

The foodstuff factories in Songchon, Hamju, Kumya and Orang counties, whose production lines have been certified by the food safety management system, are making continuous innovation and uninterrupted advance.

The Songchon County Foodstuff Factory regularly organizes a prize contest and collective critique for improving the quality of chestnut-processed products which are specialties representative of the locality.

Such factories in Hamju, Kumya and Orang counties on the east coast of the country are producing various kinds of processed seafood which is widely known across the country.

Amid a growing enthusiasm for developing

new products, they are working hard to bring out popular products which are on a par with those of centrally-run factories.

The Jangphung County Foodstuff Factory is turning out ginger fermented vinegar and toothache tree fruit bean paste which can help treat several diseases, while the Kusong City Foodstuff Factory produces wholesome foods and drinks with distinctive tastes and aromas. The Kyongsong County Foodstuff Factory is making syrup, jelly and hot pepper paste made from fruit of matrimony vine as its signature products that represent the county.

The foodstuff factories in the mountainous counties are developing and producing various kinds of foodstuffs by making use of edible herbs and wild fruits collected in their localities.

The Sukchon County Foodstuff Factory strives to increase the variety of speciality products by introducing advanced technologies and experience of centrally-run light industry factories.

The daily necessities factories built in different parts of the country are improving the quality of their products.

The laundry soaps produced by the daily necessities factories of Kujang, Jaeryong, Songchon, Usi, Ichon and Kosan counties and Kusong City were registered as February 2 Products.

The Yonthan County Daily Necessities Factory produces a high-quality laundry soap with locally available raw materials and the Jangphung County Daily Necessities Factory succeeded in making a functional soap with sweet flag.

The Hamju and Onchon county daily necessities factories grasped the collection of idle materials and recycling as the key to lowering the norm of consumption per unit of production and solved problems arising in mixing raw materials and making dies, thus raising the productivity and quality of various kinds of plastic goods onto a high level.

The daily necessities factories in the 20 cities and counties are competitively producing furniture in high demand from local residents and various kinds of wooden goods and school fixtures.

The newly-built garment factories are also conducting a brisk competition for developing new products and raising quality.

Those in Kosan, Sukchon, Kumya and Kim Hyong Jik counties and Kusong City, among others, are giving precedence to the design of clothes for men and women and for different occupations and seasons and conducting a fierce competition for raising the skill levels of employees, thereby ensuring the quality of different kinds of garments on a high level and increasing the variety of products.

The socialist emulation among the regional-industry factories in the 20 cities and counties has gained momentum since several product shows and exhibitions held last year.

Officials and employees of the new regional-industry factories who participated in the product shows and exhibitions set higher goals for further accelerating regional and unit development through the efficient opportunities for sharing experience.

The successes made at these regional-industry factories amid the ever-intensifying socialist emulation drive serve as precious experience for the officials and employees of the regional-industry factories which were inaugurated in another 20 cities and counties in December last year.

## Material and technical foundations of machine-building industry strengthened

By Sin Pyol PT

The machine-building industry sector is working hard to consolidate its material and technical foundations.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex has made a new high-performance CNC machining centre to raise its productivity while ensuring the machining accuracy, and put several combined processing machines and planer-type milling machines on a CNC basis.

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex has established a waste oil recycling process by settling sci-tech problems arising in manufacturing and installing tens of pieces of equipment of 20-odd kinds in close contact with the relevant units.

The complex has

upgraded the bearing steel production process while newly establishing an integrated production and management system, thus increasing the actual output.

The Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory and Munchon Valve Factory have also developed several kinds of asynchronous motors and a new-type automatic valve by arousing the zeal for the technical innovation competition for expanding the production capacity.

The Ranam Coal-mining Machine Factory has improved the qualitative indices of alloy steel and introduced PLC into the boring machines, and the Taedonggang Electrical Appliances Factory has made and installed a wound core cutter to improve the machining accuracy.

# Five years of ushering in a new heyday of Korean youth movement

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The past five years after the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea were the period when a new heyday of the Korean youth movement was ushered in.

After its Eighth Congress, the WPK organized the 10th congress of the youth league as the first convention of the working people's organizations.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, sent a historic letter "Demonstrate to the Full the Might of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League on the Historic March towards a Fresh Victory in the Revolution" to the congress.

When he had a photo session with the participants in the youth league congress, he referred to the necessity to definitely turn the youth movement into a powerful driving force of socialist construction, fully prepare all the young people to be patriotic youths who actively defend socialism and dedicate themselves to socialist construction so as to make the whole country enlivened by them and steadily increase the ranks of exemplary young people of virtue.

He clarified the way to be followed by the youth movement and paid special attention to the youth work.

To train young people as incarnations of patriotic spirit and persons with practical ability, he made sure that young people took part in the celebrations of the

conference of war veterans held on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War and in its 70th anniversary celebrations. And he assigned them such huge projects for socialist construction as the construction project of a new street (Jonwi Street) in the Sopho area to lead them step by step, giving encouragement to and showing love for them.

In August of the year when the Party Congress was held, he met young people who had broken away from their past wrong way of life and volunteered to work in the difficult and labour-consuming sectors, supported their decision to start a clean slate and had a photo taken with them.

Under his paternal care the Korean young people proudly selected hard life and training for the prosperity of the country during their youth, not enjoyment and comfort, and grew up to be masters of the times who know how to overcome difficulties, make innovations and carry out their patriotic duties.



The 10th Congress of the youth league (April 2021).

Over 10 500 young men and women volunteered to work in the difficult and labour-consuming sectors of socialist construction in the year, when the Eighth Congress of the WPK was held, alone and nearly 1.7 million young people across the country volunteered to join or rejoin the Korean People's Army in only a few days in October two years ago when the hostile forces committed a reckless and dangerous provocation against the DPRK. Patriotic enthusiasm of young people for volunteering

reached the climax in the past five years.

And the ranks of exemplary young people of virtue who devote themselves to the collective and others further increased day by day and Jonwi Street, the Sinuiju Combined Greenhouse Farm, a modern large-scale greenhouse vegetable production base, and other monumental edifices, which are associated with the efforts, passion, wisdom and bravery of the youth, sprang up in different parts of the country.

At the conference in celebration of the 80th founding anniversary of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League held last January as the first national event of the year the Order of Kim Jong II, the highest order of the DPRK, was awarded to the youth league, which has safeguarded its sacred traditions and remained faithful to its sacred obligations and duties.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un personally pinned the order of glory on the flag of the SPYL.



Jonwi Street built by young people (2024).



Young people volunteer to work at the Ansok Farm in Onchon County of Nampho Municipality.

## More bravely and dynamically

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un came to meet us, young people, just after the national celebrations for the new year 2026 and saw that a large gathering of young people took place as the first national event of this significant year when the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was held.

Calling us the Korean young people who are a source of the strength and pride of the country, he awarded the Order of Kim Jong II, the highest order of the state, to

the organization of young people and attended the inauguration ceremony of the Sinuiju Combined Greenhouse Farm to show his great trust, saying that along with the patriotic march of our proud builders for both today and tomorrow, our brave pioneers, the land of our country will be richer and more beautiful, and our ideals and determination will surely result in achieving steady advance and victory.

The dream and future of the DPRK are calling us, young people.

We will struggle more bravely and dynamically for the eternal prosperity of our motherland and for our beautiful future.

**Yun Ki Song**, member of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade

In his speech at the conference in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that we can now talk about the invincibility

of our revolution because the youth organization is strong and our era is full of transformations because young heroes are high in their ideals, strong in their sense of self-respect and soaring in their revolutionary enthusiasm, and that it is something that we can be proud of before the world that we have trustworthy, stout young revolutionaries who, bearing in their minds the appellation of successors as the honour of youth, temper and perfect themselves by braving trials together with the

Party and their motherland.

We are filled with pride and self-esteem as being Korean young people.

We will vigorously advance towards a new brilliant era, which will shine with the resourcefulness and great might of the youth, proudly writing pages in the annals of socialist development and loudly singing the songs of creation and struggle.

**Ri Jin Hyok**, member of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade

# Steady upsurge in golden age of Pyongyang in new era

## Commencement of fifth-stage construction in Hwasong area

By Kim Rye Yong PT

A groundbreaking ceremony for the fifth-stage construction of the Hwasong area took place with splendour in Pyongyang on February 18.

The venue of the ceremony, which drew attention of the whole country, resounded with enthusiastic cheers of the participants.

It is because of the great significance of the construction project.

First, the point of the groundbreaking is truly phenomenal.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held only two days after the inauguration ceremony of the fourth-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area which successfully completed the five-year plan for the capital city construction (2021-2025) set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The WPK has made another gigantic step of creation for the people at a time when they were still thrilled at the miraculous reality in which nearly 60 000 flats had been built far exceeding the planned 50 000 flats in the last five years along with the recent inauguration of the new modern street.

The phrase "groundbreaking is precisely inauguration" has become a byword of the era and it has been regarded as a commonplace and natural thing that Pyongyang

undergoes a great facelift each year. However, even before reviewing the successes achieved in the five-year struggle waged with persistent fortitude and enthusiasm, another construction campaign started to demonstrate once again the fighting stamina of the Party, which is making a dash for a higher goal and greater success without a moment's delay or any self-complacency.

The commencement of the fifth-stage construction of the Hwasong area is also significant in that it marked the transition of the capital construction onto a new higher stage.

In fact, the appearance of Pyongyang has changed beyond recognition

through the construction projects conducted in the past five years with the main emphasis on meeting the citizens' demand for dwelling houses.

The urban quarters of the city have been extended eastward, westward and northward, and Songhwa Street with an 80-storey skyscraper as its symbolic building, Jonwi Street with an imposing tower-style skyscraper and the Hwasong area, which successfully combined formative and artistic qualities of architecture with modernity in different styles from the first to the fourth stage and broke new ground in all elements of architecture ranging from greening to lighting, have

ushered in the golden age of Pyongyang in the new era.

From now on, the construction of the capital will make the transition onto a higher stage for drastically changing the overall appearance of the city, rather than forming one street after another.

It is the determination and will of the Party to build Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, into the most beautiful and greatest city in the world.

The first step was made in the Hwasong area, a symbol of the civilization of the times, which reflects the far-reaching ideal of the Party and provides a criterion to judge the level of the desired transformation.



There is a loud sound of defonation signalling the groundbreaking for the fifth-stage construction in the Hwasong area on February 18.

## Towards new prospect



**To Song Chol**  
PhD, associate professor and department head of the University of National Economy

The Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea proudly reviewed the successes achieved by the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Over the past five years our people achieved great successes, which strike ourselves with admiration, under the leadership of the Party.

In the spirit of self-existence and self-development and with strong confidence, our people created a new trend of the comprehensive development of socialism and put the overall economy

of the country on a growth track while developing all regions of the country and all sectors of the national economy simultaneously and in a balanced way.

The huge plans for changing both the capital and provinces and bringing about substantial improvement in the people's living standard have been vigorously pushed ahead, thus achieving successes.

Last year alone, amid the fierce flames of miraculous increased production kindled across the country, the major industrial sectors of the national economy

carried out their highly-set production plans and the agricultural sector registered higher grain yields than the previous year.

The readjustment and reinforcement of major sectors of the national economy have been pushed forward, providing the possibility and guarantee for more confidently starting the attainment of the new long-term goals.

In particular, we achieved proud results in realizing the people's ideals and well-being and demonstrated to the full the simultaneous development of our state by

launching and completing the expanded and advanced regional development policy projects within last year.

Encouraged by this, we are advancing towards the implementation of the new long-term plan.

In all workplaces including factories and farms our people are very eager to carry out the tasks set forth at the Ninth Party Congress.

Though the tasks to be carried out are huge, we are sure of our rosy future as we are led by the WPK which is victoriously advancing the socialist cause with the spiritual strength of the masses of the people as the driving force for working miracles and by dint of their inexhaustible might.

## Regional development policy encapsulates strategy for state building

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The DPRK is witnessing a new history of overall national prosperity in which the capital and provinces and urban and rural areas change all together.

Lots of creations have appeared across the country, including the new modern streets heralding an era of socialist cultural efflorescence, the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area, large-scale greenhouse farms with intensive, optimized and intelligent production processes and ideal socialist villages.

This is not all.

Thanks to the Regional Development 20x10 Policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, regional-industry factories, public health facilities and leisure complexes were built in different cities and counties in a matter of two years and the projects for the regional development policy for this year are being pushed as planned.

The substantial and simultaneous development of the provinces—this is the core of the regional development policy in the new era epitomizing the WPK's strategy for state building.

It is not an easy job to eliminate the differences between urban and rural areas that have been handed down historically and to press on with the regional transformation which had long been pictured only as an ideal.

In addition, there exist subjective and objective factors hindering the country's advance, and there are enormous tasks to be tackled for boosting national power, defending national interests and enhancing national prestige.

However, after making a bold revolutionary decision to eliminate the backwardness and laggardness of the regions, the Party adopted and set forth and has expanded and intensified the regional development policy in the new era while dynamically leading the struggle to implement it.

The policy reflects the Party's state building plan for achieving the overall prosperity and growth of the state by consolidating the foundations and potentials of the regions in every way and radically improving the basic material and cultural living standards of the regional people.

The essence of the regional development policy in the new era is to make everyone who is born on this land equally enjoy an affluent and civilized life under the socialist policy of the state wherever they live, irrespective of the capital or the provinces and cities or remote mountain villages. In other words, it is to make the regional people not only enjoy the same material life just like the citizens of the capital but also live in good health and free from all sorts of worries in a cultured and hygienic environment like the capital.

To this end, the Party adopted the Regional Development 20x10 Policy that is unprecedented since the founding of the DPRK and expanded and deepened it into a comprehensive one that covers light industry, public health, science and education and has taken a series of strong measures to implement it.

As a result, the mountainous counties, which lagged behind in the past, are now mass-producing quality products for the residents, superb fishing villages envied even by the citizens of the capital have appeared and ideal modern rural dwelling houses are provided to the regional people free of charge.

The Party is working hard to realize even one more desire of the regional people, not content with the successes achieved.

At the 13th Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee, it set forth a grand plan to transform the newly organized or the most backward farms among those on the reclaimed tidal flats on the west coast of Korea into modern and civilized ones symbolizing the new transformation of rural development, as well as a plan to additionally form another new front for the transformation of the coal mining areas.

The future of the country which will be filled with the people's happy laughter is being brought earlier under the leadership of the Party which regards the people-first principle as its basic political idea and whose definite trait is to selflessly and devotedly serve the people.

### 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

# For sustainable development of economy

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Many countries are striving earnestly to promote sustainable development of the economy.

Russia is directing primary efforts to shipbuilding and agriculture.

According to the government's support programme, the businesses building civilian vessels are paid subsidies of up to 20 percent of the building cost, and several shipyards have already received the subsidies necessary for building ships.

And having set it as one of the government's prioritized orientations to strengthen state support to small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises, Russia is pressing on with it.

It is going to develop the unmanned technology and actively introduce it into all fields of socioeconomic life in the future.

The government is investing large funds in the construction and repair of houses, roads, hospitals and schools, among others, to ensure stable development of the economy in all parts of the country.

Vietnam has been focusing since the beginning of this year on establishing a new economic development system. The prime minister of the country said that GDP increased by 8.02 percent last year, adding this is a manifestation of the resilience of the national economy.

The Lao government recently announced the main direction of the 10th five-year plan for the socioeconomic

development of the state, the general goal of which is to increase GDP by more than 6 percent on a yearly average from 2026 to 2030.

The main content of the plan is to ensure a firm political stability, maintain a peaceful and safe social order, achieve sustainable development of the economy, train talents, promote scientific and technological research, develop rural communities and intensify poverty relief efforts.

Equatorial Guinea has taken positive measures to boost the economy by revitalizing tourism.

At a government meeting held at the Malabo people's palace in late February, the vice-president of the country stressed that tourism should be a dynamic force for the growth of the national economy.

Côte d'Ivoire is directing efforts to enhancing the role of industry in economic development.

The government of the country has included in the national development plan the issue of increasing the share of industry in GDP from the present 22.7 percent to 30 percent by 2030 and is taking steps to improve the industrial infrastructure.

Tanzania has recently completed in Shinyanga region the construction of a solar power station with a 50 000kW capacity.

It is also trying to enhance the role of tourism in the development of the national economy by increasing investment in the sector and creating a favourable environment for revitalizing it.

# Forests and economy

By Song Jong Ho PT

March 21 is International Day of Forests.

The UN General Assembly held in 2012 designated March 21 as International Day of Forests with the purpose of raising public awareness of the importance and role of forests.

Eighty percent of terrestrial biodiversity is that of forests.

Forests help enhance agricultural productivity and protect river basins.

According to data available, about 1.6 billion people in the world get food, fibre, water, medicine and others from forests.

Forests play an important role in mitigating climate change. They enable people to live in good health in safe ecological environment as they prevent environmental pollution and all kinds of noise and offer clean living environment.

However, they are being destroyed by human activities and various other factors.

Regional, national and international activities are under way to protect forests on the occasion of International Day of Forests.

The theme for this year's IDF is "Forests and Economy".

The DPRK, where mountains account for a large proportion of its territory,

regards afforestation and management of forests as important issues in economic construction and puts great efforts into them.

Large areas of forests have been created across the country through the forest restoration campaign over the past 10-odd years.

Modern tree nurseries and sapling production bases in all provinces, including the Central Tree Nursery, have produced and supplied enough saplings needed for forest restoration and the scientific level of tree planting has been improved to boost the rooting rate of planted trees.

Forest resources are making a positive contribution to economic development and the improvement of the people's living standard as the forest restoration has become the project of turning all mountains of the country into "gold and treasure mountains", rather than that of merely planting mountains with trees.

In particular, thanks to the implementation of the regional development policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, modern regional-industry factories have been built in cities and counties in recent years, accompanied by more active creation of forests of economic value to obtain raw materials for the factories.

## Briefly

### Russia

#### West's despicable behaviour condemned

The Russian permanent representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on March 12 disclosed and denounced the despicable behaviour of the West over the use of chemical weapons by Ukraine.

He said that the West is turning a blind eye to Ukraine's systematic use of poisonous chemicals in the theatre of special military operations while responding to Moscow's report of Kiev's crime to the OPCW with anti-Russia false information warfare.

### China

#### Defense Ministry decries Japan's long-range missile deployment

A spokesman for the Chinese Defense Ministry denounced Japan's long-range missile deployment at a press conference on March 11.

Japan has recently started to deploy the long-range missiles with the "capability to attack enemy bases". In connection with this, the spokesman said that the Japanese right-wing forces are making frequent moves to push ahead with the remilitarization of their country and foolish attempts to amend the "three non-nuclear principles" while stepping up the revision of the "pacifist constitution" and three security-related documents.

### South Africa

#### US ambassador criticized for reckless remarks

The South African Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation called the US ambassador to the country on March 11 to protest against his provocative remarks.

Earlier on March 10, the US ambassador said that South Africa discriminates against white people, while finding fault with its status as a BRICS member and its bringing of the criminal case of Israel to the International Court of Justice. The ministry denounced it as an act of escalating tension disregarding diplomatic practice.

### US

#### Partial suspension of government activities brings chaos to air transport

The air transport sector has been plunged into chaos due to the partial suspension of government activities in the US.

A bill on the financial expenditure for the US Department of Homeland Security was rejected by the Senate last February due to disagreement between the Republican and Democratic parties over the enforcement regulations of the immigration law. As a result, the department has been compelled to partially suspend its activities.

Scores of days have passed since then, but as the problem of expenditure for the department has not been resolved, confusion is getting worse in the air transport sector under its control.

# All kinds of disasters caused by global warming

By Ri Sang Il PT

The World Meteorological Organization, in a report issued in January, noted that 2025 was recorded as one of the hottest years since meteorological observation began.

Last year high temperature records were broken continuously in different parts of the world.

Extreme high temperature was constantly observed in many countries and regions throughout the year, including a "thermal roof" forming in the sky above Greece and other Balkan States in summer, causing a 10°C rise in temperature over the average.

Glaciers, which account for 68.7% of fresh water on the earth, have rapidly melted due to global

warming, and thus Tuvalu, a Pacific island country, is in danger of being submerged within some decades.

Global warming is caused by the ever-increasing carbon dioxide emissions.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, the carbon dioxide concentration of the air accelerating global warming reached a record high of 423.9ppm in 2024, 3.5ppm higher than that in 2023.

The UN Environment Programme predicted that the global mean temperature will rise 2.3-2.5°C higher than in the pre-industrial revolution period even if the countries that signed the Paris Agreement on climate change achieve the goal of reducing the carbon dioxide emissions by 2035

and that unless urgent measures are taken, the global temperature will rise by 2.8°C in this century.

Experts are of the opinion that most of the heat created by global warming is absorbed by the sea and if the sea gets hot, it swells, causing the rise in sea level and the intensity of precipitation and the tropical cyclone.

In January this year, it kept raining a lot for weeks, causing floods to kill more than 200 people and entail large-scale evacuations and rescue operations in different countries in southern Africa.

The disaster management institution of South Africa announced a nationwide disaster situation with regard to the fact that flooding occurred in the northern areas of the country. In Mozambique

and Zimbabwe, lots of farmland became useless and schools, public health facilities, roads, bridges and irrigation infrastructures were destroyed.

Chaos broke out due to heavy snowfalls and winter storms in Europe from the outset of the year.

In contrast to this, the temperature increased to 42°C due to an extreme heat wave in Melbourne, Australia, a record high since January 2020, and a temperature of 46.3°C was observed in a city of South Australia.

Experts and international organizations say that the threat to human existence from global warming is no longer an abstract notion and warn that unless the threat is restrained, it might lead to an unpredictable disaster.



Flood damage in Madagascar.



Heavy snow in Romania.



## Women wrestlers achieve first intl successes in 2026

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Golden Grand Prix Ivan Yarygin Tournament took place in Krasnoyarsk of Russia between January 29 and February 1.

The event is held annually in honour of Ivan Yarygin, Russia's two-time Olympic champion and four-time world champion. This year's tournament brought together over 500 excellent men and women players from 20-odd countries.

The participating nations sent to the competition their competent players with great physical strength and rich experience.

The host country of Russia also fielded the players who ranked in the top three at regional championships and those who were distinguishing themselves in domestic competitions.

The participants competed for 10 gold medals in the women's wrestling event of the tournament.

The DPRK wrestlers participated in it with the determination to present the first gold medals of this year to their motherland on the threshold of the historic Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Won Myong Gyong trounced an Uzbek player 4-0 in the first match and defeated all other opponents in succession by overwhelming margins, thus winning a gold medal in the women's 50kg category.

Choe Hyo Gyong beat her rivals with great physical strength to take the first place in the 53kg category and Son Il Sim also won a gold in the 57kg category.

Kim Ok Ju showed of her remarkable ability in the 62kg category. She overpowered

her opponent 12-2 in the final by applying various techniques.

It was the 68kg category that drew the special attention of amateurs and experts.

Pak Sol Gum played the final match with a Russian, who was a European wrestling champion in 2025 and an odds-on favourite in the weight category. She gave full play to her forte while actively and steadily speeding up attack and thereby defeated her opponent by a fall to win a gold.

The DPRK players bagged eight medals including five golds in the tournament, giving great delight to all the Korean people.

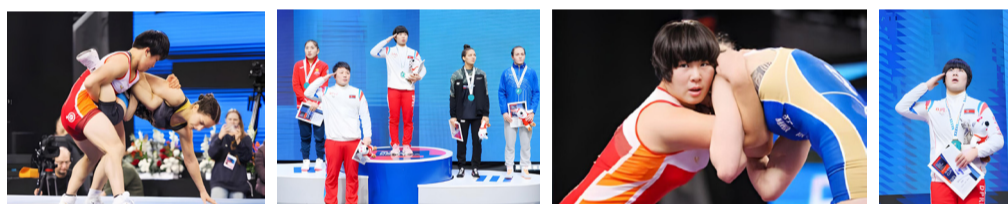
After the tournament, many foreign amateurs and experts highly praised them for having unfolded thrilling scenes.

"These five golds are the

fruition of our players' pride in being Koreans and Korean

sportspersons," said Kim Il, secretary general of the

Wrestling Association of the DPRK.



The DPRK women wrestlers win gold medals.

## Spring national sports festival opens

KCNA

The 2026 Spring National Sports Festival opened with due ceremony at the Ice Rink in Pyongyang on March 17.

It will be held, divided into professional and mass sports sectors. The players will compete in the games of more than 540 categories of over 30 events.

Present at the opening ceremony were Vice-Premier of the Cabinet and concurrently Chairman of the State Planning Commission Pak Jong Gun, who is vice-chairman of the National Sports Guidance Committee, Kim Myong Gun, chairman of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, officials in the field of sports, sportspersons and Pyongyang citizens.

Minister of Physical Culture and Sports Kim Il Guk declared the festival open, expressing the conviction that it would serve as an important occasion in boosting the morale of the brave ranks dynamically advancing toward a greater victory, rallying closely around the Workers' Party of Korea.

Then there was a men's basketball match between Amnonggang and April 25 teams.

## Wisteria of Mt Taesong, living monument

By Pang Un Ju PT

Wisteria of Mt Taesong grows in the Central Botanical Garden in Pyongyang.

In the spring of 1961 when it was 20 years old, the tree was transplanted in the botanical garden.

At the height of two metres the main trunk divides into eight thick boughs spreading in all directions while twining around the shelf.

The tree is 3.5m round at the root neck and the crown is 276m<sup>2</sup> in area.

Lovely flowers bloom on the tree in May and June and its pod fruits ripen in

autumn. A large fruit is 13.7cm long.

As the oldest large tree of its kind, the wisteria is of academic significance, and it is a precious living monument as the ornate flowers drooping to the bottoms of the trunk and shelf add beauty to the botanical garden.

