Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un Visits the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun with the Members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on the Occasion of the Day of the Shining Star
To Carry On the March Started from Mt Paektu
New Appearances of Jungphyong
Near Kyongsong Railway Station in North Hamgyong Province along the east coast of Korea, you can see a vast expanse of greenhouses—the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and North Hamgyong Provincial Tree Nursery.

They were built by soldier-builders of the Korean People’s Army and inaugurated in early December last year.

The Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm has a total of 320 blocks of hydroponic and edaphic greenhouses, including 300 semi-arched double vinyl-enclosed ones.

The semi-arched greenhouses, each covering 1,000 square metres in area, are designed to produce vegetables without heating equipment even in the cold weather conditions of the northern area. A regular grid of tubes is laid out inside to supply nutrients to the vegetables, and all the processes of management and cultivation are automated.

The farm has an organic fertilizer ground, seeding workshop, vegetable packaging and wholesale shop and large-capacity vegetable storehouses, as well as vegetable technology laboratory and sci-tech learning space.

It is pushing ahead with the work to increase production by properly managing a modern production system, adopting advanced vegetable growing techniques and methods, and selecting and introducing various highly nutritive and tasty species.

Its officials and workers are making strenuous efforts to prevent the damage from heavy snowfalls and other unfavourable conditions and render a substantial contribution to the improvement of the provincial people’s diet. They reaped the first harvest of vegetables last January and another high yield in February.

The tree nursery, which is built in an area of dozens of hectares and neighbours the vegetable greenhouse farm, is amply provided with facilities for tree saplings production.

It has several blocks of plastic panel greenhouses, outdoor cultivation ground, seed collection district, round cutting bed, testing ground for acclimatization, light substrate production and seed selection and sowing grounds, and sapling storehouses.

The officials and workers of the tree nursery are now endeavouring to turn out over 20 million tree saplings of good species in a year.
Thriving Yangdok Hot Spring Resort

Photo: Kang Yu Il, An Chol Ryong, Hong Kwang Nam
The Ryongmun Cavern, one of the famous underground scenic beauties in Korea, is located in the Ryongmun Workers’ District in Kujang County, North Phyongan Province. The cavern is formed by the centuries-old process of the limestone being dissolved or eroded by underground water.

It consists of two main sections and many wings with over 20 scenic spots, including Kwanmangdae, Manmuldong, Phungnyondong, Sekhwadong, Paekhwadong, Kumganggung, Posokdong, Hyongjedong and Ryongmun Square. Visitors are fascinated by not only spectacular stalactite and stalagmite formations reproducing wonderful scenic beauty on the ground, but also kind guides and their humorous explanation of the spots.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: An Chol Ryong
Stalactite and stalagmite formations in the shapes of white crane, hand and hock
Kim Hye Won began her career as an English teacher over 40 years ago, and now, when she has her own family, husband and two children, she still pursues her career with unflagging enthusiasm.

She has so far authored over ten textbooks and references. She is also an energetic supporter of her husband Jang Ui Jun, who is the lecturer of the same university.

Her assistance for over 20 years since 1998 has been of great help to Jang in solving scientific and technological problems arising in developing the country’s economy.

The couple are both professors and PhDs.

Hwang Myong Ok was born in an out-of-the-way village of Kimhwa County in Kangwon Province. Hwang recalls that she had travelled by train only once when she went to the children’s camp but never seen a plane until she graduated from the middle school. So she always admired the teachers, who were knowledgeable and taught intelligibly, and made up her mind to become a teacher.

She reaffirmed her determination while attending the lectures by eminent professors at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

More than four decades have passed since she graduated the university summa cum laude and took up the post of a lecturer at her alma mater in 1979. She is now Associate Professor, PhD and lecturer of the mechanical science and technology faculty.

Chae Kum Sun, Associate Professor and PhD, ranks high as one of erudite lecturers in the university. Though she majors in electrical engineering, she is also well informed about other fields of engineering, so her lectures enjoy full attendance.

She successfully carried out several research projects in cutting-edge technologies and wrote many books, including the first sci-tech book about nanotechnology, conductive to the development of the country’s science and education.

Among her creations is the design of the university’s emblem. She is a supervisor of the administration department.

Kim Hye Won

Kim Hye Won

Hwang Myong Ok

Kim Hye Won

Chae Kum Sun

Kim Hye Won

Chae Kum Sun

Kim Hyo Yong

Pioneer of Nanochemistry

Associate Professor and PhD Kim Hyo Yong is a researcher of the applied chemical engineering faculty.

During her 40 odd-year-long career she achieved many successes in the research, including the new surface coating technology of the metal.

As one of the pioneers of nanochemistry, she developed various kinds of nanomaterials and introduced them to several sectors.

Kim set up the subjects of nanochemistry and nanomaterials chemistry, and wrote over 20 books for lecture and reference, such as “Fundamentals of Nanochemistry” and “Carbon Nanomaterial.”

Pak Kyong Suk

Pioneer of Nanochemistry

Pak Kyong Suk

Pak Kyong Suk

Pak Kyong Suk

Master Designer of New Teaching Methods

Pak Kyong Suk is an exemplary educationist the university is proud of.

Her lectures on the social sciences are so comprehensible that all students await them.

It owes much to her painstaking efforts to not only broaden and enrich her knowledge but also master the art of lecturing.

She invented more than 20 new teaching methods and wrote lots of textbooks and references on social sciences.

She is Associate Professor and PhD.

Carrying On Family Tradition

Kim Sun Hui, Associate Professor and PhD, followed her father, who had been a department head of the industrial administration faculty, and became a lecturer of the university in 1986.

From 2010 she heads a department of the information technology faculty.

She has so far trained nearly 20 academic title holders, written 17 textbooks and references, and made useful research achievements.

Her two daughters are lecturers of Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology.
The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill is located near Moran Scientists Street on the bank of the Taedong River. Its compound resembling a large garden or a park is thickly wooded with fruit and other trees of various species, and laid out with cozy rest places. Inside the mill all the workspaces are provided with hygienic working conditions and environment.

The mill’s overwhelming majority of employees are women. After a day’s work they relieve the fatigue in the Jindallae Health Complex which is furnished with welfare service facilities, including a swimming pool, public bath and beauty salon. There are also a gym, hall of culture and artificial turf-covered playground in the compound.

The mill has also a nursery and kindergarten for its women employees.

By the Jindallae Health Complex there is the seven-storey hostel built in 2017. There are a mass dining hall on the first floor and several spaces for sporting and recreational activities on the second floor. On each floor from the third to the seventh floor there are eight rooms and cooking practice areas for the girl residents who are would-be mothers and housewives.

All the women workers of the mill are very proud of their workplace.
Aerial stunt is one of popular acrobatic programs in the DPRK. 
Aerial Flying (1955) was the first of its kind staged in the country. At that time the acrobats flew the distance of only 2-3 metres and made two and a half somersaults in the air at best. It was since the 1970s that the acrobatic pieces featured unique artistic presentations and difficult techniques, putting the country’s aerial acrobatics on the track of rapid development. Male and female acrobats flew the distance of more than 12 metres between several trapezes and frames, performing a series of somersaults and stunts.

Over ten aerial stunt pieces have been created so far, including Double Trapezes, Flying Girls and Let’s Fly Higher.

The DPRK’s aerial stunt pieces are also highly awarded. Aerial Flying (1955), Triple Trapeze Flying (1982), Trapeze Flying (1981), Polygonal Flying awarded Gold Lion Prize in the 11th Wuqiao International Acrobatics Festival held in China (2007) and Let’s Fly Higher awarded Gold Lion Prize in the 12th Wuqiao International Acrobatics Festival held in China (2009).
appreciated in the international arena.

Trapeze Flying won the gold prize in the fifth international circus festival held in France in 1981, and similar pieces were awarded top prizes in the circus festivals in Monte Carlo, Wuqiao of China, Rome and other countries of the world. Besides, they took the first places in the world acrobatic Olympics in 1983, and eighth and ninth world acrobatic championships.

Kim Myong Bong from the National Acrobatic Troupe was awarded the Guinness World Records Certificate for performing four backward somersaults in the air in the physical stunt Conquerors in November 2012.

At present the DPRK acrobats are performing five somersaults in the air.

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: Ri Jin Hyok
Every year schoolchildren of the DPRK have winter holidays from January to the middle of February. This year the educational authorities took new measures to provide schoolchildren during their holidays with sufficient time and opportunities for developing talents and skills according to their aptitudes and hobbies, instead of mechanically assigning them holiday tasks.

The measures were positively responded by schoolchildren across the country. The schoolchildren’s palaces and students’ halls were full of students who chose groups for themselves to acquire one or more skills and do physical trainings. A great variety of groups for extracurricular activities also came into being at schools, and study tours, field trips and mountaineering were organized frequently to consolidate acquired knowledge.

This year little visitors to the Sci-Tech Complex and the Natural History Museum doubled as compared to the past periods. A lot of schoolchildren visited the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and other resorts in the country to spend happy times and widen their experience as well.

*Article: Mun Kwang Bong*
*Photo: Hong Kwang Nam*
The Rimyongsu Falls located in Rimyongsu-dong of Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, is a natural monument of Korea. The falls rises from Lake Chon and runs through the basalts, and its water volume and temperature never change all the year round. Crystal-clear water cascades down over the edge of a cliff on which a pavilion sits, producing myriads of splashes on jagged rocks, forming several flows and joining again, and unfolding a wonderful scene in harmony with a lake at the base of the falls. In winter a veil of gauzy mist caused by underground water and cold atmosphere hovers over the trees nearby, presenting a superb scenery of hoar frost.

Article and photo: Mun Jin Yu
Home to Migratory Birds

In June last year over 30 black-faced spoonbills were observed in the Mundok migratory bird reserve (wetland) in South Phyongan Province. Spoonbills of the family *Threskiornithidae* are one of endangered bird species, and they number some 3,000 across the world.

In the past about ten spoonbills had been observed in the Mundok migratory bird reserve. The reserve occupies over 3,700 hectares of the flat and coastal areas on the lower Chongchon River, including tidal flat, paddy fields, rivers, streams and hilly coastal areas.

Registered as an East Asian-Australasian flyway network site, the reserve has favourable natural and geographical conditions and rich biodiversity for the habitat and stopover of many bird species. The reserve is so far known as a habitat of over 240 bird species with 190 odd species of migratory birds included.

* Article and photo: Pak Yong Jo
Aquatic Production Increased

The Pupho area in Kangnyong County of South Hwanghae Province on the west coast of Korea abounds with aquatic products. The sea off Pupho along a small bay provides favourable natural and geographical surroundings for aquaculture. The Pupho Offshore Farm has created along the coast breeding and feeding grounds, covering over 570 hectares, to grow a variety of marine animals and plants, including kelp, sea lettuce, laver, oyster and mussel.

The farm has recently expanded the capacity of kelp nurling cultivation and introduced the latest technological achievements, so as to create solid foundations for meeting the growing demand for kelp in health food and pharmaceutical production. It is markedly boosting kelp and laver production through scrupulous management of cultivating grounds while increasing the variety of breeds that are excellent in taste and high in nutritive values and productivity. It is continuously pushing ahead with the work of making efficient use of and recycling materials for aquaculture, which is beneficial to lowering the production costs.

It has also reconstructed its ship repair base and been provided with new facilities for managing offshore cultivation installations. Every year the offshore farm reaps a bountiful crop of aquatic products.

Article: Choe Song Sun
Photo: An Chol Ryong

A variety of marine animals and plants, including kelp, laver and shellfish, are produced.
Animal “Entertainers”
Attracting People

People who visit the Central Zoo, situated at the foot of Mt Taesong in Pyongyang, never go past the feat ground next to the Aquarium to see the acrobatic performance of the seals. The performance takes about 30 minutes in two parts.

Amid the playing of merry music, the earless seals appear on the stage and unfold intelligent stunts, such as catching rings thrown by the trainers and wearing them around their necks and finding things thrown into water without delay. They raise their bulky bodies above the water to touch the ball hanging in the air, and throw the ball floating on water with their snouts to make a correct shoot into the basket.

Whenever the earless seals perform wonderful stunts, the audience breaks into loud applause. As if to vie with them, the eared seals imitate singers at the microphone, unfold dancing movements, and shake hands with people before bobbing their heads. The whole ground is filled with laughter, and not only children but even grown-ups are reluctant to leave the place after the performance is over.

The trainers say that it had been difficult to tame the seals at first, but now they have become “acrobats” excellent enough to readily perform whatever new stunts. At first six seals gave the performance, and as the number of new “entertainers” grows, the performance enjoys more popularity.

Article: Mun Jin Yu
Photo: Hong Kwang Nam
**International Acclaim for Little Players**

Kyangsong Kindergarten situated on Changjon Street in Pyongyang is well known as the hub of little musical prodigies. It proved itself again at the 16th international festival Moscow Welcomes Friends held in Russia from November 25 to December 3 last year, drawing children from over 30 countries, including the DPRK, Russia, Belarus, Germany and France.

The oungum quartet from Kyongsang Kindergarten staged a collection of world famous songs on the theme of Arirang, a Korean folk song, with unique timbre of oungum, Korean musical instrument, and their diverse execution methods. The quartet created a great stir among the audience at the joint performance on November 29. Participants in the festival and other people spoke highly of their performance, giving bouquets of flowers and cuddling them.

Chairman of the festival organizing committee and other experts said: "The audience was captivated by the fascinating performance of the Korean children. Their performance gave a glimpse of the country's bright future. We are so envious of its excellent education system in which numerous musical talents are brought up. We hope for your country's further participation in our festival."

Article and photo: Kim Mi Ye
PADUK is one of the Korean folk games. According to Korean classical documents, including Samguksagi (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms), paduk was widely played already during the period of three kingdoms, Koguryo, Paekje and Silla, which existed together between AD first and mid-seventh century.

It is said that janggi, Korean chess, has a thousand varieties of moves, but paduk ten thousand varieties.

As it has become very popular nowadays as a high-level intellectual game and social interest in the game grows, there are many centres set up in Pyongyang and provincial seats as well as juvenile extracurricular groups, where a lot of people and schoolchildren acquire knowledge and skills of paduk.

At present a growing number of kindergartens run paduk classes.

Every year paduk competitions are held as a part of the national games, including Mangyongdae Prize National Martial Arts Championships held in celebration of the Day of the Sun, Sobaeksu Prize National Juvenile Taekwon-Do Championships and national Taekwon-Do technical innovation competition. There are also games for children and amateurs.

The DPRK players achieved successes in international tournaments. In October 1992 Choe Un A, 7-year-old girl, took part in the finals of the fourth world amateur paduk championships, and Kwon Mi Hyon and Rim Hyon Chol took the first place in the eleventh international amateur mixed doubles paduk championships in November 2000. And Jo Tae Won won a gold medal in the paduk open individual game of the first world mind sports games in September 2008.

Article and photo: Pak Yong Jo
Measures Taken to Prevent COVID-19

Amid growing unrest and concern of the international community for COVID-19, the campaign is being stepped up in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to prevent its infiltration and spread.

The government of the DPRK set the national emergency anti-epidemic system in motion on January 24, six days before the World Health Organization declared the state of emergency across the world.

Competent emergency anti-epidemic headquarters comprising leading officials of the Party, government, judicial, procuratorial and security organs as well as of public health organs were organized and began their activities in the capital and all provinces, cities and counties.

Thorough medical check-ups, quarantine and medical observation of all the foreigners and the Koreans who returned from foreign trips were conducted at all border-crossing points, including railway stations, ports and airports. Those who entered the country from January 13 and others who contacted with them were subjected to those measures.

As of February 28, not a single infected case was reported across the country.

However, all the emergency anti-epidemic headquarters and related institutions remain on full alert.

Article: Choe Ki Song
Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA

A research group from the History Faculty of Kim Il Sung University and Archaeology Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences unearthed a stone Buddhist image from the period of Koryo (918–1392) in Songhyon-ri, Onchon County, Nampho.

The statue depicts a Buddha on a stand decorated with lotus flowers.

The statue, made by processing white-coloured granite, consists of two parts. The body part is 235cm high, 84-91cm wide and 22-26cm thick, while the stand of a pentagonally trimmed monolith being 140cm long in the facade, 113cm wide in the flank, and 23-24cm thick.

Fragments of roof tiles with five-leaf patterns, earthenware, iron arrowheads, metallic currency and other relics of the Koryo period were also excavated.

Researchers made detailed survey and analysis of the stone image, such as its proportional structure, garment, and decorative patterns of the stand, as well as the period of the roof tiles’ employment. The results showed that the Buddhist image was erected in the early 10th century, or the early period of Koryo.

Article: Jong Ki Sang
Photo: Do Chang Il

Buddhist Statue of Koryo Dynasty Unearthed