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3





The respected Kim Jong Un wishes the kids at the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage a happy new year of Juche 104 (2015)

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FRONT COVER: To weave more cloth (At the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill)
Photo: An Chol Ryong

Pictorial KOREA is published in Korean,
Chinese, Russian and English.

Keeping Promise with Children

Personifying the love for the younger generations cherished by great Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un is building a bright future for them, bestowing affection greater than those of all the parents in the world combined together. His affection for the children bereaved of their parents is extraordinary.

On January 1 Juche 104 (2015) the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage to wish the children a happy new year.

Saying that he had promised to come again on New Year's Day while looking round the completed baby home and orphanage in October last year and came right after delivering the New Year Address to keep his promise with the kids, he acquainted himself with how the children spent the holiday.

As he made the rounds of the baby home and orphanage, the children rushed toward and hung around the Marshal, calling him "fatherly Marshal" and "father."

They boisterously told him that they had the dream of singing before the Marshal, themselves dressed in the clothes sent by him, and that they had fish, meat, sweets, biscuits, bread, apples, peaches and honey every day.

He wore a big smile, seeing that all the children got plump, fair in complexion, lively and cute, and said he was very pleased to

see the children, who longed for the parental affection, spending New Year's Day happily.

He continued to say that it was so good to provide the orphaned children with such splendid buildings and spend New Year's Day together with them, and he felt proud of having travelled the road difficult but rewarding. Noting that the happy image of the children instilled in him a firmer confidence in the bright future of the country, he stressed that the officials and employees there should bring them up finely.

That day he saw an artistic performance given by the children and had photographs taken with them.

Saying that the whole country will become bright only when loud happy laughter of the children is heard everywhere, he added that the laughter of the children and their singing of the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* will ring out louder on this land we are making the revolution.

Ennobling affection for the younger generations and the future of the country the respected Marshal had shown for the children at the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage is inspiring in all the service personnel and people of the country ardent zeal for dedicating themselves to the building of a thriving country.

Article: Kim Thae Hyon



Glorious 70-year History of the Workers' Party of Korea

The DIU and the Revolutionary Party Building

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), which organizes and guides all victories of the Korean people.

The WPK is a revolutionary party of a new type, which made its debut on the arena of history paving its own way under the banner of immortal Juche idea authored by President Kim Il Sung.

Kim Il Sung laid solid organizational and ideological foundations for party founding in the course of leading the Korean revolution to victory during the arduous 20-year-long anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Revolutionary party building in Korea traces its origin back to the formation of the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU).

When he embarked on the road of revolution in his early teens with a determination to save the destiny of his country and people from miserable sufferings under the Japanese military occupation, Kim Il Sung planned to form a vanguard organization of revolution capable of waging the anti-Japanese national liberation movement guided by correct fighting programmes and relying on the broad masses of the people.

Thanks to his plan and energetic activities to carry it out, the DIU was formed on October 17, Juche 15 (1926).

Its formation was a historic declaration of a new start of the Korean revolution and served as the starting point of the struggle to found a Juche-oriented revolutionary party in Korea.

Its programme constitutes the basis of the programme of the WPK, its principle of independence that of party building and activities, and the revolutionaries of the new generation it trained the backbone of the party founding.

Afterwards, Kim Il Sung put forward the original policy

for founding a party by setting up its basic organizations with young communists of the new generation and steadily expanding them. In July Juche 19 (1930) he formed the Society for Rallying Comrades as the first party organization.

He then paid great attention to expanding and strengthening basic party organizations with the SRC as a parent body. He ensured that basic party organizations were formed within the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and in various regions at home and abroad and established leadership system over them, thus consolidating the organizational and ideological foundations of party founding. As a result, preparations for founding a revolutionary party of the working masses were fully made already in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Thanks to his brilliant achievements the work of party founding made its smooth progress even under the complicated political situations in Korea after its liberation (August 15, 1945). And the historic inaugural congress of the party was held on October 10 Juche 34 (1945) in Pyongyang.

Reflecting ardent desire of all the party members and people, Kim Il Sung organized the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea and declared a Juche-type revolutionary party founded.

Since then the Korean people had their powerful General Staff of revolution and its vanguard detachment and greeted a new era of historic development in which revolution and construction could advance toward victory under the leadership of the Party.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho



Kim Il Sung discusses on the draft resolution for the Third Enlarged Executive Committee Meeting of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea in December Juche 34 (1945)



The house where the members of the DIU held secret reading sessions



A publication introducing the formation of the DIU and its activities



Adding Lustre to Time-honoured History and Culture of the Nation

The Korean nation is honoured with a long history spanning over 5 000 years and has created an excellent culture and brilliant history, which are associated with numerous historical sites and relics.

The cultural heritage of the nation is now retaining its brilliance as the valuable treasure of the nation, thanks to noble patriotism of the peerlessly great persons.

The great leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il devoted their lifelong efforts to adding lustre to the excellent national traditions, wisely leading the work to preserve and maintain historical and cultural heritage of the nation.

President Kim Il Sung, after Korea was liberated from the Japanese military occupation on August 15, 1945, took relevant measures to conduct the work of collecting and arranging cultural heritage of the nation without deviation. Immediately after the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he saw to it that an organ was established directly under the authority of the Cabinet, so that the work of preserving and maintaining historical sites and cultural relics was conducted on a nationwide scale and under the unified guidance of the government.

During the fierce Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953) he issued an order to launch a special operation unprecedented in the world history of war so as to protect the Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty in a library in



Seoul, south Korea. After the war he ensured that the cultural relics which had been destroyed and burnt by indiscriminate bombings of the US imperialists were restored to their original state.

Whenever he came across historical relics during his ceaseless field guidance trips, he visited them without exception, learned about their preservation and maintenance and gave detailed instructions concerned. On July 11 Juche 74 (1985) he issued DPRK presidential order No. 35 on strengthening the work of preserving and maintaining historical sites and cultural relics, thus establishing a regular system of conserving the national cultural heritage, involving all people across the country.

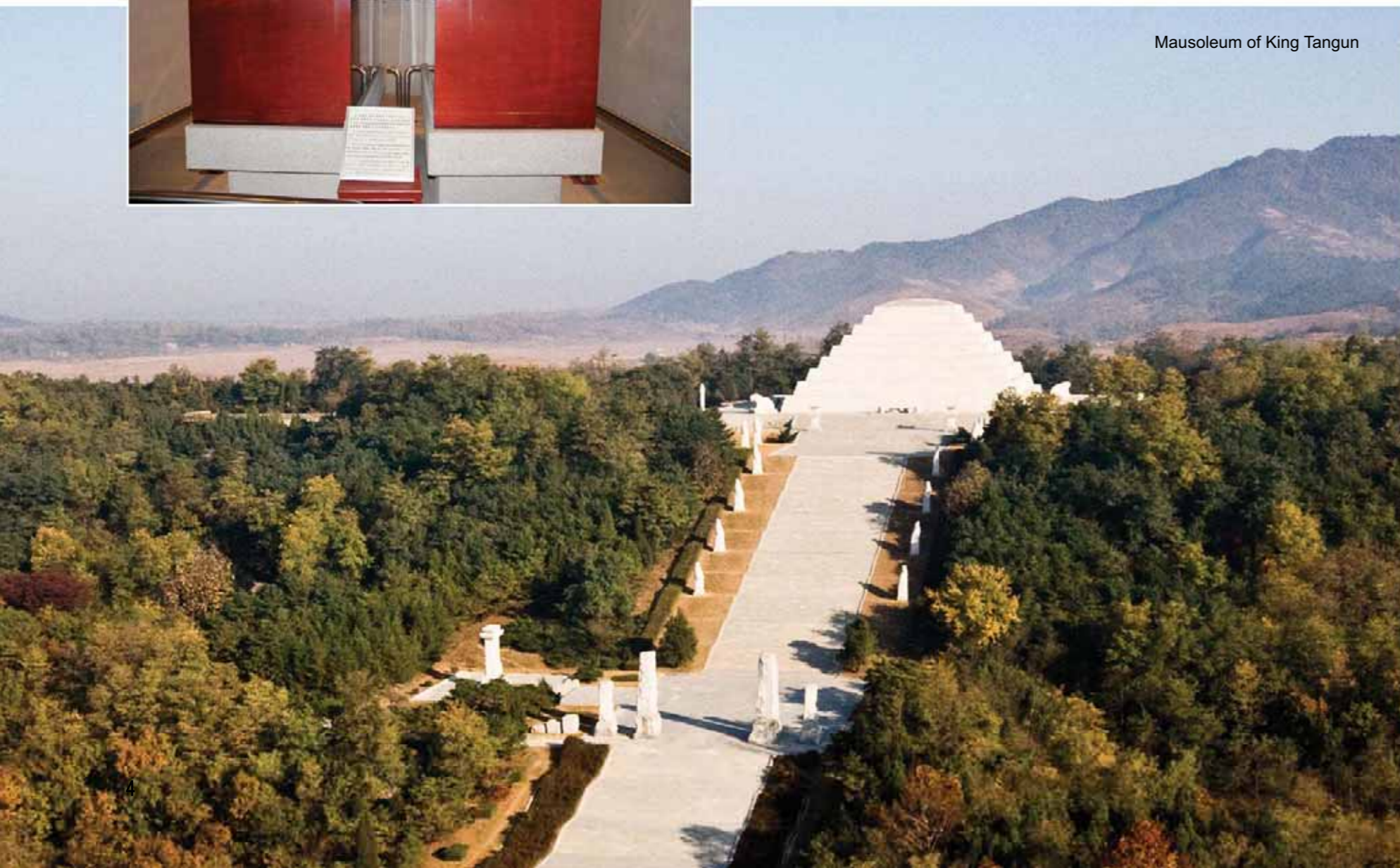
Thanks to his ennobling love for and thoroughgoing outlook on the nation, such historical sites and relics as the mausoleums of Tangun, Tongmyong and Wang Kon, illustrious kings in the Korean history, which had been degenerated into poor state with the lapse of time, were renovated magnificently, exalting the time-honoured history of the nation.

True to the ideas and intentions of the President, the General visited the Mausoleum of King Tangun in October Juche 83 (1994), and the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon in March Juche 85 (1996) during his Songun-based revolutionary leadership. He also visited many other historical sites and relics like History Museum at Mt. Myohyang, and Ryangchon, Kaesim and Woljong temples. While visiting them, he gave an energetic guidance over the work to preserve and maintain the cultural heritage of the nation and intensify education in patriotism through them.

The love for the country and the people cherished by the great Generalissimos who valued the national cultural heritage is splendidly inherited by the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un.

He visited the Pyongyang Folk Park early in the morning and gave meticulous guidance over it.

Mausoleum of King Tangun



Kim Il Sung gives instructions on reconstructing the Mausoleum of King Tangun, founder of the Korean nation, in September Juche 82 (1993)

On October 24 last year he made public his immortal work, titled, *National Heritage Conservation Is a Patriotic Undertaking for Adding Brilliance to the History and Traditions of Our Nation*, illuminating the principled matters, the essence of the national heritage conservation, principles to be adhered to in the work, tasks and ways for it. His work that is permeated with the noble spirit of patriotism now serves as a guideline in the work and inspiring the entire

army and people to the patriotic undertaking for adding lustre to the national history and traditions.

Under the wise leadership of the respected Kim Jong Un the work of conserving national heritage is being conducted as a campaign involving the whole country and all the people in the DPRK.

Article & photo: Jong Ki Sang



Temple for praying for the soul of King Tongmyong



80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures and special records for proofreading



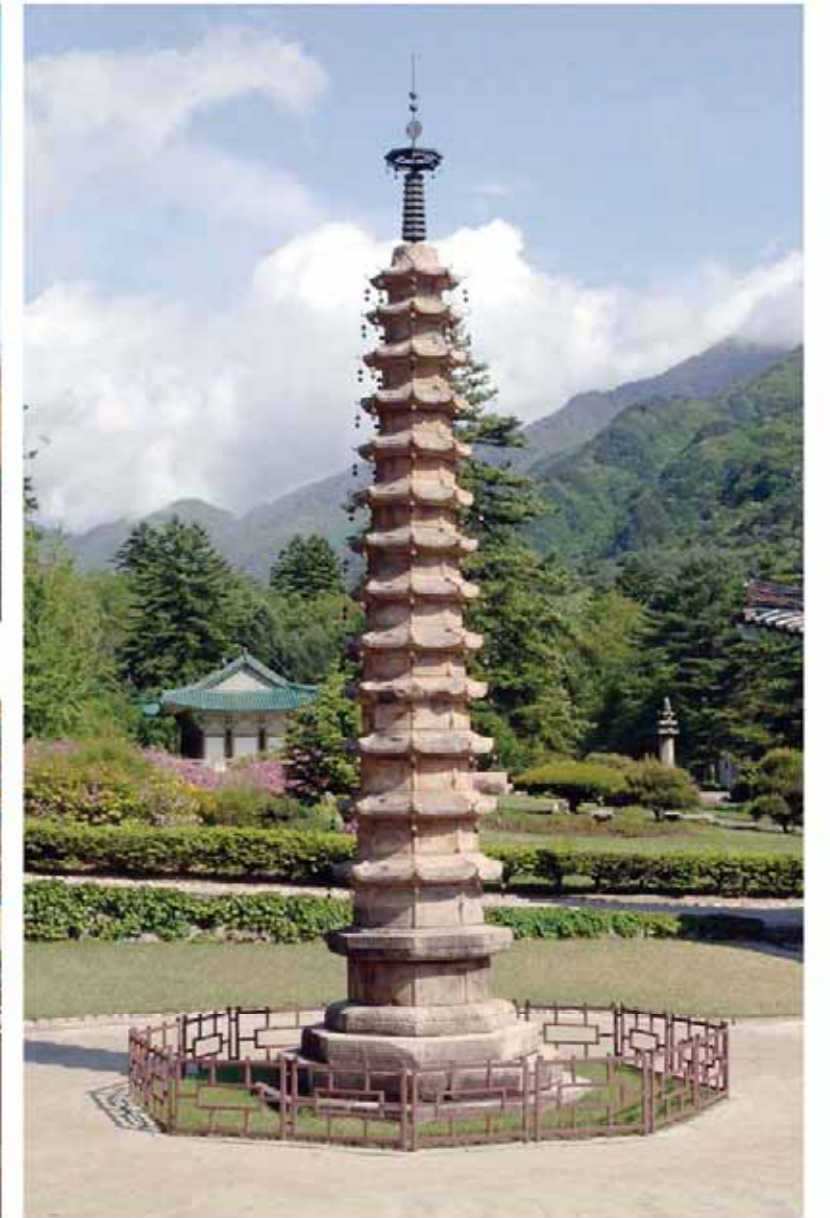
Kim Jong Il looks round the Sariwon Folklore Street in December Juche 97 (2008)



Monument to the Great Victory in Pukgwon



Interior of the Taeung Hall in Singye Temple in Mt. Kumgang



Octagonal, 13-tier pagoda in Pohyon Temple in Mt. Myohyang



Partial view of the Pyongyang Folk Park



Kim Il Sung reviews the Guards of Honour in March Juche 38 (1949)



Kim Il Sung signs an agreement on economic and cultural cooperation with the Soviet Union in March Juche 38 (1949)

Unforgettable Days in the Annals of Friendship History

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has a long history of friendship with Russia, its neighbouring country.

It was since March 66 years ago when the two neighbouring countries wrote a new chapter in promoting traditional friendly and cooperative relations.

Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the DPRK, paid an official goodwill visit to the former Soviet Union in March Juche 38 (1949), the first of its kind after Korea was liberated from the Japanese military occupation and the DPRK was founded.

During the visit, he was accorded a tumultuous welcome by leaders of the party and government and people of the country.

On his arrival at Moscow, he reviewed the Guards of Honour and delivered a speech. He then met Joseph Stalin, premier of the USSR Cabinet. Joseph Stalin hosted a luncheon in honour of his Korean counterpart. Kim Il Sung made a speech in the party.

He also met the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and attended its 5th session.

After having several rounds of summit talks and dialogues, Kim Il Sung concluded an agreement on economic and cultural

cooperation with the Soviet Union on March 17.

During his stay, he paid his floral tribute to the Lenin Mausoleum and visited the then Leningrad.

Since then friendly relations between the two countries and their cooperation in the economic, cultural and other fields continuously developed under the special attention of both supreme leaderships.

Afterwards, the President conducted energetic diplomatic activities to promote the bilateral relations in conformity with the rapid changes of the times and complicated international relations.

He visited the former Soviet Union in September Juche 42 (1953) and on over 20 other occasions, thus developing the friendship to a new, higher phase.

In this way he laid solid foundations for the DPRK-Russia friendship and created brilliant traditions, which are further developing century after century.

The exploits he performed in his foreign activities are eternal in the history of friendship between two countries.

Article: Kim Thae Hyon



Kim Il Sung meets and poses for a photograph with the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in March Juche 38 (1949)



Kim Il Sung lays a wreath in front of the Lenin Mausoleum in March Juche 38 (1949)



Kim Jong Un visits the newly-built Pyongyang Municipal Mushroom Farm in January Juche 104 (2015)



Model Mushroom Farm

A mushroom farm conducive to improving the people's dietary life has newly been built on the outskirts of Pyongyang, covering an area of over 24 800 square metres with a total floor space of some 9 560 square metres.

Amid a drive to radically improve the people's living standards, the municipal officials, working people and scientists and technicians in the relevant sector built the Pyongyang Municipal Mushroom Farm in a little over a year by fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

The supreme leader Kim Jong Un, who is leaving his im-

prints of the ennobling love for the people all across the country, inspected the farm in January this year.

After being briefed on the farm in front of a map of its general view, he looked round different places of the farm to check its construction and production.

Saying that the farm was built splendidly as intended by the Workers' Party of Korea, he stressed that its production and business administration should be carried on in a scrupulous manner to bring real benefit to Pyongyang citizens.

It is a steadfast intention of the Party to turn ours into a



The farm has fully established the integral manufacturing system over processes and administrative information system for business operations



country famous for mushrooms true to the instructions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, he said, adding that every province, city and county should set up a modern mushroom production base like that in Pyongyang and make meticulous efforts to choose species and substrates suitable for its own local conditions and adopt advanced science and technology in a positive manner.

He hoped that the officials and employees of the farm would commit themselves to their duty and had a photograph taken with them.

He called on the officials in every field and unit to hold the Party's slogan "We serve the people!" as a motto and resolve one problem after another together with him to bring about a turn in improving the people's living standards this year.

The farm built under the close concern of the supreme leader consists of main production buildings and dome-shaped cultivation grounds and is fully provided with all the conditions needed for mushroom growth.

Since the farm was commissioned in January, its management and employees have turned out in growing mushroom, in pursuance of the important tasks the supreme leader set forth in his New Year Address and during his recent inspection.

They widely introduce advanced methods to increase production of mushrooms, particularly good species like the white stick mushroom and agaric which are their main production items.

As the cultivators are making strenuous efforts by displaying their ingenuity and ardour with a firm resolve to carry out the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on improving the people's living standards, the farm is thick with growing mushroom.

Article: Kim Chung Bok
Photo: Jin Yong Ho





Towards the Venue of Grand October Celebrations

Efforts to Put Production on Normal Track

Entering the new year, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill is waging a vigorous campaign for increased production of cloth, as it had done in the past and contributed greatly to the development of the country's light industry.

All the workshops and production lines at the mill, including weaving, dyeing and printing, are ensuring that every machine and equipment are put in full operation to produce various kinds of cloth in larger amounts.

Leading officials at the mill are working out clear strategies for business operation and scrupulous plans for implementing them. They are always on the spot, encouraging workers to boost production.

High is the zeal of the working staff for increased production.

From the outset of the year weavers actively participated in a shock brigade movement for increased production by conducting multi-machine operating drive.

The respected Kim Jong Un visited the mill last year and, saying that the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill is one of major battle sites for improving the people's living standards and the foremost trench in the struggle to defend socialism, set forth tasks of producing more cloth. In his New Year Address he also advanced the task for the light industry sector to put production on normal track, fully aware of the responsibility and mission it assumes for the people.

Bearing his instructions deep in their minds all the workers at the mill are striving to carry out the tasks advanced by the leader with credit.

Those at the rayon fabric shop under the combined silk-spinning shop are helping and leading one another forward by shifts, while skilled workers leading novices, so as to operate all machines at full capacity. They are thus making good results in cloth production for students' uniforms.

The mill, regarding science and technology as its lifeline, is stepping up modernization of production lines and introduction of information technology into them.

The mill is spurring a mass drive for technical innovation, involving all staff members from management officials to ordinary weavers. The drive is bringing about tangible progress in realizing modernization and IT introduction of production processes.

Remarkable achievements the textile mill is making in cloth production are proud results of patriotic devotion of the officials and workers, who are striving to produce more and better cloth for the people.

*Article: Song Jong Ryol
Photo: Choe Won Chol*



The mill brings about an increase in cloth production by working out proper strategies for business operation and running the machines at full capacity



Towards the Venue of Grand October Celebrations

Towards Cutting-edge of Bioengineering

The Korean people, full of patriotism, are now undertaking a gigantic task of implementing the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on making the country thickly wooded with green and fruit-laden trees. And researchers from the plant tissue culture institute of the bioengineering branch of the State Academy of Sciences are rendering unassuming but tangible assistance to the undertaking.

The institute is located in Taedonggang District in Pyongyang,

and has several departments for all-round researches into nonviral tissue culture of plants as well as that of medicinal herbs and flowering plants, a large pilot plant and greenhouses.

It is capable of raising hundreds of thousands of apple tree saplings annually, and for previous three years sent a lot of apple tree saplings raised by tissue culture technique to farms across the country.

In the course of this, the institute established a system of

mass-producing grafted dwarf apple tree saplings by means of tissue culture.

The institute is exerting tremendous efforts into growing not only apple but also plum, apricot, jujube and other fruit trees and various species of trees and plants in large amounts, using tissue culture technique.

The researchers' endeavour for afforesting and landscaping the whole country and turning it into orchard will bring about a rich harvest of fruits from "mountains of gold."

*Article: Kang Su Jong
Photo: Jin Yong Ho*



Dwarf apple tree saplings are produced by tissue culture technique

Heaving Sea of Gold



The Sinpho Deep-Sea Fishing Complex situated on the east coast of Korea has a proud history of having contributed to the country's development of the fishing industry for several decades. It has several deep-sea fishing fleets

equipped with large-capacity factory ships and other big and small fishing boats, as well as a modern repair shop and a fish processing factory.

In hearty response to the call by Marshal Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address for

the fishing sector to drastically bolster up the fishing industry and land a huge haul by emulating the working spirit of the People's Army which made a new history of "sea of gold," the complex is engaged in deep-sea fisheries by large vessels as well

as inshore ones for a big jump in catching fish.

From the viewpoint that high operational rate of fishing vessels increases fish catch, the management officials and technicians of the complex work out a scrupulous plan

of repair and maintenance of the vessels, and ensure that they are always engaged in fishing at sea, rather than going out to sea only in favourable fishing conditions.

They are also directing efforts into putting fishing tackles and methods on a scientific basis, while introducing various fishing methods by use of trawl and purse nets, which greatly pays off in catching fish.

By establishing a prompt information

system of the ever-changing fishing conditions, the complex makes vessels move quickly towards shoals of fish.

Thanks to the fishermen's effort to land a huge haul and supply a large amount of fish to enrich the people's diet, the vessels with full loads of fish enter the port with loud whistling sounds.

Article: Kim Chung Bok
Photo: Kim Yong Bok



Masik Pass, Winter Sports Haunt

The long-anticipated first snowfall invited many people to the Masikryong Ski Resort.

The resort packed with those from Wonsan near the Masik Pass, Pyongyang, Sinuiju, Hyesan, Hamhung, Chongjin, Rason and other parts of the country is resounding with their merry laughter.

A multilateral service for winter sports tourism available at the resort attracts the visitors.

Most popular is skiing.

Comprehensive services for skiing are provided on slopes of various features for the beginners, intermediates and experts, according to ages, genders, tastes and likings. Also available

there are skating, sledging and snowmobile-riding and other winter sports and amusement games. So all the visitors, once they enter the snow-covered world of the Masik Pass, enjoy themselves heartily, quite unaware of the passage of time.

Spectacular are the sights of young men and women skiing down at full tilt in snow flurries on ten slopes spread by the snow cannons.

Also conspicuous is the ice rink on the summit of the Taehwa Peak, crowded with vibrant people enjoying figure and speed skating and playing hockey.

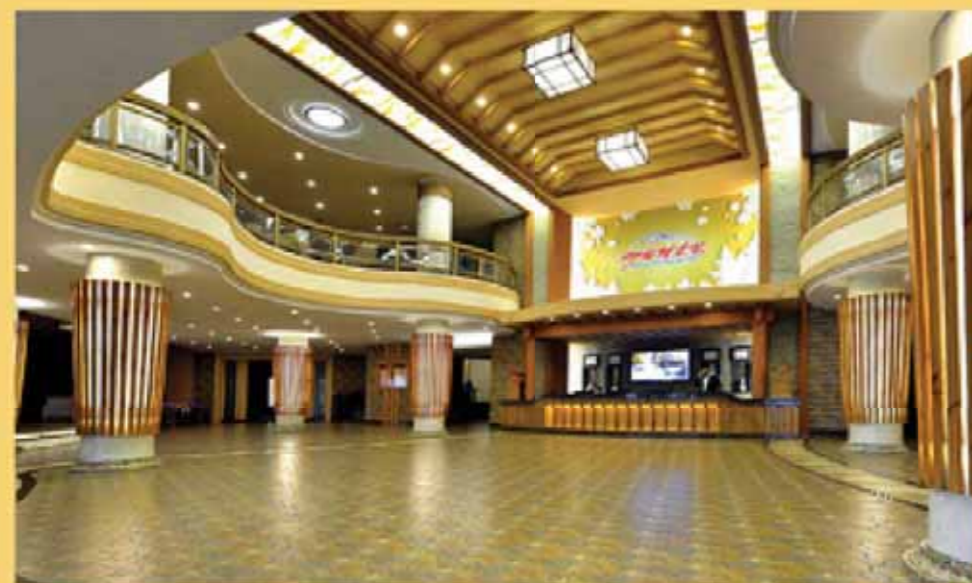
Masikryong Hotel adds pleasure to the people with summertime environment even in the dead of winter. They spend leisurely

hours in the swimming pool, recreation hall and the comfortably furnished rooms, and enjoy distinctive catering service there.

Enchanting scenery of the Masik Pass and delight of winter sporting activities in the ski resort await everybody.

Article & photo: Hong Hun







Well-known Purveyor of Animated Films

– Korean April 26 Animation Studio –

Panel discussions are held for appreciating films



Painters of original pictures

Korean animation films are greatly helpful for children, youth and students and other people to be fully aware of the time-honoured national history, brilliant culture and excellent traditions and make scientific judgment and reasoning and logical thinking. Since it made its debut in September Juche 46 (1957) with the puppet cartoon *A Mysterious Peach* and the cartoon *A Gold Axe and an Iron Axe*, it has so far produced hundreds of animation films. Cartoon *An Ant Moves a Melon* won a special prize in Varna International Cartoon Festival held in Bulgaria, and many others such as *A Boy Defeats Robbers* and *A Swift Winged Steed* won trophies and diplomas in the Pyongyang International Film Festival. The studio is also engaged in animation production on foreign orders and together with overseas counterparts. Now it is conducting at full tilt the work to produce the cartoon series *The Boy General* and other animations on various themes and in diversified forms that are congenial to the mental qualities of the children in various age groups and the sentiments of the people.

It is paying special attention to doing away with hackneyed stereotypes of the past, diversifying the scope of subjects and employing a wider variety of techniques, thereby producing those conducive to the education in the Korean-nation-first spirit, collectivism and class awareness. Producers, while getting firsthand experience in reality, make deep studies and speculations, and pool collective wisdom at regular panel discussions, so as to produce popular cartoons. The studio is endeavouring to make it more modern, science-based and computerized on a higher level and also build a satisfactory database for worldwide trends in cartoon production. The producers' efforts to create more cartoons that are appreciated as close companion of life among not only children but all other people are fanning the fierce flames of producing famous works throughout the studio.

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: Kim Un Hyok



Dubbing and dialogue recording





Laughter and Optimism Reflected in Mirrors

– At the Hall of Mirrors and the Mirror Maze in the Rungna People’s Recreation Ground –

Photo: Ri Myong Guk



Women Deputies

Women's position and role in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are getting higher with the progress of society.

They account for 16.3% of the Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, the highest organ of State power.

They, on equal footing with men, deliberate political affairs, and, as the master of society, work heart and soul for the prosperity of the country and well-being of the people. Among them are workers, educationists and executive officials of the factories and cooperative farms.

Article: Ri Song Chol
Photo: Hong Kwang Nam



Pak Yong Ae

Pak Yong Ae, a woman Deputy to the SPA, is a driver of trolley bus running from Songsin to Songyo in Pyongyang.

For the past 17 years since her girlhood she is engaged in traffic service for the people, driving the bus, rain or shine.

In the course of this she always put her bus under good maintenance, regarding it as an asset of the country, and ran hundreds-of-thousand km without a single accident. She also trained scores of drivers.

She is highly respected by the passengers for her devoted service.



Ri Yon Hui (right)

Ri Yon Hui, now leading a workteam at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, became a silk reeler at the age of 17. For the past 15 years she always kept machines in good order to bring them in full operation, and instilled in the minds of her team members the patriotism with which to produce silk thread in larger quantities and thus contribute to the country's prosperity and betterment of the people's living standards.

She led her team staff by performing labour feats in the van and looking after their life as their elder sister, thus overfulfilling the team's annual plans without fail.

She was elected Deputy to the SPA in March last year. She is still among her colleagues and pooling their efforts to increase silk thread production.



Jong Yong Suk

Jong Yong Suk is a chairwoman of the management board of the Rihyon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District in the suburbs of Pyongyang. She is well known as a woman who is the first to greet the dawn out on the field.

She has been working in the farm since her maiden days, achieving a success in four-time vegetable farming in a year. She has also laid solid material and technological foundations for farming on the basis of scientific analysis of climatic and soil conditions, thus opening up a bright prospect for rich harvest of vegetables.

With a single mind of providing Pyongyang citizens with fresh vegetables all the year round, she is always walking across the fields.

She is also Deputy to the SPA.



Kil Kum Sun

Kil Kum Sun, with 30-year-long teaching career, is the headmistress of Pyongyang Primary School No. 4 and a Merited Teacher. She is Deputy to the SPA, too.

On the first day in her teaching job she resolved to serve as roots for the younger generations. Cherishing it as her responsibility, she dedicated herself to her work. Working as a

teacher, second headmistress and now headmistress, she devised several new teaching methods and brought up more than 20 teachers as model lecturers, thus making her school pupils renowned for their high performance in not only study but also several literary, sports and artistic contests.

She finds the pleasure of life in bringing up her pupils as the able personnel for the future.



Ri Mi Ok

Ri Mi Ok, Deputy to the SPA and manageress of the Pothonggang Footwear Factory, is working in the shoe production sector for over 20 years.

She began her job as a shoemaker, and until now has presented a lot of designs to the likings of the people. She also introduced several technical innovation plans into production, bringing great profit and overfulfilling national economic plans every year.

She is always seen among her working and technical staff, inspiring them with patriotic enthusiasm for increased production geared to the improvement of the people's living standards.

Wild Ducks Flock to Taedong River



Pyongyang is widely known as a beautiful city. The Taedong River meandering along the Chongnyu Cliff of Moran Hill is a pride of the city. Wild ducks flying over the river add much beauty to its scenery.

Thanks to the DPRK government's policy of land administration and environmental protection, the river is free from

pollution. With its quality water, climatic conditions favourable for their inhabitation and rich sources of feed the river draws various species of migratory birds around the year.

Over 20 kinds of wild ducks fly to it in flocks from early September to early April the following year.

Recently modern cultural establish-

ments have been built on Rungna Islet of the river and along the river.

Moreover, as various species of trees have been planted there, the number of wild ducks inhabiting there increases every year.

The kinds of wild ducks staying from early autumn to late spring increase. It is as if they were reluctant to leave

Pyongyang that is taking on a more beautiful appearance as befits a people's paradise.

The sight of the river with wild ducks flying over the Taedong adds much to the landscape of Pyongyang and gives people great pleasure.

Article: Ryang Song I
Photo: Jin Ju Song





Mountains Become Greener

Korea, the mountain area accounting for nearly 80% of the land, is pressing on with the afforestation and forest conservation aimed at enriching the natural resources and providing its people with better living conditions and environment as an undertaking involving the whole country and all the people.

The respected Marshal Kim Jong Un set forth

in his New Year Address a vital task for the whole Party, the entire army and all the people to turn out in the campaign to restore the mountains of the country, as they carried out rehabilitation after the war, so as to turn them into "mountains of gold" thickly wooded with trees. The entire country is seething with zeal for carrying out his task with credit.

Officials and workers at the Central Tree Nursery, fully aware of their responsibility for the provision of tree saplings, the initial process in afforesting and landscaping work, are putting all their efforts to procure tree seeds of good species and increase their numbers by expanding their cultivation areas.

They are increasing the tree sapling production

by introducing rotary sprayers and making effective use of greenhouses, outdoor nursery fields, base of humus-cake sapling production and other material and technical foundations they have already prepared. They are also striving to put sapling production on higher levels of science, industrialization and intensification, while actively applying advanced production methods. They have already grown a lot of tree saplings and sent them to all parts of the country.

Every province, city and county is pushing ahead with the work of setting up modern tree nurseries with the capacity of producing millions of tree saplings as well as that of growing those of good species suitable for their local climate and features.

Afforestation is in full swing by planting species of trees that are useful for the economy and for improving the people's living standards—trees for timber production, oil-yielding trees, wild-fruit trees, chestnut trees and trees for fibre and paper production.

Along with this, agroforestry is greatly encouraged so as to make more effective use of mountains.

All the working people, youth and students are full of patriotic enthusiasm to strictly observe scientific and technical requirements in planting and tending trees, so that the survival rate is on steady increase.

Tree-planting is being undertaken on a wide scale in all parts of the country, thus covering

streets, villages, factories, schools and houses with trees, flowers and fruit trees.

Due attention is paid to the work of forest conservation.

All the factories, enterprises and cooperative farms are displaying a high sense of responsibility in conserving forests under their charge by taking proper measures in advance to prevent damage from pests and forest fires.

Amid the vigorous campaign for restoration of the mountains sweeping the country all the mountains are turning into those of "gold" and "treasures" where green trees are verdant.

Article & photo: Kim Chun Sim



All the people in the country are planting trees

Piano Prodigies



The billboard at the entrance to the Kyongsang Kindergarten in Changjon Street, Central District, Pyongyang, catches the eyes of every visitor.

It introduces the music prodigies, including Yu Pyol Mi, winner of the special prize in the 56th Schumann International Piano Concours and the 10th Saphonov International Juvenile Piano Contest, Ma Sin A, Kim Ryo Mi, Ri Yu Jong, Choe Jang Hung and Han Il Yong.

Before the billboard the visitors are struck with wonder, saying: Very great. It becomes pride of the kindergarten as well as of the whole country. It is amazing that the kindergarten has produced so many prodigies.

Some years ago, a foreign professor of music visited the kindergarten and spoke highly of it saying that the kindergarten is a cradle of music prodigies, provided with enough educational conditions at the expense of the state and society.

As a good foundation is essential for an excellent building, the DPRK government takes steps to provide all the educational facilities to develop the children's talents for art with an attitude of making unstinted investment in the future generation.

It introduced the system of musical education of children in the kindergarten several decades ago and trained the children with talents for piano and other musical instruments into future musicians and instrumentalists.

As for the piano education, it laid out practice rooms, sent pianos and appointed competent musicians who had received professional education as music teachers.

When reconstructing Changjon Street three years ago, it saw to it that the kindergarten was renovated in a modern fashion and provided with excellent conditions for piano education.

Merited Teacher Kim Hyang Suk and other teachers have made extraordinary efforts to steadily study new teaching methods so as to nurture the talented children with a high sense of responsibility that the future of the country depends on their own role.

The incomparable educational conditions and the teachers' painstaking efforts gave birth to the piano prodigies who demonstrated the dignity of their country in international piano



Kim Ryo Mi



Ri Yu Jong



Choe Jang Hung



Yu Pyol Mi



Han Il Yong

Children who took piano lessons at Kyongsang Kindergarten win prizes at international piano contests



Ma Sin A

contests in the past years.

Still now, the sound of the piano played by the children, the future musicians, is ringing out of the windows of the sunny rooms in the kindergarten.

Article: Kang Su Jong
Photo: An Chol Ryong





I See with My Heart

accordion, guitar, violin, cello, kayagum, piano and other musical instruments. My school had a rich assortment of musical instruments sent by the state.

I was so grateful to the country for looking after the people with disability to make them enjoy a worthwhile life that I often visited the construction sites to encourage the builders with my artistic performance. Everywhere I went, I received warm congratulations from the audience, who said they were much buoyed up by my skilful instrumental and vocal performance and resolved to speed up their projects.

Later I was married to Jong Hak Chon, a commissioned officer in extra service in the Korean People's Army, and had a daughter, Sin Hae.

When Sin Hae entered a primary school, I said to her in earnest:

"My dear, you must study hard to be a fine person. I wish you work twice as much, so as to repay the country I failed to do."

On national holidays I was led by my daughter to the statues of the great Generalissimos and the portraits bearing their beaming images, with baskets of flowers we prepared with sincerity. And we visited together the construction sites for the building of a prosperous country to give our unstinted assistance. Kept in my mind was that Sin Hae should cherish deep in her heart the preciousness of the country.

The respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, busy as he was with state affairs, highly appreciated the deeds performed by daughter.

Once I met at a music appreciation

room in the Grand People's Study House a foreigner, who told me in the following vein: It is so amazing. I never imagined I would meet anybody like you in such a place like this. I perceived that you are very happy in your life, seeing that you have time for appreciating music. Frankly speaking, the persons with disability are severely treated as inferior in every country. It's become a commonplace to see them subjected to assaults. The discrimination against the disabled women in particular is beyond description. They cannot even conceive of getting married, and even if they got married, they are brutally assaulted by their husbands and divorced. However, in your country those with disability are under warm care and protection thanks to the Law on the Protection of the Person with Disability, and it becomes a social climate. How blessed you are!

I see with my heart the grateful socialist motherland, a large garden full of human love, in which people are valued most and everybody leads a worthwhile life.

And I am enraged by the United States and its following forces, vociferously clamouring against "human rights issues" nonexistent in our country in an attempt to undermine our people-centred socialist system.

I will keep step with the sentiment of the times pulsating with the building of a thriving socialist nation, always cherishing the sense of gratitude to the motherland that brought me up finely.

Ri Chun Hyang, resident in Neighbourhood Unit No. 10, Tangsang-dong No. 1, Mangyongdae District in Pyongyang

Photo: Kim Kum Jin



Ri Chun Hyang in the friendly get-together held to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December Juche 100 (2011)



Among her family



Ri Chun Hyang finds her life worthwhile, giving fullest play to her musical talents under the grateful socialist system

Traditional Costumes



The Korean people have long favoured neat and elegant costumes suited to their noble and aesthetic sense of beauty.

The white-clad folk, byname of the Korean nation, is derived from their traditional fondness for white clothes.

The relics on display in the Korean Folklore Museum are eloquent testimony to the clothing customs of the nation.

The Korean people, in the course of their creative activities to free themselves from the shatters of the nature, produced hemp, silk, cotton and other cloth for making clothes in various colours and patterns as well as ornamental trinkets, in conformity with their physical constitutions and tastes.

Such relics in the museum that were

unearthed in the sites of primitive ages as thread and needle made of bone and wool clumper show that the Korean people made clothes since the dawn of history of mankind.

A mural painting discovered in Tomb No. 1 in Tae-an-dong, Tae-an District, Nampho, depicts a woman weaving on the loom. There is also a map of the Silk Road

in the 11th century and materials relevant to it that illustrate the foreign relations of Koryo (918-1392). They are striking evidences of the cloth production history of Korea.

According to historical data, the silk and ramie cloth of Koryo were so well-known for their high quality that even the merchants from Shandong, Fujian and Zhejiang, famous silk producers in Song China, came to Koryo to buy them.

Progress in cloth production stimulated the costume development.

The museum also displays the costumes for men, women and children in every period from ancient times to the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910) through Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) and Koryo.

In ancient times, where a class society existed, commoners wore hemp clothes, while the nobility silk clothes.

Increase in hemp, wool and silk production and the appearance of ramie cloth in the Koguryo period added variety to costumes.

A mural painting found in the Tomb of King Kogugwon portrays a male commoner in trousers with puttees around the legs and narrow- and short-sleeved jacket with a belt at the waist.

The costume of a female commoner depicted in a mural of a tomb at Tokhung-ri consists of a jacket, long skirt with wide pleats and toecapped rubber shoes.

Women in the period wore short jackets and skirts over trousers. There are also other costumes worn by noblewomen, artistes and soldiers.

In the Koryo period jacket got shortened in length and the waist belt was replaced with the breast tie.

Women usually wore short jackets and wide skirts with narrow pleats at the waist, and they began to wear *mongsu*, a kind of face veil.

At that time men wore trousers that got wider at the bottom, thus feeling more comfortable in living in a room with underfloor heating that was disseminated to the middle areas of Korea.

In the period of the feudal Joseon



Visitors look round the exhibits

dynasty, traditional costumes of Korea improved in styles and increased in kinds.

People wore different clothes at work and in seasons.

Man's costume mainly included trousers, jacket, sleeveless jacket, *sochang*, (a small, light outercoat), *turumagi* (overcoat), *poson* (a kind of socks), straw shoes, puttees, wristlets and kerchief.

Women wore jackets in various colours according to seasons, and began to wear *hoejang*, a jacket with colourful strips of cloth for trimming.

On display in the museum are different costumes worn by feudal government officials.

Koreans wore hairpins, trinkets, rings and other accessories for ornamentation.

The elegant and beautiful traditional costumes of the Korean nation that have developed century after century are now improving further suited to the aesthetic tastes of the present times.

Article: Mun Jong Ho
Photo: Choe Won Chol



Genre painting portraying handloom-weaving



The exhibits show the costumes by classes, sexes and ages from the ancient times to the feudal Joseon dynasty

Little Ssirum Practitioner

Kim Jin Gang from the Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province, was in the spotlight of the spectators in the National Inter-provincial Games-14 held in October last year.

A little *ssirum* (Korean wrestling) practitioner, he took part in the *ssirum* match in the kindergarten category on behalf of his provincial team and defeated all his opponents, thus contributing to his team's victory.

A boy of sturdy physique, he found his opponents' defects with a sense of calm to skilfully employ his ingenious tactics.

His playing was so impressive that every spectator watched him with much expectation.

He would enjoy sports games on TV, and when he was four years old, he bothered his parents, imitating *ssirum* movements from TV. His father had no other choice to become the rival of his dear son who had been already in a player-like posture.

When his 5-year-old son entered a

kindergarten, the teacher asked him about the aptitude and liking of his son. He replied he was very fond of *ssirum*.

Later, he said, "That time I did not mean it seriously, but the kindergarten has nurtured my son with a keen interest in his talent."

The kindergarten invited *ssirum* coaches of the Taeryonggang Sports Team to improve his prowess. In this way, he became a famous little *ssirum* practitioner.

The same is true of the other children who are bringing their talents into full bloom according to their aptitudes in the kindergarten, which is well known throughout the country for having brought up many talented children.

He will be a pupil of a primary school in April under the grateful socialist education system that values and develops all the children's talents and aptitudes.

Article & photo: Choe Myong Sik



Kim Jin Gang



Together with his parents



He is under instruction of coaches



Engrossed in amusement games



Brief News

A joint meeting of government, political parties and organizations in the DPRK took place. It set an agenda on opening up a broad avenue to independent reunification by the united efforts of the whole nation in this year of the 70th anniversary of national liberation, true to the New Year Address delivered by Kim Jong Un.



The 41st Jongilbong Prize national sports games of schoolchildren were opened



Winter camping started at the Songdown International Children's Camp



Various sporting activities were conducted across the country on the first sports day of the year

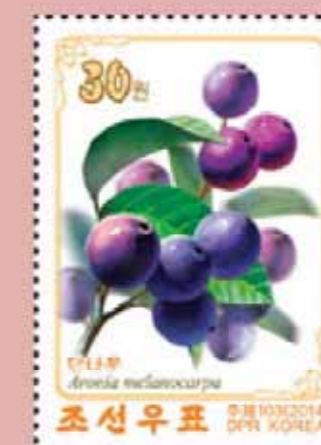


Inphung Health Complex in Kanggye, Jagang Province, started service



Photo: By courtesy of KCNA

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