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MEETING

Rural youth workteam movement activists meet in Pyongyang

Active rural youth workteam and sub-workteam members got together on March 12 at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang.

The national meeting was attended by Ko In Ho, vice-premier and minister of Agriculture, Ri Il Hwan, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, youth league officials and exemplary members of rural youth workteams and sub-workteams.

Pak Chol Min, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, told the event that at the instance and under the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il the rural youth workteam and sub-workteam movement developed into a powerful mass movement in the efforts to build an economic giant and improve the people's living standards, holding aloft the banner of the socialist rural theses.

The President highly appreciated the graduates of the then Sinanju Women's Senior Middle School in Anju who volunteered to work in the countryside in August 1977 and kindled the torch of the rural youth sub-workteam movement, and energetically guided young

people to play a leading role in carrying out the three revolutions, he noted.

The Chairman laid down important guidelines to be followed in pushing ahead with the rural youth workteam and sub-workteam movement in his works such as **Young Men and Women, Be the Vanguard Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader**, he added.

As we are guided by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who carries on the great leaders' noble intention of attaching importance to youth, the movement has

ushered in a great heyday in its development, resulting in over 1 400 youth workteams and sub-workteams becoming model or twice and thrice model ones, he said.

He called on all rural youth working group members to perform miracles one after another and make continuous innovations in the increased production drive to hit the agricultural targets set forth in the five-year strategy for national economic development by cherishing Kim Jong Il's patriotism in their heart and

copying the fighting spirit of the preceding generations.

Other speakers said that the members of the rural youth workteams and sub-workteams across the country have gained priceless experience that nothing is impossible if they give full play to the inexhaustible strength of self-reliance by relying on science and technology with a firm determination to carry out the Party's policy on agriculture without fail like the first sub-workteam members in the 1970s.

They also reviewed the faults and lessons in their work, especially their failure to conduct the movement in a revolutionary way in line with the Party's intention and requirements of the developing revolution.

The meeting adopted a letter to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Compiled from KCNA



A national meeting of active rural youth workteam and sub-workteam members is held in Pyongyang.

ECONOMY

Industrial sectors fulfil first-quarter plans



Steel production is on the increase at the Chollima Steel Complex.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex has gone into top gear to generate power as much as possible, while minimizing the loss of electricity.

The Huichon Power Station Unit 3 has carried out its plan for the first quarter by operating all generators at full capacity on the strength of the spirit of self-reliance and self-development.

The Sodusu Power Station is overfulfilling its daily power generation plan by introducing scientific methods and proposals conceived through the brisk mass technical innovation drive.

Miners of the Kangdong Area Coal-mining Complex are working hard in the spirit they

displayed as they fulfilled their February assignments.

The Hungyong Coal Mine that set itself a higher monthly production target has introduced efficient blasting methods at all pits so as to ensure uninterrupted drilling and blasting and secure more cutting faces.

The Kangdong Coal Mine, which laid cableways for cutting faces to save materials and manpower, hits its daily production target without fail by drawing on the past experience. And the Toksan Coal Mine has overfulfilled its monthly production plan by giving precedence to tunnelling and increasing its coal transport capacity.

The General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of North Pyongan Province is pushing the second-stage Honggondo tideland reclamation project with continued blasting.

SEE PAGE 3

CIRCUS

Acrobats win top prize at int'l circus fest

The 11th Izhevsk International Circus Festival took place in Udmurtiya of Russia between March 7 and 11.

The event drew over 200 renowned acrobats from 17 countries including the DPRK, Russia, Romania, France and Italy.

The Korean acrobats carried out unique and refined movements in physical stunt "Horizontal bar and flying from a swing" to show off the high profile of the DPRK's acrobatics.

The jury, foreign acrobats and spectators gave enthusiastic cheers and applause, lavishing praise on the Korean acrobats each time they performed breathtaking stunts.

At the awards ceremony the DPRK acrobatic piece won the gold prize.

The chairman of the festival organizing committee, who is also general manager of the Russian national acrobatic company, said that he has come to realize again the DPRK's acrobatics are the best in the world.

"The stunt is perfect in terms of technique, rhythm and music," he said. "I am sincerely thankful to the Korean acrobats for giving such a fascinating performance."

"The DPRK's acrobatic piece added colour to the festival and demonstrated the indomitable spirit of the Korean people who are advancing dynamically despite the US sanctions and blockade," said the vice-chairman of the organizing committee of the Monte Carlo International Circus Festival. "The Korean acrobats are strong and matchless in spiritual and moral and technical terms."

Spectators also sent congratulations to the Korean acrobats, saying they were fascinated by their stunt. They have won top prizes in other international festivals and theirs is the best, they added.

Compiled from KCNA

LEADING ARTICLE

‘Journey for learning’ continues over decades

It is 95 years since President Kim Il Sung made the 1 000-ri Journey for Learning in his teens.

Starting on March 16 1923, he travelled from China’s Badaogou to his homeland all alone, true to his father Kim Hyong Jik’s instruction that a son of Korea ought to know his country well.

Craggy mountains almost uninhabited extended for more than 500 ri (200km) of his journey to Mangyongdae in Pyongyang. He speeded up, always keeping in mind his father’s remarks that it would be a big gain if he could only realize why his country was ruined and that he would be aware of what he should do if he witnessed the miserable plight of the fellow countrymen in his native village. Throughout his trek he saw his compatriots groaning under the Japanese jackboot and heard their sorrowful stories.

Everything he encountered seemed to earnestly ask for help. He clenched his fists and fired his heart with hatred for the Japanese who reduced the whole of Korea to a living hell and the pledge of vengeance to annihilate the enemy.

Fourteen days after departure, he arrived at his native home at

Mangyongdae.

At home he keenly felt what the sorrow of a ruined nation was like and hardened his determination to gain back the independence of his country. He spent only two years there, but he gained deep insights into life.

At the news that his father was arrested by the Japanese police, he resolutely set off on the 1 000-ri Journey for National Liberation with the resolve to start the revolution in order to take revenge on the enemy of his father, family and Korean nation.

The journey for learning was his first trip of patriotism, a great school that helped him know his country and people.

He cultivated a revolutionary ambition while travelling long distances, and as he always harboured it he could lead to victory two revolutionary wars, two stages of social revolution, two rounds of reconstruction and several stages of socialist construction, thereby performing undying exploits for his country and people and the times and revolution.

Chairman Kim Jong Il saw to it that rising generations marched along the historic

route the President had taken in his teens in order to make them learn his revolutionary ideas and exploits and build up their bodies and minds.

Under his guidance, the first expedition was launched in March 1974 and such expedition has continued

through generations.

While on expedition, schoolchildren realize that the historic tour of the President was an invaluable, noble trek that led to the accomplishment of the historic cause of national liberation, the uninterrupted advance of the revolution

replete with victories and glory and the opening of a new age of prosperity.

Those who have joined the expedition so far amount to hundreds of thousands and the study tour will continue.

Kim Chang Su



Members of an expedition march along the historic route of the 1 000-ri Journey for Learning taken by President Kim Il Sung.

KCNA

COMMEMORATION

Meeting commemorates formation of peasants union

A meeting took place on March 9 at the Central Hall of Workers in Pyongyang to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Peasants Union.

It was attended by Choe Hwi, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, Vice-Premier Ko In Ho who is minister of Agriculture, officials of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea and farmers.

“President Kim Il Sung formed the Peasants Union, the first revolutionary organization of peasants in the country, on March

10 1928 and rallied all peasants into a single united force for the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle,” Kim Chang Yop, chairman of the UAWK Central Committee, said in his keynote speech.

After Korea’s liberation, he formed the Federation of Peasants Associations of North Korea on January 31 1946, the precursor of the UAWK, by inheriting the glorious revolutionary traditions of the peasants’ movement established in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, brightly illuminated the

path to be followed by it in every period and at every stage of the revolution and construction and encouraged the union members and other farmers in their efforts to resolve the rural questions, he added.

The union still retains its viability as a mass political organization decades after its formation and proudly exalts its long history, he said, describing it as a brilliant result of the outstanding and seasoned leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who he said faithfully carries on the ideas and leadership exploits of the President and Chairman Kim Jong Il for the building of the union.

Noting that the union has embroidered heroic epics in the annals of the revolution, he called on all the union officials and farmers to staunchly uphold the ideas and leadership exploits of the great leaders and work hard to step up the three revolutions in the rural community by holding fast to the historic letter the Supreme Leader sent to the participants in the 8th Congress of the UAWK.

LETTER

Grant suspension criticized as politically motivated

“The fund claims that its sudden suspension of grants is due to the ‘unique operating environment’ in the DPRK, but I cannot but see it as no other than an outcome of the pressure by some hostile forces who intend to politicize humanitarian cooperation,” Kim Hyong Hun, vice-minister of Public Health of the DPRK, said in a letter on March 10 to Peter Sands, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The letter is an answer to a notice dated February 22 of Mark Edington, division head of the Grant Management of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, that the fund will have suspended its grants to the DPRK by June 30 this year.

Kim Hyong Hun questioned the fund’s measure, saying that it was taken without any prior discussion with UNICEF and WHO, which are respectively the principal recipient and sub-recipient of TB & Malaria Programmes, and it came after the US initiated the harshest sanctions against the DPRK.

But he appreciated the assistance the fund has rendered

to the DPRK as part of its fight against TB and malaria.

And he also regretted the fund’s unilateral measure which he sees was taken without any consideration of the consequences and despite the somewhat fruitful joint efforts of the DPRK government, UNICEF and WHO in the fight against TB and malaria. He described the measure as extremely abnormal and inhumane.

He said that even the UN agencies engaged in the TB and malaria programmes in the DPRK have voiced their concern about the suspension of the grants, fearing that it may cause thousands of multidrug-resistant cases annually among the local patients who have benefitted from the grants and play havoc with the health of local children and residents.

He strongly urged the fund to ponder over the humanitarian impact of the suspension, to assume due responsibility for it and to take measures, though belatedly, to set things right in conformity with its humanitarian mission.



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A meeting is held to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Peasants Union in Pyongyang.

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Boost: Industries hit production targets

FROM PAGE 1

Despite unfavourable natural and geographical conditions, builders finished the banking

extending for well over 1 000 metres by concentrating on the primary damming for tide embankment No. 1.

The Ryongnam Dockyard is making a good job of building large-capacity fishing boats.

Since it built a 580 hp fishing

boat in a little over 40 days and launched it early this year, the dockyard has worked on the building of more than 10 vessels including fishing boats of Hwanggumhae and Tanphung series.

Amid the dynamic efforts for increased production, the Osoksan Granite Mine fulfilled its assignment for the first quarter at 105 percent as of March 9. Its miners continue to send more stone products to different construction projects.

And the Pyongyang Municipal Garment Industry Management Bureau is conducting an increased production drive after overfulfilling its first quarterly plan by 100 percent on March 6.



KCNA

A woman employee monitors a silk quilt production line at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

Elastic staff looms set to roll off assembly line

The Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory has developed a new version of elastic staff loom.

The new version is expected to be much more efficient than the previous one.

The loom revolves faster per minute with its productivity more than doubling, and it is

easier to handle in different aspects.

Such advantages have been proved by the trial run that started late last year.

The factory is set to produce dozens of looms this year.

The production and processing of materials are underway for serial production.

The casting workshop is speeding up the production of the complex loom framework and other casting parts, while the forging workshop is turning out a variety of steel products.

The power workshop is responsibly carrying out the processing of loom parts.

Once the materials and parts are processed, they are immediately put on an assembly line.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

PRODUCTION

Various glass goods produced

The Taean Friendship Glass Factory has turned out quality plate and processed glass products.

Among the new glass plates that undergo second-stage processing are tempered glass, windowpanes for vehicles, laminated glass, heat-proof glass of different colours, curved glass, frosted glass and pictured glass.

These products are winning favour with users.

The frosted glass that is widely used as an outdoor building material is made by jetting sand on plate glass while the curved glass is manufactured by heating and pressing the plate with a given radius of curvature in a reinforcing furnace.

Hollow glass is produced by injecting dry air that is close to atmospheric pressure or inert gas between more than two glass sheets that are placed at certain intervals and then sealing them up tightly. As it has great heat and sound insulation effects, it is widely used as windowpane or outer wall of a building.

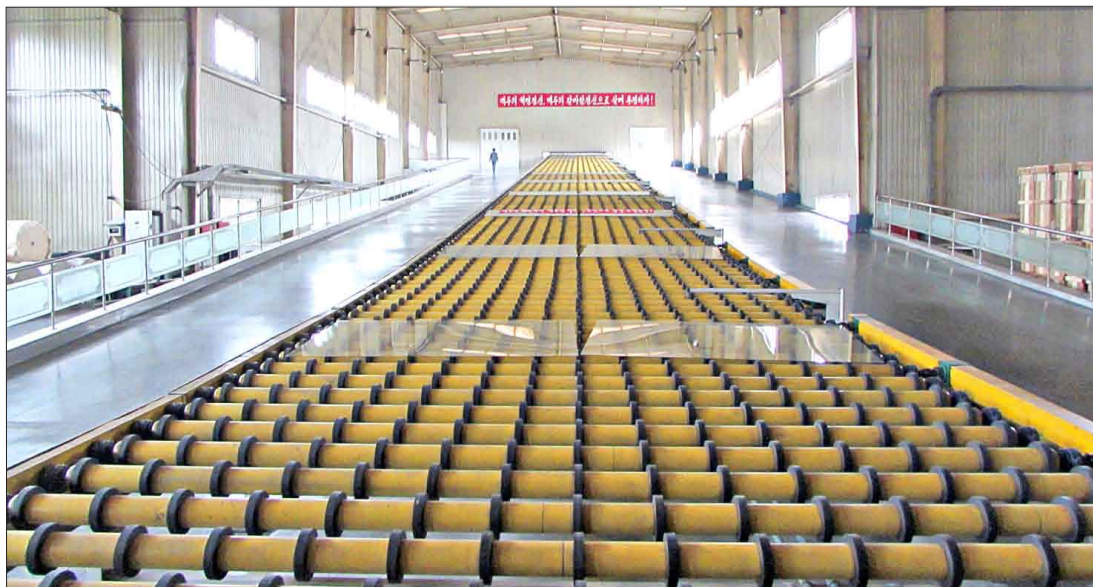
The patterned glass is made

by attaching various patterns to glass and processing it with infrared rays to be opaque. The pictured glass is produced by heat-pressing pictures on glass and used for interior decoration.

The factory has developed a method of manufacturing curved laminated glass and introduced it into production. Such glass

is not fragmented nor pierced even if it falls from a certain height. The factory has also made industrial UPS to ensure normal operation of equipment. The introduction of several other technical innovations has helped improve the quality of products.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



CHAE HYANG OK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Glass plates roll off at the Taean Friendship Glass Factory.

PROJECT

Landscaping in full swing for tourist zone project

Landscaping is making headway in the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone project.

Working people and builders across the country are scrupulously doing the work from supply of saplings to planting.

The Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection has ensured a timely supply of saplings and flowering shrubs, while the tree nursery station of the General Pleasure Park Bureau has provided thousands of young trees of different species.

Over 5 500 saplings have come from ministries and national agencies.

The same is true with South Hamgyong Province, Nampho and other local areas.

Builders have planted and

tended young trees and bushes in line with technical requirements. As a result lots of trees of good species like ginkgo, zelkova and lilac have rooted.

With more than 7 300 saplings in hand, landscaping efforts are gaining momentum.

Meanwhile, building materials to be supplied to the project are being produced as scheduled.

The Chonnaeri Cement Factory has provided cement more than planned.

Since mid-January the

Pyongyang Timber Mill has produced thousands of square metres of good-quality waterproof veneer which will be used as shuttering in the construction site.

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RESEARCH

University makes tangible contribution to metallurgical industry

Scientists and researchers at the metal engineering department of Kim Chaek University of Technology are pushing ahead with research projects to further improve the Juche-oriented iron- and steel-making technologies.

Ko Kyong Dal, academician, professor and PhD, Jang Sung Ryong, associated professor and MSc, and other researchers at the Juche iron lab have made notable achievements in solving various sci-tech problems arising in the production of pig iron based on the oxygen-blast furnace of Korean style.

Having confirmed the content of heavy sulphur in pig iron according to the kinds of anthracite, they conceived a rational method conducive to improving the quality of pig iron and established an optimal way for maximizing the output

by analysing the effect of concentrated rate and injection amount of primary oxygen.

They also settled the problem of fireproof materials while deepening the research into prolonging the serviceable life of furnace, and opened up a bright prospect for putting iron production on a normal footing by rationally remoulding the structure of furnace body.

Meanwhile, lecturers and researchers at the industrial furnace section of the department have also made good successes in their research by resolving problems arising in ensuring the domestic production of fuel.

They completed the high-temperature air combustion technical process in line with actual conditions, thus developing a regenerator capable of raising the actual extraction rate of thermalization more than 80 percent with locally abundant materials.

Based on it, the research team, in close cooperation with engineers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, succeeded in establishing the Korean-style high-temperature air combustion technology which ensures the high combustion temperature with low-calorific fuel.

They also played a leading role in ensuring the normal operation of heating furnace by solving technical problems of lowering pressure wave in heating furnace, reducing the loss of billets by oxidation and redressing abnormal operation of furnace due to the change of gas amount.

By Jong Tang Song PT

AGRICULTURE

Institute successful in research into farming in northern areas

The Rason Institute of Agricultural Science pushes a project to breed new strains of crops that suit the northern climatic and soil conditions.

The institute has modern labs, experimental plot, greenhouse, kimchi factory, mushroom farm and orchard.

By securing many rice genes and choosing species that suit the area, it has cultivated new varieties which are highly resistant to cold and productive. It has also improved the method of growing rice seedlings based on humus-cakes and developed a sparse cultivation technology to increase per-hectare yield by 20 percent while consuming less manpower and costs. Such success makes it possible to promote paddy-rice farming in the northern area, where such farming has been regarded as difficult, and to increase the area of paddies several times.

The institute has also researched a way to increase the per-hectare hot pepper yield, completing its growing technique based on double coating material. The technique helps advance the first pepper harvest date remarkably and gather dozens of tons of hot pepper, doubling the previous harvest.

Protein poplar trees grown by the institute have no tomentum but strong wintering rate and their protein-rich leaves can be used as fodder.

The cabbage cultivation technique in the solar-heat vinyl sheet greenhouse was highly appreciated at the greenhouse vegetable symposium in 2015 for its high per-hectare yield.

The successful research into the production cycle technology combining fish farming with vegetable hydroponic farming helped

raise over 2 000 fish in a 500-square-metre hydroponic greenhouse without renewing water and harvest over 10 tons of vegetables in a year.

Researchers bred pigs of good breed by carrying out four-way cross, and studied a design of energy-saving animal houses and a domestic animal rearing method which relies on natural microorganism, so as to increase the utilization of buildings, raise animals in winter without using additional fuel and save 15 percent of feed.

A five-blade-frame plough can increase the area of ploughing and reduce per-hectare ploughing fuel consumption 50 percent, and a combined thresher can cut electricity consumption, markedly improve the quality of threshed cereals and cause little dust. Such farm machines

have been registered as national patents.

The institute boosts mushroom output by realizing an industrial production of mushroom spores and establishing natural microorganism-based agaric substrate fermentation and black mushroom cultivation techniques.

“Our research results have been introduced to lots of units in the city, and many people from across the country visit us to learn from our experience,” said Jon Sun Bok, PhD and director of the institute.

By Yang Ryon Hui PT



KIM YUN HYOK

Researchers are engaged in research into high-yielding varieties of crops at the Rason Institute of Agricultural Science.

WEATHER SERVICE

App provides weather forecasts in real time

The meteorological information company has launched a weather information service system.

The system informs network users in real time of local weather forecasts and latest information essential for agriculture, maritime activities and other economic sectors.

The public weather service app is popular with customers as it has a user interface in which necessary data can be easily found with simple control from the large stocks of data. The program gives detailed weather-related information about current weather conditions, short- and mid-term weather forecasts,

precipitation, climate and such disaster-related weather forecast as the perils of the sea, typhoons and dust storm. The company also works to raise public awareness of meteorology by releasing weather-related multimedia presentations.

It operates a site “Weather Information” on the national networks.

The company has its exclusive mobile and network channels with rigid security, which help users have access to weather information promptly at any time and in any place.

The weather information service is being hailed by users, who say that the service

is helpful not only to everyday life, especially health care and daily scheduling, but also to science-based farming and maritime activities.

“I think the weather information service cycle should be as short as possible and the data provided in real time,” said Kim Kum Hwa, director of the company. “We will steadily upgrade the content and forms of our service to provide the most correct weather information in no time, and develop new apps to meet the needs for tourism and traffic in the near future.”

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

PROFILE

Cutting a conspicuous figure in industrial automation

Choe Tong Il (pictured), PhD and director of the machine design institute of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, is one of the DPRK’s top scientists and technicians in 2017.

Most recently, he won the February 16 Science and Technology Prize, top national honour for scientists.

In his childhood, he dreamt of becoming an electrical engineer like his father.

His familiarity with mechanical engineering started when he was enrolled at the mechanical engineering department of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering.

He was fascinated by the mysterious mechanical power during his university days and made up his mind to distinguish himself in this field.

He broadened his horizons of knowledge to build up his basic knowledge. While in university, he solved the problem of introducing high-speed automatic shuttle looms into textile machines, drawing wide academic attention.

After graduation he taught at the university.

Despite his tight teaching schedule, he developed a new-type elastic staff loom which consumes less electricity and may help boost output.

He always took on projects that required urgent solution in reality. He developed an automatic hosiery clipping device in an original way and introduced it into the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory to make the process unmanned.

Five years ago, he was tasked with a project for establishing a tampon production line at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

The equipment needed for tampon production was monopolized by a developed country, and an incredible sum



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

of foreign currency was needed to import the equipment. There were neither technical data nor designs to rely on.

When he visited a country which turned out the machine, its products were semi-automatic.

“At the time the general manager of the company advised us to buy their products, saying we cannot produce them. His remarks rather hardened our resolve to develop the machine with our own efforts without fail,” said Choe Tong Il.

He and his colleagues buckled down to designing with a sense of national dignity and ambitious grit.

After confirming the technical specifications and structure of the machinery and equipment, he completed designs for some ten kinds of equipment by pooling efforts and intelligence of the research team. He was instrumental in setting up the tampon production line of Korean style which is fully automatic from the feeding of raw materials to packaging.

He also played a pivotal role in mechanizing the production process of detonators to be used at mines, the footwear packaging at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory and the hosiery bundle packaging at the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

In recognition of his distinguished services to the development of the machine-building industry, the government granted him a modern home on Mirae Scientists Street and called him to a national conference of scientists as delegate.

By Pang Un Ju PT



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Weather service is provided online by the Hydro-Meteorological Administration.

MEDICAL SERVICE

Hospital improves ophthalmic service

A girl in Namgang Ward, Kangdong County, Pyongyang, was driven to the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital in mid-January.

The six-year-old had her left eye pricked by a wire by accident and the vitreous body came out accompanied by heavy bleeding and the choroid peeled off.

The doctors gave her first-aid treatment before holding an emergency meeting. In the course of discussion they found out good treatment plans.

Kim Chol Min, chief of the children's eye department, successfully conducted the primary operation to bring the case out of the most dangerous phase.

A week later there was the secondary operation to detach the retina, which would decide

whether her eyesight could be restored or not.

Days later the bandage was unbound and eye patch was removed.

All eyes were on her, when Kim Chol Min held out his two fingers at her and asked how many they were.

"Two, doctor, I can see it," replied the girl, and then looked at the people around to find out her mother.

Her mother Kim In Ok hugged her, bursting into tears of joy.

"When I came to the hospital with my daughter after the accident, I feared her recovery was impossible. But she has been able to recover her eyesight thanks to the utmost sincerity of the doctors and the modern facilities of world level. I have keenly felt the magnitude of the benefit of

socialist free medical care as I stayed with my girl during her hospitalization," the mother said overcome by emotion.

Such words of gratitude are not foreign to the doctors who try to improve the quality of medical service by introducing advanced ophthalmologic technology.

Chief Han Yong Sin and other doctors of the glaucoma department have applied the trabeculectomy combined with mitomycin, a world advanced remedy for glaucoma which is known as a refractory disease.

This method helps raise the efficiency of postoperative treatment, relieve much pain and markedly reduce relapse rate.

The retinal department has also registered good results in treatment by introducing various operation methods including those for retinal detachment, eye trauma, proliferative vitreoretinopathy and vitreous haemorrhage.

Drawing on the success in the 23-G vitreoretinal microsurgery requiring cutting-edge technology, it has extended the range of operation to efficiently treat eye diseases accompanied by eyeball diminution and eyesight disorder.

In addition, it has raised the recovery rate of various cases of retinopathy which was regarded as incurable or taking long time to recover.

It has also introduced into medical practice the ultrasonic emulsification and suction for cataract and refractive error redressment by excimer laser.

By Pang Un Ju PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Eye doctors perform a sophisticated operation at the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital.

EDUCATION

Online economic courses grow popular

The department of distance education at Wonsan Jong Jun Thack University of Economics has made noticeable achievements in raising the quality of online courses and improving the teaching conditions and environment.

It has laid a foundation for online education by setting up different offices for preparation, editing, videoing, programming, server management and lecturing.

It has worked out thousands of plans for over 70 subjects. Efforts are being made to lay out and update teaching contents in such a scientific way as to meet the students' demand and suit the specific features of their occupations.

Teaching plans are being updated on a constant basis with an eye to practicability, comprehensiveness and modernization of the substance, with much emphasis put on functional practice in a bid to help the working students build up their theoretical and practical ability in a short time.

In keeping with the rapid

development of information means, the department also pays attention to developing various study support and test programs and databases that can provide the students with best working conditions and convenience.

Researchers have developed a variety of pragmatic practice programs, including IT basic program and business simulation support system, which contribute to the implementation of the teaching plans.

A research team has developed an online lecture player that can run on smart operating systems, as a result of the study into tablet PCs, smartphones and the performance of the program on the operating systems.

The online lecture player, which was highly appreciated in the 2016 national sci-tech achievements show, allows users to receive online lectures at times convenient to them. The app is widely favoured by both part-time and full-time students, as well as officials involved in the economic sector.

By Jong Tang Song PT

MARTIAL ART

Site promotes Taekwon-Do techniques

The Taekwon-Do Holy House in the DPRK has launched its site "Pyongyang Taekkyon".

The site introduces techniques of Taekwon-Do for professional and amateur practitioners.

It also offers data related to domestic and international Taekwon-Do competitions, as well as sports information and common knowledge.

It serves as a platform for online lectures for experts.

The real-time online service deals with the problems arising in teaching and training and is much favoured by professionals and coaches.

Taekwon-Do is an orthodox Korean martial art which helps people protect themselves from attackers by using their feet, hands and other physical parts without any help of weapons and tools.

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DENTAL CARE

New dental appliances developed

The Ryugyong Dental Hospital recently made highly efficient medicines and appliances for dental care.

A new organism-friendly disinfectant and blocking substance are main materials for the treatment of pulp canal, and they will relieve patients of pain from sore teeth and promote their recovery.

A painstaking research resulted in the antibiotic disinfectant whose main ingredients are propolis and alum, both materials being widely used as broad-spectrum antibiotics in general clinical

and dental practice.

A mineral trioxide aggregate also proves to be efficacious in the treatment.

The MTA is a material to be used for filling pulp canal restoring rupture and other purposes.

It has proved to have excellent qualities such as high biological synthesis and sterilization ability, good blocking and secondary dentinogenesis ability and low solubility in clinical practice.

The dentists of the department made practical medical appliances such as the device

for pain killing in pulp and ultrasonic blade for canal.

A canal ultrasonic blade was highly appreciated at the 8th national medical appliances show as highly effective and valuable.

Other appliances include microimplant treatment

model for dental correction, semiconductor laser dental treatment device and suction pipe for drying pulp canal.

These appliances earned the hospital the top prize at the recent national exhibition of sci-tech achievements in public health service.

By Han Ryo Gyong PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Medicines and appliances made at the Ryugyong Dental Hospital.

Agreement on cooperation signed

The Central Public Prosecutors Office of the DPRK and the Supreme Prosecutors Office of Cuba signed an agreement on cooperation in Havana, Cuba, on March 14.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Korean prosecutors delegation led by Kim Myong Gil, director of the office, Korean ambassador to Cuba Pak Chang Yul, Dario Delgado Cura, director general of the Cuban office, and relevant Cuban officials.

The agreement was signed by the chiefs of both offices.

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GARDENING

'Window farm' comes closer to urban life

"Window farms" have been installed at the green architecture technology company on Ryomyong Street and other parts of Pyongyang.

Window farm refers to a hydroponic farm in which edible, medicinal and aromatic plants are cultivated in a vertical manner on the sunlit window areas.

Such a farm is known to be the most economic of all other hydroponic vegetable farms in terms of costs, occupying space and management.

Today, it is becoming familiar to urban residents as it enables them to grow vegetables for their own use all the year round.

Also known as family gardening, it serves both ornamental and practical purposes.

It has so many advantages including those of making effective use of space and providing green environment that it is widely accepted as cost-effective and decorative.

First of all, it produces non-polluted vegetables in any sunlit place, namely rooms and offices, without using any soil. As vegetables are

grown on nutritious liquids it can produce high-grade vegetables free from blight, 50 percent earlier than soil cultivation.

It also provides fresh air and green environment to homes and offices, filling them with natural fragrance.

Another advantage is that the farm has natural and psychological treatment effects on office workers and middle-aged and old people and gives urban children and students an opportunity to observe the growth of plants and cultivate rich sentiments.

According to a research result, a window farm produces

as much fresh air as an anion generator can do.

The hydroponics laboratory of the Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute has made achievements in research on nutritious liquids and diverse substrates for species and properties of plants to grow. It has also established cultivation systems for several plants which are based on distinctive, decorative and simple settings.

It intensifies research into the introduction and operation of the farms.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A woman tends plants of a "window farm" at the Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute.

SCI-TECH

Innovative ideas introduced to production

According to the State Commission of Science and Technology, hundreds of pieces of research hits have been examined and registered in recent months.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is working to put production on normal footing, holding aloft the banner of the Juche orientation.

It has introduced a method of producing pig iron in oxygen blast furnace and an idea of making carbonaceous fireproof materials as part of the efforts to complete the Juche iron production technology and increase the production.

The chemical materials institute under the Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences has developed a rubber balloon for meteorological observation, which is expected to help provide different economic sectors with correct

weather forecasts and other related information.

The Bioengineering Branch has succeeded in a project for raising the fertilization rate of breeding pigs. The Ministry of National Natural Resources Development has developed an innovative method of exploiting underground water for geothermal cooling and heating, which will save much labour, equipment and time.

Phyongbuk University has developed instant maize noodles.

The Kangwon provincial fishery cooperatives management committee invented a new technology to cultivate *Undaria pinnatifida* in the shallow waters of the East Sea of Korea. The technology has been introduced to local offshore farms, resulting in an increase of output.

The Ryongnam Dockyard has

fixed various kinds of sensors on all processes and realized automatic control of the coal gasification generating system that supplies enough power needed for its business activities and production.

Wonsan University of Fisheries has devised an efficient rotating pusher-style pollack guts washing machine to improve the quality of products.

The fishing machine institute under the Academy of Fishing Science has rationally remodelled the non-return valve of the vacuum fish unloading machine to improve the efficiency of fish unloading and reduce the unloading time.

Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, Hamhung University of Chemical Industry and the Chongjin Steel Works have also achieved successes in their efforts to integrate science and technology with production in the spirit of self-reliance and self-development.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

HEALTH FOOD

New remedy promotes bone metabolism

Treatment of arthritis is now one of the great challenges to health workers.

A new generation of multifunctional health food may be a solution.

The health food, known as chondroitin capsule, won a national patent last year. Its chief developer is Kim Chol Song, 53-year-old PhD at Kim Il Sung University.

The capsule, an outcome of cutting-edge research results, is made by separating chondroitin sulphate of different sorts and low-molecular peptide which the World Health Organization announced have no negative effects on human body, as well as physiological activators.

A few years ago, Kim Chol Song and other researchers of the Life Sciences Department set themselves an ambitious goal to develop a new remedy for arthropathy in keeping with the global trend towards turning to research into health foods for the reproduction of cartilage.

On the basis of analysing the merits and demerits of such medicines as chondroitin and glucosamine, they came to conceive a multirole natural health food which suits the constitution of the Koreans and relies on locally-abundant raw materials.

After painstaking efforts, they discovered that glycoprotein needed for cartilage is rich in livestock by-products that had been cast aside in the past, and succeeded in making chondroitin into the form of low molecule by a new biological method.

They paid special attention to a new collagen substance which accelerates the synthesis of cartilage while checking its decomposition.

In search of elements needed for collagen synthesis, they selected earthworm autolysate, which contains

various essential amino acids and many low-molecular peptides restraining cartilage decomposition, as the most ideal source of raw materials.

Finally, they scientifically mixed chondroitin sulphate, lipidic glycoprotein, low-molecular peptide and antioxidation substances, thus developing a new-generation bone metabolism accelerator with multifunctional pharmacological effect.

Years of clinical tests have verified that the product had a higher bone metabolism accelerating function than the previous calcium codex or bone-protecting products.

The newly-developed chondroitin capsule is very effective in treating different kinds of arthritis and rheumatism and improving the density of bones. In particular, it relieves inflammation and pain in joint regions, restores and protects broken cartilaginous regions, and remarkably cures the dysfunction of joints.

It also dissolves cholesterol deposited on vascular walls to eliminate it from blood vessels and regulates the viscosity of blood, having a marvellous effect on curing arteriosclerosis.

The health food helps retard skin ageing and protects human body from viral diseases by protecting the gastric mucous membrane and reviving immunity. It has a wide application.

It is thought to promote children's growth as it is more capable of preventing oxidation and contains much more substances in favour of bone metabolism than vitamin C or E.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Patented chondroitin capsules.

Tool and vehicle show held

The Construction Division 216 has held a show of construction tools and vehicles as nationwide efforts are gaining momentum to turn Samjiyon County into a model mountainous town.

The show was featured by hundreds of heavy machines and dump cars which have gone through maintenance, as well as other equipment and tools.

Many apparatuses and

implements made by builders were highly appreciated as being helpful to improving the specialization, speed and cost-effectiveness of construction.

Among the exhibits were those that came from across the country as aid.

After the show vehicles moved toward building sites.

Compiled from KCNA

INTERFERENCE

US bent on 'regime change' in Venezuela

The US is still keen on sanctions against Venezuela.

Most recently, it imposed sanctions on Venezuelan military officials, saying it would demonstrate its decision to call into account "those implicated in corruption" in the country.

When Venezuela established a constituent national council for constitutional revision in order to stabilize its political situation last year, the US accused that as an attempt to "build up dictatorship" and slapped sanctions on its president and senior government officials.

The US is now calling on its allies around the world to join in its bid to further isolate the "oppressive regime".

The aim of the move is to overthrow the Maduro

government and set up a pro-US regime.

More specifically, the US tries to turn Latin America into its "quiet backyard".

It seems that the US clings to the bid for regime change in Venezuela as it continues to advance under the banner of the Bolivarian revolution and anti-Americanism.

After the national election committee of Venezuela announced that the presidential election would be held on April 22 and the government assented to Nicolas Maduro's bid for reelection, US State Secretary Tillerson toured some countries in Latin America to rant about the US intention to keep pressurizing Venezuela into regime change.

In actuality, the US has incessantly intensified

independent and collective pressure against the country for the change.

It designated Venezuela as a threat to its security by a presidential executive order, and has initiated sanctions against the Venezuelan president and high-ranking officials and brought the "humanitarian crisis" to the UN while supporting the dissidents in the country and patronizing them as "democratic forces". The US chief executive, in particular, bragged that the US would not exclude military option against the country.

In the final analysis, the US is trying to get rid of the Maduro government which it sees as a thorn in its flesh so as to dominate Latin America.

Ri Kyong Hui

JAPAN

Subservience to US leads to destruction

Riding piggyback on the US, Japan is taking the lead in the anti-DPRK campaign.

When the US announced "independent sanctions" against the DPRK in February, it was quick to support it and vowed that it would monitor the DPRK's vessels.

It showed some one-upmanship of calling for a relevant international meeting.

Japan is notorious for its heavy reliance on, if not subservience to, the US in politics, economy and military.

It is quite preposterous for such lackeys to try to hurt the DPRK.

It is nothing but an absurd act of a despicable vassal state.

In the past Japan sought profits while living on powers, but ended up in ruin.

In the mid-19th century, it entrusted itself to the US, concluding unequal treaties, and reduced the whole territory to a market of Western commodities and a source of supply of cheap raw materials while currying favour with Western powers.

It embarked on the road of overseas expansion with the connivance of Western powers which held it in their political

and economic bondage, but it eventually suffered disgraceful defeat to become a war criminal state.

Far from drawing a lesson from its ignominious history, it is behaving subserviently as a faithful servant of the US master.

It is working to realize the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" at any cost, but that's an illusion.

Korea is not a weak nation of the past when it was trampled underfoot by the Japanese imperialists.

Japan has resigned itself to all manner of contempt and maltreatment of the US in politics and economy.

In 2013, a Japanese political scientist asserted in his "theory of perpetual defeat" that Japan will be unable to get out of the state of defeat unless it frees itself from the two factors: "negation of defeat" and "subordination to the US".

Japan will pay dearly if it behaves rashly, neglecting its shameful history and failing to realize the change in the world political landscape.

Compiled from KCNA

US

Deadly shootings commonplace in US

Gun violence continues unabated in the US.

There was the deadliest shooting ever in the US' Las Vegas in October last year, leaving about 60 dead and 527 others wounded.

Such a crime is commonplace in the US, where carrying guns is legalized.

According to watered-down statistics, there were about 61 100 cases of gun violence in 2017, with 15 488 killed and 31 058 others injured. It means that 42 people were shot to death a day on average.

At present, Americans possess a total of 357 million firearms. They are even put on the list of dowry.

An American sociologist said that gun has become the kernel

of American culture.

There is no let-up in the deadly shootings this year, too.

On January 1 a 38-year-old woman was shot dead by an unidentified gunman at a house in Oakland, California.

Such crimes occurred throughout the country including Los Angeles, Houston, Indianapolis and Atlanta.

More serious is that it has become a fashion among minors, with many of them wielding guns even at schools.

On February 23 a 15-year-old fired at his fellow students at a high school in Kentucky, killing two and injuring 17.

With the situation getting worse, American people raise voices to demand a tighter gun control.

However, munitions producers try to check the move while lobbying politicians.

The US president, who is backed up by the National Rifle Association, also tries to shirk his responsibility, saying he would talk about it later.

Most of Americans want to buy weapons for "self-defence", a sentiment leading to growing gun violence.

As long as such a social system that serves the interests of business conglomerates is left intact, the US will never get rid of the epidemic.

The rampant gun violence is fully revealing the true identity of the US as the number one human rights abuser in the world.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Briefly

A US senator on March 12 submitted a bill to Congress on nullifying the administration's measure to apply high tariffs on imported steel and aluminium.

He warned that the measure would give rise to the usual tariff-induced problems including mounting unemployment and worsening economy.

Saying Congress will not conspire with the administration as it is incurring economic disaster, he called on other lawmakers to join efforts to cancel the irresponsible

measure.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov decried the US for preparing for a nuclear war in Europe, speaking at the recent disarmament conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Asserting that the US' maintenance of tactical nukes in Europe obviously started from the aggressive stance, not from the outdated approach of the Cold War era, he called on Europeans to resolutely oppose the deployment in their territories of the nuclear weapons of the only country that used the weapons

of mass destruction against the Japanese residents in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Addressing a recent Parliamentary session, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani dismissed as preposterous the remarks of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who argued that the Iranian government and missile programme are a threat to the region.

He said that his country does not pose any threat to anyone, stressing that Iran presses on with the missile programme to ensure regional peace and security.

Israeli troops keep committing atrocities against the Palestinians in the West Bank.

They shot dead a 19-year-

S. KOREA

Despicable dogfight

South Korean conservative parties have become embroiled in a dogfight in the run-up to the local elections slated for June.

Hong JunPhyo, representative of the Liberty Korea Party, said it is absurd for the "righteous future party" to style itself the "centre of conservatives" and called it a "party without certain ideal" and "quasi-conservatism" which he said is destined to be absorbed by the LKP after the local elections. And he also slandered the RFP's Ryu Sung Min group as renegades that left the LKP when it was in a crisis.

Not to be outdone, the RFP branded the LKP as "corrupt conservatism with vested rights" and a "party that will perish for its outdated politics", while trumpeting that the "genuine conservatism" is just the RFP in a bid to win over conservatives.

old Palestinian near Nablus on March 10 and another young man who were out for a demonstration in Hebron on March 9.

Compiled from KCNA

The duel is being highlighted by a scramble for the Kyongsang provincial region that is known as a "bulwark of conservatism".

The RFP asserts that its leadership will pool all efforts to overpower the LKP.

On the other hand, Hong Jun Phyo toured the Kyongsang region to beg for support, asking residents not to trust the RFP and claiming that only the LKP can revive the regional economy.

Whereas the Hong clan tries to spearhead the attack on the current government, decrying the authorities as a "leftist regime scuttling security and economy", the RFP describes the LKP as more incompetent than the Democratic Party, arguing that the group of accomplices of Lee Myung Bak and Park Geun Hye caused economic stagnation and committed all evil acts in nine years of conservative rule.

The nasty fight between the conservative opposition parties disillusioned not only people in Kyongsang but those who pin their hope on them.

By Han Jong Chol PT

SOCCKER

DPRK Premier League at its height

The 2017-2018 premier league, which raised the curtain on December 2 last year, is gaining momentum. Impressive are the thrilling scenes of scoring, but more interesting is widespread speculation that there will be big changes in the familiar rankings. As of March 15, there were 58 matches with a total of 67 goals.

Each team has played four to six matches. Some of them are winning unsparing praise of the fans. What draws much attention is Ryomyong which is a newly emerging team pulling up with powers. Ryomyong is taking the lead with five wins and one draw. It beat Ministry of Light Industry, Kalmaegi, Rimyongsu,

Jebi and Amnokgang 5-0, 3-0, 1-0, 2-0 and 2-1 and was tied goalless with Pyongyang on March 11. Ryomyong maintains the lead with 16 points by scoring 13 goals and allowing one. April 25 and Hwaepplu, the first two in last season's rankings, are also successful. Both teams engaged in the group league stage of the 2018 AFC Cup have registered four wins in the four matches.



A scene from the football match between Sonbong and Wolmido in the 2017-2018 premier league.

HAN KUM CHOL

“When the emerging teams like Ryomyong win, it gives us more excitement. I’m not sure whether April 25 and Hwaepplu could defend their position this season. It is too early to be sure, but I’m hopeful that Ryomyong will cruise to victory,” said Choe Chol Ung, former Kigwancha player.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

TAEKWON-DO

Club attributes its success to scientific training

The Pyongyang Municipal Taekwon-Do Club stands out among the rest. It won the Mangyongdae Prize national martial arts championships, Jongilbong Prize national schoolchildren’s Taekwon-Do championships and national Taekwon-Do all-star tournament for Jongsung Cup last year alone.

It attributes its success to scientific training. The club conducts training according to phased and tailored training programmes.

It correctly assesses each practitioner’s physical, technical, psychological and technical developments through routine checks and examinations. Accordingly, it works out daily, weekly, monthly and phased plans and enforces them rigidly.

The rate of practice games is high and practitioners are encouraged to grasp their merits and demerits through video lectures. They learn how to regulate their mentality in training and games. Coaches scrupulously guide training to assess the ability of each practitioner and to help adopt new skills.

To raise the scientific levels of Taekwon-Do techniques, researchers are developing evaluation programs and inventing new physical training equipment including a comprehensive training device for strengthening upper body.

The methods conducive to scientifically confirming the burden, speed perceiving ability and psychology and controlling them in favour of games help practitioners make the most of their physical and technical ability in matches.

The club also attaches importance to sharing experiences among the practitioners and coaches.

Coaches get together often to discuss tactics and training methods.

Practitioners are required to master a 180-degree turning and side kick, 360-degree spin kick and other special techniques and ensure collectivism, correctness and power in performing group patterns.

The club recruits junior and senior middle school students.

By Jong Tang Song PT

ICH

Arirang enjoys enduring fame for many centuries

Folk song *Arirang* is so symbolic of the Korean nation the world people call it “Arirang nation”.

The song dates back to the early 13th century when *Sodo Arirang* was sung by the locals in the northwestern provinces of Korea involving Phyongan and Hwanghae. It was followed by over 3 000 local songs of different words including *Arirang of Kangwon Province*, *Jindo Arirang* and *Miryang Arirang*. And 36 variations had been known until the first half of the 20th century.

The origin of the oldie can be found through historical documents, publications of modern times, related words and music so far discovered and classified and legends.

In his account of travel around Korea published in a US magazine in February 1896, an American introduced a score of *Arirang* he wrote as he heard the song from locals, under the title of “Korean song”. And he wrote to the following effect:

“You can hear this song

anytime and anywhere. Korean people who are good improvisers sing the song in so many impromptus the number of the tunes is unknown, but the refrain remains unchanged. The song is as good as rice to the Koreans. They are an aggregate of lyricism, edification and epicism.”

The song embodies the Koreans’ national spirit and sentiment and truthfully reflects the sorrow of parting and joy of reunion between lovers, optimistic and worthwhile working life and the aspirations of people to lead a happy life in a peaceful world.

It was constantly refined in the process of transmission from person to person, place to place and generation to generation, and lots of variations were produced by localities and singers to form a vast group.

During the Japanese military rule *Arirang* brought home to Koreans the sorrow of a ruined nation, implanted the spirit of resistance and aroused

the consciousness of national independence. It gradually became a national iconic song, not confined to any one region or area, which embodies the

nation’s distress-torn history and evokes ardent love for the homeland.

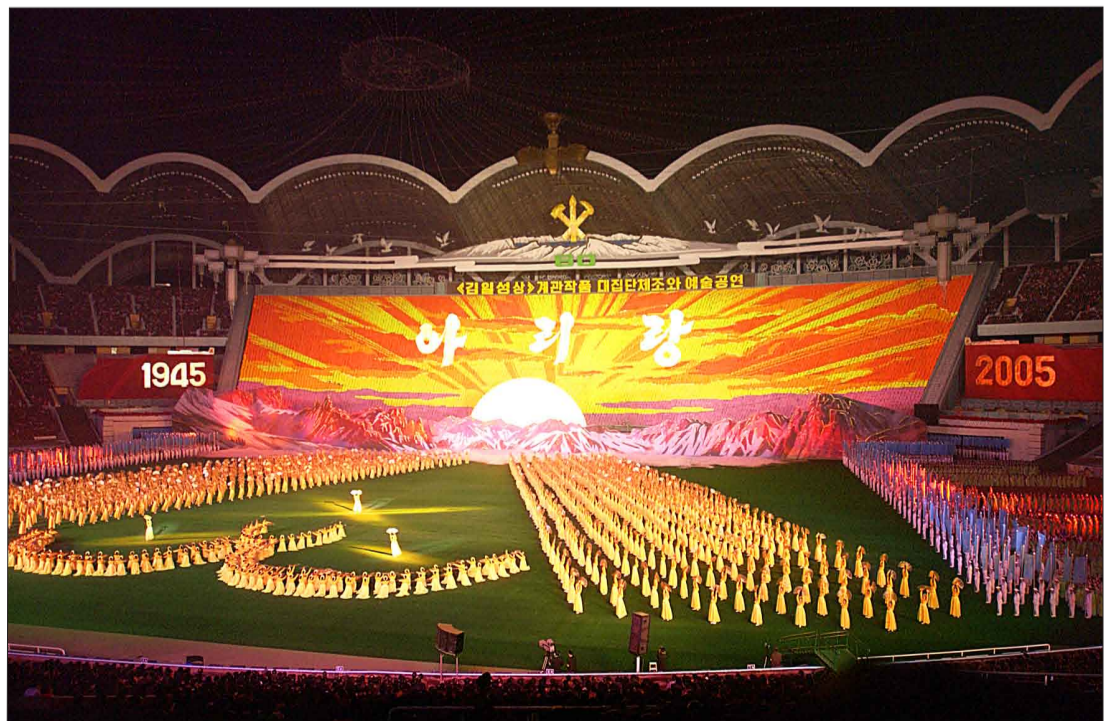
The song has been arranged as a symphony and made the theme songs of artistic events. And it takes on a new dimension as modern versions of *Arirang* come out. Typical of them are *Arirang of Reunification*, *Arirang of Prosperity*, *Arirang of Happiness* and *Arirang of Army-People Unity*.

Grand mass gymnastics and

artistic performance “*Arirang*”, which demonstrated the resourcefulness and spirit of the nation and held the world people spellbound, was awarded the Kim Il Sung Prize and recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records in August 2007.

Arirang is on the UNESCO’s Representative List of ICH of Humanity.

By Pang Un Ju PT



Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance “Arirang”.

KCNA