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FRONT COVER: A scene from the mass gymnastics and artistic performance “Arirang”.

Photo: Kim Yong Nam
President Kim Il Sung responding to the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd in September Juche 67 (1978).
National Meeting Held to Commemorate 90th Birthday of President Kim Il Sung

Leader Kim Jong II attends the national meeting to commemorate the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

A national meeting was held on April 14 at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium to commemorate the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people.

Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, attended the meeting.

The meeting began with the playing of "Song of General Kim Il Sung", the immortal revolutionary hymn. Kim Yong Nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, made a speech.

Delegations of overseas compatriots and fellow countrymen who had come to the homeland on the occasion of the Day of the Sun were also present. The chief of the Pyongyang mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea, diplomatic representatives in Pyongyang and other foreigners were invited to the meeting.

The meeting began with the playing of "Song of General Kim Il Sung", the immortal revolutionary hymn. Kim Yong Nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, made a speech.

He said that to commemorate the President's birthday, the greatest holiday of the nation, in the presence of Kim Jong Il was a great demonstration of the firm faith and lofty will of Juche Korea to complete the cause of the President, who opened up the path of revolution, based on the unity of the leader and the people.

He went on to say: "The Korean people were forced to lead a bitter life as colonial slaves in the past, suffering the misfortune of national ruin because they had no outstanding leader. But with President Kim Il Sung at the head of the revolution, they came to greet a new era of national resurrection and prosperity, and became a powerful and dignified people capable of successfully carving out their own destinies." President Kim Il Sung, the sun of the nation and the saviour of its destiny, the man who gave the hope of revival to our people, was the great leader of the revolution and a peerlessly great man. He left the most brilliant revolutionary life in the annals of the 20th century.

President Kim Il Sung, with unusual ideological and theoretical intelligence, created the immortal Juche idea, the revolutionary idea leading our times, to open up the Juche era, a new era in the development of human history. He was a great master in leadership and a distinguished statesman who led our people to the cause of independence at all stages and in all forms of the revolutionary struggle, bringing about epoch-making miracles in the revolution and construction.

President Kim Il Sung was the great father of the people and the great sage of the revolution, who took care of the destiny of our nation and progressive mankind and glorified them, with the noble idea of loving the country, nation and people and the high virtues. The lofty personality of the President, who worked day and night and showed deep concern for the bright future of mankind, is now kept deep in the hearts of progressive people of all over the world, as an immutable faith. They will also make a unique contribution to the nationwide cause of building a prosperous socialist homeland and reuniifying the country, performing their duties as members of Kim Il Sung's nation.

The meeting ended with the playing of the Internationale.

He went on to say: The Chongryon officials and Koreans in Japan will maintain their unreserved admiration for Kim Jong II, who glorifies generation after generation the cause of the sun shining over all the world, as an immutable faith. They will also make a unique contribution to the nationwide cause of building a prosperous socialist homeland and reuniifying the country, performing their duties as members of Kim Il Sung's nation.

The gathering demonstrated the desire of the Korean people to hasten the advance of the revolutionary cause of Juche and the country's reunification by pushing forward the building of a powerful socialist country, revering President Kim Il Sung for eternity as the great leader of the revolution.

The meeting was attended by senior Party and state officials; leading officials from Party, military and government bodies, ministries and national organs, and public organizations; anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans and people who rendered distinguished service in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle; former unconverted long-term prisoners, who are patriotic fighters for reunification; KPA officers and men; officials from the scientific, educational, cultural, public health and sport circles; heroes; people who had been honoured by having an autonomous kyoungpho named President Kim Il Sung; people of merit; veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War; bereaved families of the revolutionary martyrs; and a number of working people in Pyongyang.

The most precious and profoundly significant historical achievement among the exploits the President performed on behalf of the country, nation and era was that he solved successfully the question of succession to the revolutionary cause, thus providing a guarantee of the final victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche. The revolutionary cause of President Kim Il Sung is being carried forward and developed brilliantly by Kim Jong II.

The Korean people will uphold President Kim Il Sung as their eternal leader generation after generation and complete the revolutionary cause of Juche, united single-heartedly around Kim Jong II, Kim Jong Nam said.

So Man Sul, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), was the next to speak.

He paid the greatest respect and honour to President Kim Il Sung, reflecting the loyalty of the 700,000 Koreans in Japan.

He said that the President's life was the heroic life of a peerlessly great man who made the immortal achievements which will shine with the century. He was also a man of noble virtue, said So Man Sul.

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The 90th Birthday of President Kim Il Sung Commemorated in Style

The Korean people commemorated splendidly the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung as the greatest holiday of the nation.

In April, when all kinds of flowers were in full bloom, the whole country was full of strong yearning and profound feelings of respect for President Kim Il Sung, who devoted his life to the country and the people.

Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People’s Army, visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace together with KPA commanding officers at midnight on April 15 to pay homage to President Kim Il Sung, who lies in state at the palace.

A constant stream of people visited the palace, the sacred temple of Juche, every day during the holiday period.

People from all strata of society visited the President’s statues across the country, including the statue on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang, in humble reverence. They laid flower baskets, bouquets and flowers in front of the statues and paid their respects to the President.

A number of foreigners and overseas compatriots, who came to the homeland on the occasion of the Day of the Sun, also visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace and the statue on Mansu Hill to pay homage to the President.

Colourful political and cultural functions took place throughout the country, including the capital, to commemorate the Day of the Sun.

New statues of the President were unveiled at the “250-mile Journey for National Liberation” Kaechon Revolutionary Site and at Ranam District of Chongjin City. They reflected the desire of the people to uphold forever President Kim Il Sung, who accomplished immortal exploits in his efforts for the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the people.

Seminars, including a national seminar on the Juche idea, public presentations, meetings to swear loyalty, art performances, fine art and sports festivals, a ten-day film show, the National Book Exhibition, the National Artistic Photograph Exhibition and other functions were held to mark the day.

Colourful events also took place in provinces, villages, factories, enterprises and cooperative farms all over the country and at KPA units.

Commemorating the President’s 90th birthday, the Korean people were full of conviction and will to follow President Kim Il Sung for generations to come and complete the revolutionary cause of Juche, firmly united around Kim Jong Il.

*Article: Kim Thae Hyon
Photos: Choe Won Chol and Kong Yu Il*
A ceremony of officers and men of the three services of the Korean People’s Army, a rally of the youth vanguard to pledge loyalty, a joint national meeting of the Korean Children’s Union organizations, and a meeting to make a resolution and plant commemorative trees by delegates from organizations for friendship and solidarity with the Korean people and international organizations take place at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace.

The International Kim Il Sung Prize is awarded to Vishwanath, director general of the International Institute of the Juche Idea.

The 9th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of the International Institute of the Juche Idea is held at the People’s Palace of Culture. The meeting highlighted the success the institute has achieved since the last meeting and discussed IIJI’s plan for 2002. A resolution to advance the cause of independence was adopted and issues related to the organization of the World Conference of the Juche Idea were also discussed at the meeting.
Working people look round the National Fine Art Exhibition and the National Book Exhibition.

The former unconverted long-term prisoners, patriotic fighters for reunification, are awarded the title of DPRK Hero.

A joint gathering with delegates from organizations for friendship and solidarity with the Korean people and international organizations to commemorate the Day of the Sun.

A chorus of 50,000 people in Kaesong City.

An athletics meeting of workers of the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.

The 15th Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon.
Commemorative Coins Issued

The Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly passed a decree on April 3, Juche 91 (2002), on issuing commemorative coins marked “Our Eternal Sun, Comrade Kim Il Sung” on the occasion of the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

The decree said that the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly would issue commemorative coins, reflecting the unanimous desire and will of the Korean people and the officers and men of the People’s Army to revere President Kim Il Sung, the father of socialist Korea, for ages as the eternal sun of Juche, complete the revolutionary cause of Juche under the leadership of the Workers’ Party of Korea, and carry out the President’s teachings at any cost.

The gold coin bears the image of the President on one side, its upper part framed with the words “Our Eternal Sun, Comrade Kim Il Sung” and its lower part framed with magnolia, the national flower of the DPRK. On the reverse side is the national emblem of the DPRK. The upper part is inscribed with the words “The Central Bank of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea”, while the lower part gives the weight, purity and face value of the coin, together with the year “Juche 91 (2002)”.

The coin which is pure gold, is 35mm in diameter and the face value is 700 won.

The explanation of the picture on the silver coin is identical to that of the gold coin. Made of pure silver, it is 40mm in diameter and its face value is 10 won.

Commemorative coins bearing the words “Our Eternal Sun, Comrade Kim Il Sung” (left: gold coin; right: silver coin) were issued.

An evening of entertainment held by young people and students in Pyongyang.
The Fourth Kimilsungia Show

The Kimilsungia – Kimjongilia Exhibition House opens and the Fourth Kimilsungia Show is held.
The Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Exhibition House opened on the picturesque banks of the River Taedong in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the significant Day of the Sun. The Fourth Kimilsungia Show was the opening event.

The house was built thanks to the unanimous desire and devoted efforts of our people to widely cultivate Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, named after Korea's two great men, and ensure that they come into full bloom across the world.

The building has a floor space of more than 12,000 square metres and is capable of hosting both national and international flower shows.

The construction of the house also reflects the devotion of overseas compatriots and foreigners who boundlessly revere and follow President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il.

On display at the Fourth Kimilsungia Show were over 5,500 Kimilsungias as well as Kimjongillas and other beautiful flowers cultivated by working people, People's Army soldiers and students throughout the country, fascinating visitors.

Kimilsungias sent from abroad and several embassies in the DPRK were also on show.

Article: Kang Yong Sun
Photos: Kim Kum Jin and Choe Song Uk

Over 5,500 Kimilsungias are on display at the show.
The Stage in Praise of the Sun

The 20th April Spring Friendship Art Festival was successfully held in Pyongyang between April 14 and 25.

More than 100 artistic groups and acrobatic troupes from over 60 countries took part in the festival, including overseas Korean and domestic groups.

Performances were given at the Mansudae Art Theatre, the Ponghwa Art Theatre, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Central Youth Hall, the Moranbong Theatre, the Yun I Sang Concert Hall, the Pyongyang Circus and other venues.

Vocal and instrumental music, dance and acrobatics were performed at the festival. Many of the performers were international or national prizewinners or famous artistes.

The performers sang songs expressing their boundless reverence for President Kim Il Sung, who created the Juche idea and paved the way to a brighter future for mankind. They also praised highly leader Kim Jong Il, the sun of the 21st century, for his distinguished personality and achievements.

Also popular with audiences were the world famous songs and traditional pieces performed to a high standard by the participants.

Works in praise of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il were conspicuous throughout the festival.

The wonderful performances delighted the Korean people as they commemorated the Day of the Sun, the greatest holiday of the nation. Those taking part spent joyful days participating in special friendship functions, visiting impressive sites and taking in some of the shows.

The April Spring Friendship Art Festival exists to promote friendship, unity and solidarity among those involved in the arts, regarding independence, peace and friendship as its ideal. The recent festival made a great contribution to that cause, and to the independent development of national arts, developing the cultural levels of mankind and accomplishing the cause of global independence.

Article: Kang Yun Hui
Photos: Ri Ju Yop, Pyon Chan U and Kwon Hyok Chol
“Song Dedicated to the Day of the Sun”, performed by the art company of Koreans in Japan.

Solo “Our Leader”, by a performer of the art company of the International United Confederation of Koreans.

Solo and dance “Frost Flowers”, by the art company of Koreans in China.


“Drumbeat of Reunification”, by the art company of Koreans in the USA.
“Song of General Kim Il Sung”, by the song and dance troupe of the General Political Department of the Chinese Peoples’s Liberation Army; “Night of a Dance”, by the Ukrainian dance company; instrumental music and solo “Sunrise on the River Taedong”, a Korean song, by the Mongolian performance group; and performance by the German youth symphony orchestra.

Dance by the Indian Odissi dance group.

Solo “Oh, My Sun”, by an Uzbek group.

Instrumental music and song “New Clothes of King”, by the Danish musical company.

Duet “Arirang of Great Prosperity”, a Korean song, by the Malaysian art group.

Solo “Korea, I Will Glorify Thee”, a Korean song, by the Armenian musical company.

Instrumental ensemble “We Always Feel Secure”, a Korean song, by the Belgian folk musical group.
The Russian State Academic Folk Dance Company of Igor Alexandrovich Moiseyev.

Performance by a Swiss flute quartet.

Dance “Glorious Indonesia”, by the Indonesian Grusoeckaro art troupe.

Soprano “Mother, Do You Know?”, by an Italian singer.

“Korean Songs”, by a Byelorussian duet.

Dance by the Vietnamese group.

Duet “My Dearest Child”, by the Polish group.

Solo by a Maltese singer.

Sonata for piano and clarinet by Romanian musicians.

Soprano by a Bulgarian singer.

Solo “Hymn of Friendship”, by the Singapore Thas art troupe.
The 5th Aesthetic Symposium on Present Times and National Art Held

The 5th Aesthetic Symposium on Present Times and National Art was held on April 20 at the People’s Palace of Culture in Pyongyang.

Jang Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea and chairman of the organizing committee of the 20th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, made a report. He was followed by delegates from China, the DPRK, Madagascar, Syria, Moldavia, Nepal, Egypt and Russia and the honorary head of the Kumgangsan Opera Company of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

The symposium plays a significant role in further developing national art in keeping with the modern tastes and principle of independence.
Kim Ryon Ja, a south Korean singer based in Japan, performed at the 20th April Spring Friendship Art Festival. She revisited Pyongyang on the occasion of the significant Day of the Sun. Saying she had a feeling that she had come to her parents' home, she stressed that nobody can divide the one mind of people of the same nation.

Born into a poor workers' family in Kwangju, south Korea, in 1959, she was not able to receive a special musical education. A born singer, Kim Ryon Ja entered the stage as a soloist in 1974. She went on to win several singing contests, gaining popularity in the process.

She is now recognized as one of the ten greatest singers in Japan, and is also a favourite of the south Korean public. Kim Ryon Ja harboured the desire to sing at the April Spring Friendship Art Festival for many years. Last year that dream was realised when she visited Pyongyang for the first time.

Her recent performance was full of warm national feeling and ardent desire for the country's reunification.

With the unique voice that is her trademark, she sang “Cuckoo”, “A Girl in the Saddle of a Steed”, “My Country Is Best” and other songs, thrilling the audience. “The River Tuman in Tears”, “The Old Site of the Former Capital” and other songs created in the enlightenment period made the audience feel keenly the lesson taught by the country's history that the days of bloodshed should never be repeated.

She won particularly high acclaim from the audience when she emotionally sang “We Are One and the Same”, a new song, expressing her love of the nation and desire for the country's reunification. She depicted well the ideological and emotional content of the song, which reflects the nation's belief that they can live only when they are one.

She gave her impressions of her visits to Pyongyang during an interval in the performance. Recalling the day when leader Kim Jong Il saw her performance last year, the singer expressed her deep gratitude to him for inviting her to perform again in this significant year.

As was the case last year, Kim Jong Il met Kim Ryon Ja and her party and had a friendly and informal talk with her. At their meeting, she expressed her heartfelt thanks to Kim Jong Il for finding time to see her despite his busy schedule.

Kim Jong Il later hosted a dinner in honour of the singer and her group.

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Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance
“Arirang”

The mass gymnastics and artistic performance “Arirang” premiered on the occasion of the significant 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung. It is being performed successfully at the 150,000-seat May Day Stadium in Pyongyang amidst great interest from home and abroad.

Arirang is a song known as a symbol of the Korean nation, full of the emotions and desires of its people. In the past, it was a song of the separation, sorrow and sadness experienced by a stateless people. Today, our people sing the song loudly, full of national pride.

The mass gymnastics and artistic performance “Arirang” consists of a variety of sections, including “Arirang Nation”, “Army-centred Arirang”, “Arirang Rainbow” and “Reunification Arirang”. Using artistic depictions of historical facts, it shows vividly the course of the Korean people as they carve out their own destinies, a process which has left unprecedented traces in the modern history of humankind.

The “Arirang” performance is a work of unique style combining mass gymnastics and performance art. Lively and romantic gymnastics, beautiful and elegant music and dance, kaleidoscopic backdrops, giant projections and laser illuminations are perfectly harmonized, with the scenes flowing gymnastically and artistically.

International and national prizewinners and other artistes, athletes, young people,
students and children, more than 100,000 in total, give the performance.

The exquisite costumes of the performers have deep national colouring, their beauty enhanced by the wonderful skill of the cast.

Backdrops, special stages and illuminations give the audience a sense of mystery and excitement.

The backdrops, which reach new levels of sophistication with this show, change like frames from a film, while the special stages, on which wonders take place, seem to flow calmly as if on water, harmonizing with performers to perfection.

The special effects provided by the lighting equipment set up everywhere in the stadium add greatly to the impact of the performance. Green street trees change into the bright night scenery of Pyongyang and then colourful bouquets, a giant torch and finally fascinating chandeliers, reminding the spectators of a fantastic circus.

The “Arirang” performance is a masterpiece that will take a worthy place in Korea’s history, for it shows impressively the Korean people’s ideology, aspirations and history with a display that is unprecedented in scale and of the highest artistic standards.

*Article: Han Pong Chan
Photos: Kim Yong Nam*
Scenes from “Arirang Nation”.
Scenes from “Army-centred Arirang”.

Scenes from "Army-centred Arirang".

Scenes from the finale "Arirang of Great Prosperity".

A scene from "Arirang Rainbow".
A scene from “Reunification Arirang”.
President Megawati Soekarnoputri of Indonesia paid an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea at the end of March this year.

She and her entourage visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to President Kim Il Sung, who lies in state at the palace.

The Indonesian president wrote in the visitor’s book:

Seeing the eternal image of President Kim Il Sung, I look back with beautiful memories upon the friendship between my father, President Sukarno, and President Kim Il Sung. The two leaders laid solid foundations for the friendly relationship that now exists between the DPRK and Indonesia. I hope to inherit and develop the friendly relations established by the two leaders, for the well-being and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries.

Leader Kim Jong Il met President Megawati Soekarnoputri during her stay. He had talks with her in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and had a photograph taken with her and her party.

A gift was presented to Kim Jong Il by the Indonesian president.

The Indonesian leader paid a courtesy call to President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly and had talks with him.

Both sides exchanged views on further developing traditional bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation on the basis of the close friendship formed between President Kim Il Sung and President Sukarno and in line with the requirements of the new century. They also discussed a series of issues of mutual concern, reaching agreement on the matters raised.

The SPA Presidium gave a banquet in honour of the Indonesian president, at which Kim Yong Nam made a speech. He said that the Korean people were delighted by the Korea-Indonesia friendship, a relationship based on the particularly close friendship between President Kim Il Sung and President Sukarno which has developed on good terms generation after generation.

The Korean people hope that the Indonesian government and people will make signal success in their efforts to defend their territorial integrity and carry out the 10-point programme for economic recovery under the leadership of President Megawati Soekarnoputri, Kim Yong Nam noted.

The Indonesian president said that the Korean people are striving to maintain independence in politics, the economy and national defence, upholding the ideas of the great leader.

She promised that the Indonesians will work to strengthen the relationship between the two countries even in adversity and endeavour to build a fair and peaceful world together with other developing countries on the principle of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

The SPA Presidium awarded the DPRK National Flag Order First Class to President Megawati Soekarnoputri in recognition of her work to consolidate and develop the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the two countries with her deepest reverence for President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il.

During her stay the Indonesian president saw a performance given by the Korean People’s Army Merited Chorus and a song and dance performance. She also visited the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace and the Mansudae Art Studio.

The Indonesian president’s visit to the DPRK was an important event in further developing the traditionally friendly relationship between the two countries.
The Indonesian president visits the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to President Kim Il Sung, who lies in state at the palace.

Talks are held between President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly and President Megawati Soekarnoputri of Indonesia.

President Megawati Soekarnoputri congratulates artistes on their success after seeing a song and dance performance.

President Megawati Soekarnoputri visits the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace.
Kim Yong Nam Visits Thailand and Malaysia

Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, paid official goodwill visits to the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia between the end of February and the beginning of March this year.

Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand

Kim Yong Nam began his visit by paying a courtesy call to Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, during which he conveyed the friendly regards of leader Kim Jong Il to the king.

Expressing his deep thanks for this, the king asked Kim Yong Nam to convey his wholehearted greetings to Kim Jong Il.

The king said that as the DPRK is led by leader Kim Jong Il, the international community has come to have a better understanding of the DPRK, and the importance of Korean reunification has been recognized internationally.

He said that he hoped the two countries would boost bilateral relations and cooperate with each other more closely in the international arena.

Kim Yong Nam later held talks with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The DPRK delegation clarified its government’s stand on the regional and international situation and expressed its desire to expand and develop the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries in line with the demands and interests of the two peoples.

The Thai side stated its will to intensify the exchange of delegations between the two countries and expand economic and trade relations so as to boost friendship and cooperation. It also reiterated Thailand’s full support for the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

Kim Yong Nam also met with the President of the Thai National Assembly and the Speaker of the Thai Prime Minister.

In Thailand

Kim Yong Nam pays a courtesy call to the Thai King.

Kim Yong Nam meets the Thai Prime Minister.

Talks are held between the DPRK SPA Presidium President and the Thai Prime Minister.

Kim Yong Nam meets the President of the Thai National Assembly (left) and the Speaker of the Senate (right).

Kim Yong Nam and his entourage visit the Grand Palace in Bangkok (left) and the K. C. E. Technical Company in a high-tech industrial zone (right).
the Senate during his visit.

Inter-sector talks between the DPRK and Thailand were held.

An agreement on the encouragement and protection of investment between the governments of the DPRK and Thailand, an agreement on cultural exchanges between them and an agreement on the exchange of news and mutual cooperation between the Central News Agency of the DPRK and the News Agency of Thailand were signed.

**Visit to Malaysia**

During his visit to Malaysia, Kim Yong Nam paid a courtesy call to King Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail. He conveyed the warm regards of leader Kim Jong II to the king.

The king expressed his deep thanks for this and asked Kim Yong Nam to pass on his heartfelt greetings to Kim Jong II.

The king later hosted a reception at the royal palace in honour of Kim Yong Nam.

In his speech at the reception, the king said that relations between the two countries have been friendly. He expressed the hope that the present bilateral relations will develop further through closer cooperation.

Kim Yong Nam noted that the long-standing friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries, which have maintained close cooperation as independent, non-aligned nations, are continuing to develop despite an ever-changing international situation.

Kim Yong Nam also held talks with the Malaysian Prime Minister during his visit.

The two men informed each other of the situations in their respective countries, discussed ways of developing the two countries’ friendly and cooperative relationship in the new century, and exchanged views on international issues of mutual concern, reaching agreement on the matters discussed.

An inter-governmental agreement on cultural cooperation between the DPRK and Malaysia and a memorandum of understanding on the use of credit for Malaysia’s export of palm oil to the DPRK were signed.

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**In Malaysia**

Kim Yong Nam pays a courtesy call to the Malaysian King.

Kim Yong Nam meets the Malaysian Prime Minister.

Talks are held between the DPRK SPA Presidium President and the Malaysian Prime Minister.

Kim Yong Nam reviews the honour guard of the Malaysian army.

- Kim Yong Nam plants a commemorative tree outside a multimedia development company.
- Kim Yong Nam and his entourage look round an automobile manufacturing plant.
The Russian Presidential Orchestra led by Lieutenant General Sergei Streign, commander of the Garrison of the Kremlin in Moscow, visited the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea at the end of March with the approach of the significant Day of the Sun.

The internationally renowned presidential orchestra gave successful performances in Pyongyang at a time when the relationship between the DPRK and Russia has entered a new phase based on the close friendship between leader Kim Jong Il and President Vladimir Putin.

The presidential orchestra presented largely the same programme as it performed for Kim Jong Il in Moscow in August last year greatly pleasing the Korean leader.

The performance began with the playing of the national anthems of the DPRK and the Russian Federation, touching the hearts of the audience.

The presidential orchestra played colourful pieces filled with emotions unique to Russian music. Characteristic melodies and rhythm and the wonderful harmony of the instruments gave those present a true experience of the beauty of Russian music.

Pavel Obshannikov, chief conductor of the Russian Presidential Orchestra and Russian People’s Artiste.

L. Rudakova, international prizewinner, Russian Merited Artiste and soloist of the State Academy Grand Theatre of Russia.

O. Kuliko, international prizewinner, Russian Merited Artiste and soloist of the State Academy Grand Theatre of Russia.
L. Rudakova, appraised as one of the world's five finest young opera singers, sang Ludmila's aria from the opera “Ruslan and Ludmila”. O. Kuliko, international prizewinner, Russian Merited Artiste and singer of the State Academy Grand Theatre, sang the folk song “Oh, My Dearest Child”, while V. Albataev, another international prizewinner, Russian Merited Artiste and singer of the Chorus of the Kremlin, Moscow Museum, sang the folk song “Kalinka”. All received unstinting praise from the audience.

The conducting of Pavel Obshannikov, chief conductor of the presidential orchestra, immediately captivated the listeners with his dignified and authoritative performance.

A polyphonic chorus without accompaniment performed by the Chorus of the Kremlin, Moscow Museum moved the spectators with its well-organized ensemble and reverberation.

The presidential orchestra's musical pieces were equally colourful: Russian folk songs and opera, ballet and instrumental music.

The Russian artistes delighted Koreans by singing the Korean songs “Where Are You, Dear General”, “This Is a Socialist Paradise” and “Dear Home in My Native Village”.

When “Song of General Kim Jong Il”, the immortal revolutionary hymn, and “Our Friendship Is Everlasting”, with words by Choe Jun Gyon, a writer of the Korean People's Army Merited Chorus, and music by Pavel Obshannikov, were sung the theatre was filled with profound respect for Kim Jong Il and the feeling of DPRK-Russia friendship.

Kim Jong Il met the leading staff and performers of the presidential orchestra during their stay in Pyongyang.

The head of the presidential orchestra presented him with a gift from President Vladimir Putin and another gift in the name of the orchestra.

Kim Jong Il expressed his thanks and had amicable and friendly talks with the Russians, later having a photograph taken with the musicians.

On the same day, he saw their performance.

The Russian artistes took the opportunity to visit the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to President Kim Il Sung, who lies in state there. They also visited Mangyongdae, the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung, and the International Friendship Exhibition.

They saw a song and dance performance given by Korean artistes, a dress rehearsal of the mass gymnastics and artistic performance “Arirang” and a performance given by the Korean People's Army Merited Chorus.

A performance given by the Russian Presidential Orchestra is warmly acclaimed by the audience.
Rungnado Pleasure Park

Mass gymnastics, artistic performances and other sports and cultural events are often held at the May Day Stadium on Rungna Island.

Rungna Island is always alive with working people’s sports and amusements.
An alluvial island lies in the middle of the River Taedong, which flows through the centre of Pyongyang.

From ancient times it has been called Rungna Island, because the weeping willows by the river give it the appearance of a roll of silk unfolding on the crystal-clear water.

The island has a moving story. The original Rungna Island was in Songchon, on the upper part of the river. One summer’s day the island was washed away by heavy rain during the night. There was a resulting uproar in Songchon. Later the island “was found” on the river in Pyongyang.

The vice-envoy of Songchon insisted he was the owner of the island, and forced the residents to pay taxes every year. It was a great burden for the island people to pay taxes to a district office of the government in Songchon. They explained their problem to the governor of Phyongan Province and petitioned to be allowed to be part of the Walled City of Pyongyang.

Fortunately for them, the governor ordered the vice-envoy to put the island under the control of Pyongyang. But the vice-envoy did not agree with the governor’s request.

The governor threatened the vice-envoy with other measure if control of the island did not pass to Pyongyang at once. There was no way to bring back the island, so the vice-envoy gave up it and handed control to the governor.

This was no more than a story telling of the difficult life of the island people. The island has become a cultural recreation area and a pleasure park of the people thanks to state policy.

The area of the pleasure park is about 120 hectares. The border of the island was erected using polished granite to prevent it from cutting and washing away. A paved road and a promenade now lie alongside the edge.

The island’s flower gardens feature ornamental flowers, including magnolia and rose. A forest of apple, pear, sweet cherry, willow and other trees adds to its attraction.

Pheasants, cuckoos, orioles and other birds can be seen on the island. There are also pavilions and houses for animals, including deer, Korean water-deer and monkey.

The island is dominated by the imposing May Day Stadium, which has a seating capacity of 150,000. The parachute-shaped stadium roof looks wonderful from the distance. Important national sports and cultural events are held here.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, which left a deep impression on the youth and students of the five continents, and a number of Korea’s famous mass gymnastics were held at the stadium.

The mass gymnastics and artistic performance “Arirang”, given by more than 100,000 people, featuring kaleidoscopic scenes which have drawn the admiration of the world, is currently running at the stadium.

Various kinds of sports and amusement facilities and public amenities, including sites for football, tennis, roller skating, swinging and wrestling, can be found on the island. The island is a popular place for working people to enjoy their holidays.

To the south of the island is Rungna Bridge, which connects An Sang Thaek Street with Munsu Street through the Kumnung Tunnel. The road on the bridge has a looping slip road providing access to the island. To the north of the island is Chongryu Bridge, which connects the Munsu area in east Pyongyang with the Ryonmot area through Kumnung Tunnel No. 2.

The swimming pool on Panwol Island.

Article & photos: Kim Jong Sam
Mangyongdae Chicken Farm Reconstructed

Egg-laying houses.

A chick breeder.

Some of the new breed of chickens in an egg-laying house.
The chicken farms in Pyongyang have been modernized to meet the demands of the new century, and are now proving their value.

The Mangyongdae Chicken Farm has undergone a complete overhaul in a little over a year to increase the output of eggs.

The farm consists of a hatchery and nine shops, including two young hen shops, three grown chicken shops and one breeding shop.

During the reconstruction period, 46 houses covering an area of 80,000 square metres were rebuilt and modern chicken cages, automation equipment and control instruments newly introduced. The previous breeding hens have been replaced with superior stock.

High-quality chickens are being produced, and the young hens grow up into egg-layers. As a result, egg production is rapidly increasing.

The farm now has all the facilities required to raise chickens in a scientific way.

The supply of feed and water, the cleaning of excrements, the collection of eggs, ventilation, the control of temperature and humidity and other processes are now automated, and many of them are controlled by computer. The skills of the workers have also been raised.

Om Jong Sil (41), head of grown chicken shop No.1, said that more than 15,000 chickens are looked after by one breeder.

A thorough veterinary and anti-epidemic system has been established, in keeping with the new conditions.

Feed is supplied by the modern Maram Assorted Feed plant.

The farm has set as its immediate goal the laying of 350 eggs a year by each hen.

Kim Ho Yong, director of the farm, said proudly that egg production is gradually increasing on the basis of scientific management and breeding methods.

Article: Han Pong Chan
Photos: Choe Song Uk
The Namchongang Hi-Tech Engineering Service Company, the DPRK’s first e-business centre offering the latest IT products and electrocomponents to network users through its own information server, has begun operations, attracting domestic and foreign attention.

Tens of thousands of scientists, technicians and students and many organizations use the new service via a website established on the nationwide computer network every day.

A fully-qualified team of technicians meets the demands of customers.

The company’s strong programme development force provides virtual reality, industrial application and multimedia programming services.

The company’s plans are ambitious. It wants to expand into supplying information on products in all sectors of the economy.

The enterprising Kang Chun Il, director of the company, said:

“Though e-business is new to the DPRK, it has a very bright future, because computerization and modernization of the national economy are being pushed forward aggressively by the government. The DPRK has a large market for IT products and immense potential.

We are ready to hold discussions with any foreign group which is interested in the DPRK’s IT market, and we are willing to work closely with them in this field.”

Part of the company’s service room.

Kang Chun Il, director of the company.
Programmers hard at work developing ordered software.

The company is always busy talking to customers.
Many civilians and soldiers come to the hospital to donate blood and skin to the patients.
The Sepho County People’s Hospital in Kangwon Province was crowded with people at the end of December last year.

More than 500 people stood in the corridor in front of an operating room, the entrance to the hospital and in the front yard. Among them were medical workers, teachers, industrial workers, farmers, students, pupils and others in the county. “Let me take part in the operation” This was their only request.

That day the second operation to graft skin onto four seriously-burnt patients was performed calmly, just as the first operation had been.

... ... ...

On December 14 a teacher and three pupils suffered serious burns after a sudden fire on a nearby mountain. They were rushed to the hospital. They were in a serious condition, almost beyond hope.

In the days of relieving them of shock, the effects of smoke inhalation and poisoning, a county-wide system was established to ensure that all necessary medicines were provided, and doctors’ consultations took place frequently.

The medical “struggle” to save the patients continued day and night.

Two of them recovered consciousness after 72 hours, while 15-year-old Ryong Kum Sok, who was in very serious state, regained consciousness after more than 10 days.

As the patients regained consciousness, Yun Yong Bok, the doctor in charge of the cases, nurse Jang Myong Sun, practical nurse An Yong Hui and others were full of pleasure.

New strawberry-coloured flesh began to appear. It was time for the skin grafts to be done.

A team of 23 medical workers at the hospital was performing a six-hour skin-graft operation on December 27, the DPRK Socialist Constitution Day.

News of the operation spread in a flash throughout the county.

Many people came to the hospital to help the medical workers and to donate blood and skin for the second operation on the patients.

... ... ...

From the time they entered the hospital to the middle of February this year, several skin grafts were performed.

A total of 3.730 square centimetres of skin was donated by more than 300 locals. They included the chief secretary of the county Party committee, the chairman of the county people’s committee and other officials in the county organs, industrial workers, farmers, students, pupils, soldiers, dispatched officials and others. Among them were Jon Yong Nam and Ri Kum Sop, sixth-grade pupils of Sepho Senior Middle School who took part in the operation as the adults did by wearing their fathers’ clothes.

Kim Kwang Hyok and Jo Jong Hyok recovered their health and left the hospital on January 20, while teacher Han Yong Chol was discharged at the end of February.

Pak Sang Nyo (46), Ryong Kum Sok’s mother, said:

“My son escaped death by a miracle. The strangers who asked to give their skin for my son’s recovery, the hospital workers who broke the ice of a river to catch fish in winter, shedding tears together, while my son was suffering, and all the people in the county we have never met who devoted parental love or brotherly affection to my son. They were all ordinary people who have suffered the same ordeals in life as I.”

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Flower Garden of Love

Medical workers at the Sepho County People’s Hospital devote themselves to treating the patients, offering their own blood and skin without hesitation.

Pupils Jo Jong Hyok and Kim Kwang Hyok, the first to recover completely.
**DPRK-Russia Friendship House**

The DPRK-Russia Friendship House, located near Tumangang Railway Station in Rason City, was opened in March this year. The house is intended to symbolize the friendship between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

Bearing witness to the long-standing DPRK-Russia friendship, the house will convey forever the immortal achievements made by President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il in developing the relationship between the two countries and accomplishing the cause of global independence.

The building is a monumental structure which will encourage the peoples of the two countries to maintain the feeling of friendship in their hearts through all ages.

In the central hall of the house is a photograph of Kim Jong Il meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Photographs showing President Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il taken during their historic visits to Russia are also displayed in the house.

**Commemorative Meeting**

The Syrian people are building a modern Syria while defending the country’s sovereignty.

They strive to safeguard the nation’s territorial integrity and dignity, smashing the constant interference and aggressive machinations of the imperialists and Zionists under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence. Their just cause began with the March 8 Revolution.

The patriotic people and soldiers of Syria overthrew the corrupt and ineffective reactionary administration on March 8, 1963, establishing a new government under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party.

The victory of the revolution marked a historical turning point in the struggle of the Syrian people for independence, peace, progress and prosperity.

They subsequently achieved great success in their struggle to eradicate the after-effects of colonial rule and build an independent new society under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Assad, and are now working to build a prosperous Syria, firmly rallied around President Bashar al-Assad and the Arab Socialist Baath Party.

They also energetically endeavour to fairly resolve the Middle East issue.

The Korean people extend their hearty support to the Syrian people in their righteous cause, just as the Syrian people give active support to the Korean people in their struggle to build a powerful nation, firmly united behind leader Kim Jong Il.

In March, a meeting was held in Pyongyang to mark the 39th anniversary of the March 8 Revolution in Syria, and warm congratulations were extended to the Syrian people on the day.

**An Agreement Signed**

A delegation from the Holland Euro-Asia Group led by President Bin Yang and a delegation from Singapore’s FHTK Holdings Ltd led by CEO Ee Tai Tong visited the DPRK in February.

During their stay they held talks with the DPRK delegation from the Pomiculture Management Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

They discussed a proposal for joint investment to establish a high-tech fruit-growing centre in the DPRK and the undertaking of production, storage, packaging and sales on an equity joint-venture basis.

They agreed that apple would be main crop of any such venture, with pear, grape and persimmon, temperate species suited to the conditions in the DPRK which enjoy strong demand in international markets, also favoured.

In a bid to implement these proposals as soon as possible, they agreed on exchange visits of pomiculture teams.

An agreement on an equity joint-venture in fruit-growing was signed at the talks.
A fact-finding team investigating atrocities committed by the US troops, headed by S. Brian Willson, a representative of Veterans for Peace of the United States, visited the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in March this year.

During their stay, the team gathered information on atrocities committed by the US troops during the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953).

In Pyongyang they heard testimonies from Professor and Dr. Kim Tok Ho, Ri Ok Hui, Kim Yong Hwan and Kim Yong Man, all victims of crimes committed by the US troops.

Kim Tok Ho lost all of his family in a single day due to a massacre committed by the US troops. Ri Ok Hui has lived as a cripple for decades because US soldiers cut off her arms in her native village, accusing her of being the daughter of a patriot.

The team members later visited the Sinchon Museum, which provides evidence of the crimes committed by the US troops, and met some of the victims in Sinchon.

The US aggressors killed more than 35,000 patriots and innocent civilians during their 52-day occupation of Sinchon County, a quarter of its population, burying them alive, burning them to death or shooting them.

They committed bestial atrocities, skinning men and women, driving nails into heads, cutting off limbs and decapitating people using straw-cutters.

During their visit to the museum they saw materials on the atrocities, remains and some of the lethal weapons used by the US troops. They also looked round the air-raid shelter of the former Sinchon County Party Committee and two former powder magazines in Chestnut Valley, Wonam-ri, three places where massacres took place, where they saw vivid traces of the blood of the victims. The group then heard the deep-seated enmity of survivors who had narrowly escaped death.

Greatly shocked by the facts they had discovered, they said that such criminal acts should be widely known across the world, and stressed that the United States must not repeat the atrocities its soldiers committed in Korea.

Article & photos: Kim Hyon Thae
Back Kang Hyon Suk, winner of the MVP prize.

Forward Choe Kum Son, winner of the prize for technique.

At the World Women’s Ice Hockey Championships (A group) held in France in Juche 90 (2001).

The DPRK team finishes first at the World Women’s Ice Hockey Championships (B group) held in Hungary in Juche 89 (2000).

“Stars” of the Ice Rink
Women’s ice hockey has a short history in the DPRK. But the country’s players are developing rapidly in technique and strategy.

It was Juche 89 (2000) that the DPRK women’s ice hockey team first participated in international competition.

That year the DPRK team took part in the World Women’s Ice Hockey Championships (B group) held in Hungary.

It was successful in the tournament and qualified for the A group of the world championships.

Backs Kang Hyon Suk and Kwak Kum Sil, forward Han Jong Ae and goalkeeper Kim Kye Ryon received the prizes for technique for their brilliant performances in the competition.

“The DPRK players are good in physique and speed. But they are particularly excellent in ideology and fighting spirit.” This was the general comment of both experts and fans.

The DPRK players took part in the World Women’s Ice Hockey Championships (A group) held in France last year.

They ended the tournament in fourth place, defeating four teams, including France and Norway, among the eight in the A group.

The DPRK team has a good reputation, because it proved able to compete with the stronger teams of Europe just a year after qualifying for the A group.

Back Kang Hyon Suk was awarded the MVP prize and forward Choe Kum Son the prize for technique at the recent tournament.

Ri Won Son (37), chief coach of the DPRK women’s ice hockey team, said:

“We face difficulties in terms of technique. But our target is to establish ourselves as one of the eight best teams in the world.”

*Article & photos: Kim Kum Jin*
Traditional Korean clothes are popular with women.

A Cloth-Cutter of Korean Clothes

Pyon Sun Ae says that clothes must be beautiful and comfortable.

Merited Cloth-Cutter Pyon Sun Ae at the Jungsong Tailor Shop in Pyongyang.
Sun Ae has worked as a cloth-cutter for nearly 40 years. The head of the small Jungsong Tailor Shop in Pyongyang, she is always busy. Pyon is widely respected because of the high level of design and cutting she maintains.

Never completely satisfied with her work, she has continued to study ways of developing the country’s clothing technology.

She has always said that a cloth-cutter’s task is to beautify women, and she maintains that belief at the age of nearly 70.

One year she realised that traditional Korean clothes for women had some faults.

After tireless efforts she succeeded in renewing the appearance of traditional dress to reflect the modern concept of beauty, yet preserving the unique shapes that give them character.

The clothes designed by her are both beautiful and comfortable, attributes greatly appreciated by those who wear them.

A patent was given to her dissertation on “A New Method of Designing Korean Clothes Based on the Original Work”, for which she was awarded a Master’s degree.

Her design method has been adopted across the country, gaining great popularity among Korean women.

Though she is now old, she still works hard to bring more beauty to the women of Korea.

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Article: Kim Thae Hyon
Photos: Pyon Chan U

Korean clothes made by Pyon Sun Ae. Clothes printed with Kimilsungia (right) were awarded a gold medal at the national clothes exhibition.