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MEETING

Working people's organizations vow to carry through crucial tasks

A joint meeting of working people's organizations took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on May 13 to resolve to thoroughly implement the tasks Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un put forward in the policy speech at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The meeting was attended by Choe Hwi, vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, Pak Chol Min, chairman of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, Ju Yong Gil, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Kim Chang Yop, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea, Jang Chun Sil, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea, and officials of working people's organizations in Pyongyang and local areas.

A report was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers described the Supreme Leader's historic policy speech and his report at the Party plenum as invaluable guidelines to be followed in honouring the state-building ideas and exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and an inspiring banner that enables the Korean people to speed up socialist construction at the fastest rate by their own efforts and in their own way.

The joint meeting analysed and reviewed the successes the organizations made in the course of conducting the organizational and political work to arouse their members to the implementation of the decision of the Seventh Congress of the WPK and the shortcomings they revealed in their work.

The speakers referred to the need for the organizations to courageously wage a general offensive and do-or-die battle in order to carry through the crucial tasks assigned by the Supreme Leader and thus give full play to their militant might in ushering in a period of upsurge in socialist construction.

They also said the

organizations should give priority to adding eternal brilliance to the undying revolutionary exploits of the President and the Chairman and conduct information and motivation work geared to firing the fighting spirit and enthusiasm of the masses in an original way, thereby making a fresh revolutionary atmosphere pervade the whole country.

They pointed to the need to step up the efforts to put the national economy on Juche,

modern, IT and scientific basis, make joint and collective innovations to increase the capacity of all units to develop independently and overcome all difficulties on the strength of science and technology.

The organizations are required to fulfil their basic mission as bodies undertaking ideological education so as to build up the political and military strength of the country and make the whole society brim with beautiful and noble moral traits, they said.

They called on all those organizations to powerfully demonstrate their fighting efficiency in every field of socialist construction under the leadership of Kim Jong Un by upholding the banner of modelling the entire organization on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The meeting adopted a joint resolution of the central committees of those organizations.

Compiled from KCNA



A joint meeting of working people's organizations takes place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang to vow to implement the tasks Chairman Kim Jong Un put forward in his policy speech and at the Workers' Party of Korea plenum.

ECONOMY

Production picks up in power and coal industries

A power transmission and supply network modernization project is now in full swing in the electric power industry sector.

The Kangwon provincial power distribution station built insulator and measuring equipment production and repair bases and the power distribution stations in Manpho and Huichon cities and Wiwon and Juggang counties redistributed excessively large capacity transformers in the regions in a balanced way according to the load to secure some spare transformers. Those in Pyongyang remodelled some 250 high-tension motors in close cooperation with relevant units and those in South and North Hwanghae, North Phyongan and North Hamgyong provinces and

Nampho City overfulfil daily plans for remodelling of main transformers and change of power distribution lines by over 50 percent every day.

Thousands of pole and main transformers and nearly 7 000-kilometre transmission lines have been remodelled and changed this year, building a solid groundwork for radically reducing the loss of electricity in transmission. On the basis of these achievements the power transmission and transmutation system modernization project is now dynamically pushed ahead.

The North Hwanghae provincial power distribution station introduced dozens of technical innovation plans, making it possible to decrease the loss of electricity in transmission and ensure the

stability in the management of power transmission lines and operation of electric power system.

The technical staff of the station restored the large-capacity electrostatic condenser and remodelled the previously imported air circuit breaker into oil switch, making a contribution to the normal operation of the national integrated power management system. They also developed a computer program with which to correctly analyse the cause of trouble in the non-grounded system power line.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex recently increased electric power generation by 49 percent in a month over the same period of last year.

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STATEMENT

US' human rights rhetoric refuted

"Although the US is making desperate and foolish attempts to bring us to our knees by kicking up a human rights rumpus in tandem with the maximum pressure campaign aimed at destroying our system, it should bear in mind that they will never work on us, but rather push us more dynamically in the direction the US does not want," the director for Policy Research of the Institute for American Studies of the DPRK Foreign Ministry told KCNA on May 11.

He made the remark after the US Department of State issued a press release smearing the DPRK's human rights situation allegedly to mark a "north Korea freedom week".

It is nothing but a sophistry full of falsehoods and fabrications, which was prompted by a sinister

political purpose to tarnish the image of the dignified DPRK, the director said.

He criticized the United States for turning its back on the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement in which it commits itself to the establishment of new bilateral relations and for taking the lead in the hostilities to the DPRK.

By doing so, the US has revealed its real intention that it does not want improved bilateral relations in fact, but seeks only a chance to overthrow the DPRK system, he said.

"The press release recently issued by the US State Department clearly proves that the current US administration follows in the footsteps of the previous administrations, that is, the policy hostile to the DPRK."

LEAD

Fundamental principles of state building

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said that the revolutionary line of independence should be carried out in state building and activities in the policy speech he delivered at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

Independence is the political philosophy of the DPRK.

The country has adhered to self-determination and independence in carrying on the revolution and construction since its founding.

In his early years of the revolutionary struggle, President Kim Il Sung, founder of socialist Korea, clarified the truth of the revolution that independence is the life and soul of a country and nation and the revolution should be carried on independently and creatively, thereby writing a new history of independence.

In the whole course of leading the revolution he put forward independence as the lifeblood and resolved all problems arising in the revolution and construction in line with the requirements of the Korean revolution, interests of the people and actual situation of the country.

Under his leadership, the Korean people established a

socialist state embodying the principles of independence in politics, self-sustenance in the economy and self-reliance in national defence as they resolutely rejected flunkeyism, dogmatism and high-handedness and pressure of outside forces under the complicated circumstances in which big power-centred politics was imposed upon persistently.

With the successive collapse of socialism in different countries in Europe in the 1990s the imperialists got so arrogant they concentrated their attack on the DPRK, but the bulwark of socialism held higher the banner of independence.

At the time the Korean people defended the banner although the hostile forces intensified political and military pressure and economic blockade against their country more than ever before. By dint of original Songun politics they built up the military capability of the country, safeguarded socialism and advanced towards greater victories as they paved the way for the building of a powerful country.

In the recent years of death-defying showdown with the imperialists, the DPRK

achieved a historic cause of national significance to steer the course of situation towards peace, with the result that its strategic position and influence are growing with the passage of time.

Through their struggle the Koreans have engraved in their minds that independence is precisely justice and victory.

In the current complex global situation, building up one's own strength and developing independently are the way to defend national sovereignty and dignity and achieve genuine national prosperity.

That is why the DPRK endeavours to develop all domains of politics, economy, national defence and culture in its own way from the standpoint of Juche, while guaranteeing national security and the people's happiness by its own efforts.

Whatever wind may blow and whatever challenges and difficulties may lie ahead, the DPRK will continue to step up the building of a powerful socialist country in its own way and by its own efforts to contribute to the cause of global independence.

By Pak Song Min PT

EDITORIAL

Visit opens a new chapter of DPRK-Russia ties

Amidst the great interest and expectations of the world Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok of Russia in April, writing a new chapter of the traditional DPRK-Russia relationship.

The two countries boast a long history of friendship and cooperation forged by the preceding leaders, especially the friendship as comrades-in-arms between Kim Il Sung and Stalin and friendly relations between Chairman Kim Jong Il and President Putin in the new century.

The recent DPRK-Russia summit meeting fully demonstrated to the world the solidity of the close bilateral friendship which has ridden out the storm of history century after century.

President Putin warmly greeted the Supreme Leader and accorded cordial hospitality to him by sending the honour guard of the three services of the Russian federal armed forces, military band and performing artists to Vladivostok, a week travel by train from Moscow.

At the talks there the leaders of the two countries had a serious discussion on further promoting mutual understanding and trust, friendship and cooperation.

Both sides agreed on concrete directions and measures to boost bilateral relations including the issues of increasing exchange of high-level visits like summit meetings and contacts, strengthening cooperation, exchange and collaboration between governments, parliaments, organizations and regions, taking practical steps to enhance the role of inter-

governmental committees for cooperation in trade, economy and science and technology of the two countries and promoting equally beneficial economic and trade relations onto a higher level, and reached a satisfactory consensus on issues of immediate cooperation.

Also discussed at the talks were the ways to strengthen strategic communication and tactical collaboration between the DPRK and Russia in the management of the unstable Korean peninsula and regional situation after the second DPRK-US summit talks.

Both sides agreed to promote mutual understanding and ties more closely and intensify strategic cooperation to ensure regional peace and security.

Quoting a proverb which says "United strength can even move a mountain (Unity is a precious diamond)," President Putin promised proactive cooperation with the DPRK.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un told the banquet hosted by the Russian President that the Korean people will remember forever the internationalist feats performed by the sons and daughters of Russia who laid down their lives for the cause of Korea's liberation. He also laid a wreath at the Monument to Military Glory of the Pacific Fleet, clearly expressing the friendly feeling of the Korean people to the Russian counterpart.

The recent DPRK-Russia summit meeting was a great event which marked a turning point in bolstering up the bilateral relationship with a long history in line with the requirements of the new era under the new situations.

APPEAL

Solidarity called for with Koreans

The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) called on the peace-loving people around the world to turn out in the campaign to put an end to Korea's division and imperialist pressure against the DPRK.

Such a call is an answer to the appeal of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Committee to Support Reunification of Korea.

In the statement released on April 27, the AAPSO said that a dramatic turn was brought about in the Korean peninsula situation last year by the peace-loving efforts of the

DPRK government and its people, adding the north-south and the DPRK-US summit meetings and talks were held thanks to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's courageous decision and will to safeguard peace.

"We extend full support to the DPRK government in its efforts to achieve reunification in the Korean peninsula and the common prosperity of the nation. We will conduct brisk solidarity activities with the Korean people," the statement said.

Compiled from KCNA

INSPECTION

Premier inspects construction site, steel producer

Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area under construction and the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

Making the rounds of the construction site of the coastal tourist resort, he ordered all the construction units to ensure the quality of structures at the top level. He also referred to the need to increase the rooting rate of trees in landscaping and afforestation and supply equipment and materials on a priority basis by relevant sectors.

At the giant steel producer he stressed the need to map out detailed plans and provide proper guidance in order to put production on a normal track and took steps for further improving the Juche-oriented iron- and steel-making processes by

introducing advanced science and technology.

Inspecting different production processes of the complex, he called for conducting a brisk mass technical innovation movement and drive for increased production in order to increase molten iron output per charge and thereby ensuring a sufficient supply of iron and steel to different economic sectors.

At the field consultative meetings he convened, detailed measures were discussed to enhance the responsibility and role of the units in charge of construction

and material supply for the tourist area and to sufficiently supply raw materials and fuel so as to put production on a normal track at the steel complex.

Compiled from KCNA



Premier Kim Jae Ryong (second from right) visits the construction site of the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area.

TREE NURSERY

Double sapling production applied to double output

The Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection has introduced a method of ensuring double production of saplings in greenhouses.

Generally, saplings grow faster in greenhouses than outdoors as such environmental conditions as temperature, humidity, light and air can be adjusted favourably to sapling production.

"Sapling production in greenhouses is less economical as it costs much. So we have developed a way of ensuring double sapling production to solve this problem," said researcher Pak Chun Sam.

According to the method, seeds are sown 10 days earlier in greenhouses than in fields before seedlings are transplanted to the outdoor adaptation area in late May. And the seedlings grown from new seeds are cultivated in greenhouses till autumn. Such saplings are reportedly healthier than those grown outdoors for a year.

In order to complete the method researchers solved different technological problems including substrate and nourishment management.

It is needed to fully automate the production process in order to grow saplings in containers

and an important thing here is the problem of substrate.

Light substrate with specific gravity of 0.5 should be used for containers.

Researchers say that thousands of cubic metres of substrate is needed for the nursery to produce tens of millions of saplings a year.

The raw material which was used in the past to make substrate could not satisfy the demand for its scanty sources.

So, researchers turned to using cost-effective rotten chaff humus with rich resources.

"It takes more than six months for rice hulls to decompose. But we have shortened the period of their decomposition by 40 days by using compound spore and established a method of

producing light substrate using over 60 percent of chaff humus. And we have increased the initial content of nutrients of substrate by adding chicken droppings and glauberite," said researcher U Chol Myong.

They also developed a new sapling nutrient by using locally-abundant Kungang medicinal stone and others, thus raising the production of standard saplings 20 percent more than previously.

Thanks to the introduction of the new production method, the nursery could increase the production of saplings two times in the same area and put production on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



HAN KWANG MYONG / RODONG SINMUN

The double sapling production method is adopted by Tree Nursery No. 122 of the Korean People's Army.

STONE PROCESSING

Serpentine widely used to make furniture and building materials

The Rangnang Chonwon Serpentine Processing Factory produces quality finishing materials and furniture.

Generally, serpentine has beautiful patterns like a chain of mountains covered with wispy clouds thanks to the combination of green, grey and other colours with different brightness on a jade-coloured ground. As it can easily be cut and polished like glass, it is widely used to decorate the

interior of buildings.

The factory works to lay production foundations and expand its varieties with a goal to develop different kinds of building materials and furniture by using locally-abundant serpentine.

It pays primary attention to upgrading processing facilities and raising the technical skills of its employees.

While promoting the lustre of products by applying a new

grinding method, it satisfies their qualitative indexes by improving the workmanship of its employees and steadily updates designs and patterns.

In the course of this, it developed a variety of products that embody convenience and aesthetics, though it has not a long history.

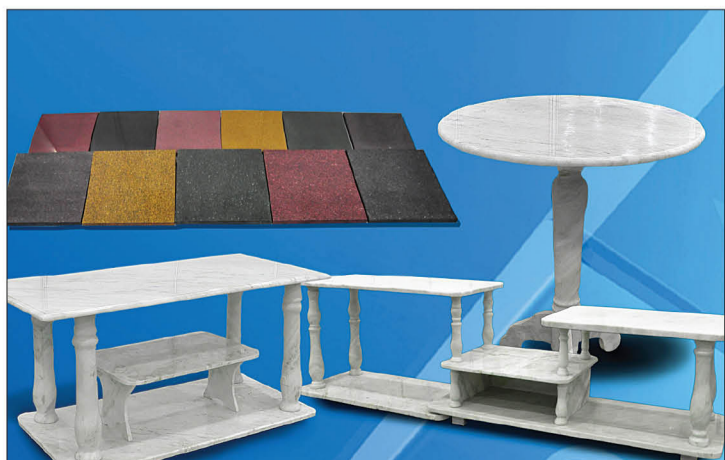
It now turns out such finishing materials as grinding slab, handrail, newel, stair stone and wall tile, as well as furniture for internal decoration, especially tea table, TV table, flowerpot and round table.

It also produces powdered stone, paints and gravel for artificial stone with stone pieces from production processes by installing crushing and pulverizing equipment.

The finishing materials and furniture made of serpentine have highly been appreciated at national exhibitions.

Technicians of the factory work on a project to widen the scope of utilization of serpentine.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Furniture pieces produced by the Rangnang Chonwon Serpentine Processing Factory.

BRICK

Coal and rock waste used to make bricks

Recently, the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine has introduced a new technique of making bricks with muck from anthracite mining.

Based on the fact that the chemical composition of anthracite muck is similar to that of clay, this technique is applied to bake bricks by burning the carbon contained in muck.

"The anthracite muck brick is as solid as cement brick and 2.5 times harder than clay brick. Its moisture absorption rate is 10 percent which is 5-15 percent lower than those of clay and cement bricks and its resistance to freezing is on a par with that of clay brick," said Kim Yong Chon, researcher at the Sunchon Mining Engineering Institute of the Academy of Coal-Mining Science.

"In the course of investigating and analysing the global trend of development of anthracite muck brick production techniques and the specific conditions of our country, we got to set our goal at developing a method of making anthracite muck bricks with simple operation and minimal investment and without using costly foreign equipment and pursued research to this end for decades," said Kim's colleague Jo Mun Song.

The developers came up with a new way of moulding muck bricks with improved quality and productivity and built a press moulding machine, and thus made a breakthrough in their research.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Coal: Production on steady rise

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After establishing a ball production process based on continuous moulding, it built up the dust coal pulverizing capacity to supply quality pulverized coal to boilers. It also made a new kind of packing for turbines with locally available raw and other materials to completely prevent the loss of steam. The water supply to and air control in the boiler system and the management of vacuum were also done in a rational way to reduce the loss of heat as much as possible and further improve the combustion efficiency.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex increases coal production.

The Songnam Youth Coal Mine has doubled coal production over the same period of last year.

The coal miners built a curved conveyor belt and introduced flexible shaft coal mining equipment in places under unfavourable mining conditions to increase productivity while saving

The technicians of the coal mine pooled efforts with the researchers to devise a plan for optimizing such production processes as pulverizing, moulding and baking and solved relevant technical problems.

They contrived a new structure of pulverizing equipment so as to ensure fineness of pulverized materials and adopted a new brick piling method in the baking process to improve the quality of muck brick.

They also established an internal combustion-based baking technique that uses the carbon contained in muck and solved the problems of degasification and optimum section of brick cooling temperature and retention time in the baking process, which are decisive in improving product quality.

Several rounds of field tests proved that the bricks can be used for the construction of dwelling houses and other buildings.

The new brick production technique has made it possible for coal mines to provide themselves with bricks needed for building houses and other structures while removing the muck.

The patented technique also helps prevent land and environmental destruction caused by clay-based brick production and save much fuel, cement and aggregate.

much manpower. They also gave priority to main and preparatory tunnelling, remodelled the drilling head of the rock-drill to suit the quality of rocks and employed efficient working methods including a deep-drilling blasting method to increase the tunnelling speed over 1.5 times more than the fixed assignments every day.

The Namdok Youth Coal Mine extracted some 17 400 tons of more coal than the same period of last year.

It concentrates manpower and operates tunnelling and mining facilities at full capacity to meet the tunnelling conditions of coal pits, doubling coal extraction by introducing valuable and profitable technical innovation plans including the multipurpose inertial loading and transport facility.

The Pukchang Coal-mining MachineFactory introduced over a dozen technical innovation plans including mobile crane, current stabilizing welder and processing jig of water groove on the drilling head to activate production.

By Ri Sang Il PT

ONLINE

Q&A service available online for farmers



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An official of the Ministry of Agriculture gives a lecture through the online Q&A service platform.

An online question and answer service system is in operation to provide farming techniques to relevant units across the country.

This system is a computer network linking the Ministry of Agriculture with scientific research institutions, agricultural guidance organs at all levels and farms and provides consultation service over technical problems arising in farming operations.

According to information available, this year lots of officials of agricultural guidance organs in provinces, cities and counties and agricultural workers on farms have acquired knowledge about important technical matters classified according to farming seasons through this system. Especially, grain producers have access to the Q&A service on a regular basis.

"We are working to make more farms, workteams and sub-workteams thrive by dint of science and technology so as to prove the validity and vitality of the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of scientific farming in practice," said Kim Chol Man, official of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In order to improve the quality of service, the managers of the system have stored a stock of domestic and foreign agricultural sci-tech data arranged according to sectors, farming operations and crops in close collaboration with the Academy of Agricultural Science, Sci-Tech Complex, Grand People's Study House and other units.

The Q&A service is provided for well over 10 000 users every ten days. Questions are answered by competent agricultural scientists and technicians and university lecturers in Pyongyang and local areas, while users are informed of the forecasts of crop growth and given lectures on problems arising in farming operations. Presentations are also given on valuable experience obtained on farms using videos.

Users can have access to technical data service on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture. The service is very popular as they are given answers promptly and accurately.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

SPRAYER

Backpack fine sprayer turns out

The Kangso Sprayer Factory in Nampho City turns out highly-efficient backpack fine sprayers.

A notable thing is that it ensures production by recycling materials.

The basic material of the product is polypropylene. Producers also reuse different kinds of plastic waste including polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride.

The factory increases production by designing sprayers of all kinds and building equipment needed for production by itself.

It installed a temperature sensor in each equipment to control the extrusion temperature automatically and invented several injection machines.

In particular, it directs great

efforts into technological development to prevent products from being damaged by agricultural chemicals.

The backpack fine sprayer is light and its main parts are factory-made.

According to its manager Ri Hyo Yuk, the fine sprayer helps save agricultural chemicals and increase crop yield as the size of sprayed water drops is very finer and more even than that of the old one.

It consists of an agrochemical vessel, compressive bar, air hole, hose and mounting plate, and its capacity is 15 litres.

The demand for it is on the rise in the agricultural sector for its good quality and long serviceable life.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

MUSEUM

Purpose-built museum draws many visitors

The Natural History Museum located at the foot of Mt Taesong in Pyongyang is an original base for education and a place of recreation with a total floor space of over 35 000 square metres.

The museum comprises sections of outer space, extinct organisms, animals and plants, each of which is decorated distinctively to unfold a characteristic environment, and has tens of thousands of real objects, models, visual aids and multimedia that enhance the cognitive effect to the maximum.

"Lots of visitors come to the museum every day," said curator Ri Son Gyong. "Students review information learnt at school and others broaden their knowledge of nature, enjoying an informative leisure time."

Past the entrance hall on the ground floor occupied by the skeletons of three giant dinosaurs that existed in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, there is the outer space section which houses the models of celestial bodies, screens and visual aids showing the evolution of the space, the process of formation of the solar system and physical phenomena on earth.

The extinct organism section is divided into the Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic halls, the dinosaur park where eight bulky dinosaurs move and roar as if they are alive and the mankind hall where Palaeolithic men are depicted with wax figures, drawing the special

attention of visitors.

The hall of Cenozoic sea has a large LED screen on the floor which shows predatory fishes about to attack passers-by. The animal section is divided into dozens of areas including those of protozoa and annelids and vertebrates, while the plant section has areas dedicated to angiosperms, gymnosperms and wetland and desert plants. They give a vivid description of the evolution and ecology of almost all animal and plant species on earth.

The animal ecology hall on the third floor includes the areas of cave, sea exploration and savannahs of different continents. They are so realistic as to draw students, children and even adults into the mysterious world of animals.

For instance, the cave area

furnished like a real cave displays life activities of mammals and insects dwelling in caves, while the sea exploration area makes visitors feel like they are looking out of a submarine at the sea world teeming with fishes.

The Natural History Museum gives a wide range of knowledge of the natural world by means of lifelike exhibits and notice boards as well so that visitors can learn a lot without the help of curators.

So, many of them write in the visitor's book that they will come again and again, that every specimen is so instructive as to give adequate information to experts as well as students, and that it is wonderful to see a full set of specimens of high educational value.

By Kil Chung Il PT



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Visitors admire giant dinosaur skeletons at the entrance hall of the Natural History Museum.

MIDWIVES

Defenders of women's rights

The International Confederation of Midwives set "Midwives: Defenders of Women's Rights" as this year's theme on the occasion of the International Day of the Midwife (May 5).

An event was held to mark the day at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on May 14.

It was attended by officials from the Ministry of Public

Health and relevant units, exemplary midwives from across the DPRK and members of country offices of international organizations including the representatives of the UN Population Fund and World Food Programme.

Speaking at the event, Pak Jong Min, department director of the Ministry of Public Health, said that the ministry developed the Strategy of Midwives DPRK

2017-2021 in collaboration with UNFPA and contributed to protecting and promoting the health of women and children and improving universal health care by conducting workshops for the building of the technical capacities of midwives.

Hasan Motashami, representative of UNFPA country office, referred to the need to prevent avoidable maternal and new-born deaths through various methods, including urgently addressing the global shortage of midwives, and ensure they are competent and properly educated and trained to global standards, and said that the UNFPA support would continue in the DPRK for strengthening midwifery services.

At the event, there were a presentation on the experiences obtained during midwifery services and a quiz on key midwifery skills.

And then, mementos were given to excellent midwives and an art performance was given in congratulation of them.

By Jong Chol PT



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An event is held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang to mark International Day of the Midwife.

FAMILY PLANNING

Association helps improve reproductive health

May 15 is International Family Day.

The dream of married couples to build a happy family by giving birth to healthy children comes true only when their reproductive health, that is, health to give birth to a child as planned, is guaranteed.

The more society develops, the more the demands of people for reproductive health are growing.

Accordingly, the Korean Family Planning & Maternal and Child Health Association (KFP & MCHA) conducts brisker activities.

The association works to protect the reproductive health and rights of all people and provide quality reproductive health service to them, especially those who have poor access to necessary service.

The reality of the country in which the government concern and investment in healthcare of women and children are growing steadily creates a favourable

environment for the activities of the association.

“As the national strategy of midwives was worked out last year, another political guarantee has been provided for improving the quality of RH service. The strategic plan is of great significance in providing pregnant women and nursing mothers and newborns with quality medical service,” said So Hyon Chol, secretary general of the association.

According to the strategic plan, RH-related hygienic information activities are conducted vigorously, involving a large number of young people.

A variety of mass media are also involved and innovative methods employed in the information activities, with the result that 20 percent more people than planned, namely over 1.2 million people, had access to information about reproductive health and rights last year.

Medical service providers



of the association have commanded love and respect of inhabitants for decades-long kind and quality service. They are now working hard to provide clients with better and comprehensive RH service including modern family planning service.

According to statistics, the family planning and reproductive health service provided by the association's service delivery points last year increased by 9.4 percent as against 2017, with RH service through popular FP clinics and outreach service teams amounting to over 150 000 cases.

As the project for the establishment of associated clinics was successfully undertaken in close cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health, family planning service is available at 240 ri clinics.

The association now plans to establish the associated clinics in wider areas.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

RELEASING

Station works to enrich marine resources

The Cholsan Fishery Station, which is located in a west coastal area of Korea, channels big efforts into releasing fry into the sea.

“Our station's primary concern was to catch fish as many as possible, but since last year we have put efforts into stocking the sea with fish in recognition that it is very important for catching more fish while conserving maritime resources,” said manager Kim Han Chol.

The station's first option for the stocking was the stone flounder (*Kareius bicoloratus*), a stationary fish in the West Sea of Korea.

The fish has osseous spots that look like stones on the back

and at the bottom and the side line. As it is highly nutritive and has medicinal effects, it is high in demand worldwide. It is also good for farming for the fleshiness, great viability and high resistance to diseases.

In cooperation with researchers of the Academy of Fisheries, the station solved technical problems arising in stocking the sea with this fish.

It built an over 200-square-metre breeding ground in a short time, secured the breeding fish and spawning stimulant and introduced efficient methods of measuring the amount of eggs in the fish, ensuring the appropriate water temperature in the spawning period of

November, hatching eggs, raising fry and selecting feed.

In the course of this, it established an artificial breeding method that suits the growth characteristics of the fish that requires cold and clean water and slow current, and in December last year it released over 100 000 young stone flounders in the sea.

This year the station has been working to produce larger amounts of the young fish by putting the breeding and raising of the fish on a more scientific basis.

In addition, it pushes ahead with research into stocking the sea with other delicious fish species like right-eyed flounder and croaker, the securing of breeding fields and survey for appropriate waters.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The technical staff of the Cholsan Fishery Station conduct a survey to release fry into the area.

MAGIC

Man performs both in real and imaginary world

Have you ever seen a man who walks in the air or on the surface of water?

You will think it is a fantastic question.

But there is a man who has translated such a fantasy into reality.

He is Kim Ju Song at the National Acrobatic Troupe.

The conjurer performs superb magic pieces, which could not be seen before, with the help of tools at any place, to say nothing of the magic theatre. He startled viewers

by running in the air alongside of a double-decker with his hand put on it at a public place or walking on the surface of water.

His conjuring is so unbelievable that people call him a man existing both in reality and imaginary world.

He broke new ground in card tricks and those with Rubik's cube.

He finds out a card selected by a guest with his eyes shut or spots a certain card out of those spread on broken glass pieces with his foot with his eyes covered while walking on them.

He puts disarranged Rubik's cube together in only two seconds, whereas the world's fastest rearranging speed is six seconds. His skills deserve the admiration of viewers.

This year he created another magic piece “Mysterious girl”.

In the work, he cuts or joins the body of an actress in a box by his gesture, but she always waves back to the audience wearing a smile.

Though it has been only one year since he began to go on stage as a conjurer, the 30-year-old won fame by creating unique, novel and daring magic



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kim Ju Song performs illusive magic.

pieces.

Then how could he build up reputation in his incipiency?

Born into a magician's family, he spent his childhood in the magic world.

The first things he saw and seized before he learned his native language were magic movements and tools of his grandfather, father, mother and uncle. When he was a kindergartener, he properly performed simple hand skills including “Finger cutting”.

He excelled in study during his schooldays and enrolled at Pyongyang University of Computer Science after finishing a middle school as desired by his parents who wanted to train him to be an excellent magician in the era of the IT industry.

“He possesses versatile knowledge including that of magic and delves into his work to the last once he conceives an idea, thus bringing out magic pieces of his own style. His persistent efforts led him to success, I think,” his fellows say.

“My goal is to demonstrate the Korean-style magic to the world,” Kim Ju Song said.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

PET waste recycling technology developed

Constant efforts are being directed to recycling plastic waste in the country.

The Building Materials Institute under the State Academy of Sciences recently developed a technology of converting polyethylene

terephthalate (PET) waste into basic chemical goods.

A research team of the institute established PET pulverizing and alkaline decomposition methods and that of obtaining ethylene glycol, terephthalic acid,

organic solvent and others from PET waste by applying an advanced technology.

The new technology helps recycle plastic bottles, oil containers and other PET wastes, which were dumped in a large amount contaminating the environment, into basic chemical goods needed for the production of synthetic resin, adhesive, paint and others.

Compiled from KCNA

AI

Nation directs efforts to developing AI technology

With the development and application of AI technology becoming a world trend the country pays growing attention to the development of artificial intelligence technology.

The *Pyongyang Times* reporter Jong Sun Bok recently interviewed Choe Sun Yong, department director of the State Commission of Science and Technology, in this respect.

Today AI has widely been applied to artistic creation including literature, music and fine art as well as industry, agriculture, medicine and military. Would you like to tell me about the research and development of artificial intelligence technology in the country?

The government has already expanded talent training centres and R&D units in the field of artificial intelligence to keep up with the world IT development.

AI technology research has been intensified in such fields as machine translation, voice and letter recognition and image identification at Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, the State Academy of Sciences, the University of Sciences, Pyongyang Information Technology Bureau and other IT research and development units.

In the course of it, Korean letter recognition and sound recognition technologies have further been improved and various kinds of translating machines continue to be upgraded or introduced.

Advanced face detection and recognition technology has been developed on the basis of years-long experience of development in the field of image recognition, contributing to the introduction of a highly accurate face recognition system.

And iris and fingerprint discrimination device, intelligent robot, intelligent games and various other AI technology products have been developed and introduced into economic and other sectors.

Lots of AI technology-

related research hits and products are on show at the annual national IT and informatization exhibitions, offering a glimpse of the burgeoning AI technology in the country.

For example, an iris health analysis program which helps quickly analyse and estimate health of the human body and an intelligent house in which several household goods are automatically controlled by an intelligent speaker were the most attractive exhibits at the 2018 national informatization exhibition.

As I know, the characteristics of AI technology are that it develops very fast and does not work with the existing "imitation" strategy. Will you explain future development plans?

The government pushes ahead with the creation of AI research environment while increasing investment in the AI field as a strategic affair.

To this end, it plans to give fresh impetus to its development by increasing the number of AI research institutions that suit the features of AI technology as an integrated science and positively sharing the achievements in local AI research.

Efforts are now being channelled into the training of talents for the development of the technology while the creation of a large database is being stepped up to guarantee its development in a planned manner.

The government also pays attention to expanding the scope of AI research at relevant units as well as to enhancing the practicality and utility value of the existing AI technology products.

Now the world has set it as the ultimate goal of AI technology to make a machine that will completely reach the level of human intelligence and copy the entire human brain.

Our scientists and researchers have yet a long way to go, but they will achieve significant success in the near future.

Plant growth stimulant appreciated by WIPO

A new plant growth stimulant developed by the Ragwon Ryonun Technology Exchange Company has been introduced into many units across the country.

The nourishing liquid helps accelerate the growth of plants like grain crops, vegetables and tree saplings and increase their

harvest.

It also strengthens the resistance of crops to cold, humidity, drought and salt.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) recognized the stimulant as a very valuable invention in April.

Compiled from KCNA

PROFILE

Family devoted to preservation of old temple

Mt Kuwol in South Hwanghae Province is one of the six celebrated mountains of Korea. There is a one-thousand-odd-year-old temple.

Named after a saint who built it in 846, the Woljong Temple is located in a valley on the eastern slope of Asa Peak, the second highest one on the mountain. There are Manse Pavilion, Myongbu Hall, Suwol Pavilion and annexes centring on the Buddhist sanctum.

Its buildings are distinctive in structure and their head spaces inside and outside are elaborate and exquisite, making the temple an element of invaluable national architectural heritage.

The Woljong Temple has preserved its original looks intact thanks to the family of Kil Pyong Ho who has devoted his whole life to the care of it.

The Kil's buckled down to the management of the temple from the time of Pyong Ho's father Kil Won Chol.

Won Chol left Pyongyang in the 1960s to work as a caretaker of the temple.

A war veteran who had shed blood for every inch of the country's territory, he regarded it as the most worthwhile task for adding lustre to the nation's wealth to preserve historical relics in a remote mountain.

In recognition of his laudable deed, he was given high official decorations and, after death, honoured as a patriotic martyr.

To young Pyong Ho, his

father's life was a textbook example of patriotism.

Therefore, he succeeded his father.

He made up his mind to live like his father and started the work, but taking care of the historical relic was not so easy a job.

Besides inconveniences in life, wooden structures weathered in places and coloured designs went off.

In order to cope with this he perfected the secret method of making roofing tile his father handed down and made hard antiqued tiles.

And as knowledge of national history is essential for preserving and maintaining relics on the principle of fidelity to historical truth, he made an in-depth

study of Korean history in order to acquire information about maintenance of temples.

"It is nearly 40 years since I took up this job," he said. "Now I can say proudly that I have been here not just to carry on my father's work but to add glory to the national asset."

He met Chairman Kim Jong Il who visited the temple on September 23 1997.

The Chairman highly praised him and his father, calling them "patriotic father and son".

Kil was honoured with Order of the National Flag 1st Class and other state decorations and took part in several national meetings.

His children are now following in his footsteps.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kil Pyong Ho (second from right) discusses with his family members about the management of the Woljong Temple on Mt Kuwol.

EMBROIDERY

Snow-white magnolia captured on cloth

The Pyongyang Embroidery Institute creates many embroidery pieces depicting national symbols.

Typical of them are those representing national flower magnolia.

The institute has brought

out some splendid magnolia embroideries by employing traditional and modern embroidering techniques.

The employees embroidered the rims of magnolia petals in satin stitch with colourful threads that present a marked

contrast to the snow-white petals so as to enhance the pictorial beauty of the flowers, and depicted the stamens and pistils by means of various techniques. They represented the leaves and stems in gradation stitch using coloured threads. "Therefore, each magnolia embroidery has appreciative qualities," said Mun Un Gyong, director of production unit No.1.

The institute has come up with new embroideries including "Goshawk and magnolia" and "Magnolia and azalea".

"Goshawk and magnolia" is artistically refined as the two objects have been reconciled by means of natural colours and delicate and unique techniques.

The magnolia embroideries in the exhibition hall elicit the admiration of foreign visitors, as well as local people.

Some of them wrote in the visitor's book that they saw masterpieces that could not be found elsewhere in the world and they were deeply impressed by the breathtaking beauty of art.



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees of the Pyongyang Embroidery Institute thread by combining traditional stitches with new ones.

By Pang Un Ju PT

VIEW

Politics behind recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Syria's Golan

Israel has become ever more undisguised in its attempt to permanently occupy the Syrian Golan with the self-righteous backing of Washington.

President Trump recently wrote on his Twitter account that it is time for the US to fully recognize Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan.

It met an immediate objection even from the US allies as well as international organizations including the UN and Arab nations.

The UN secretary general said Syria's Golan is apparently part of the Syrian territory occupied by Israel and all international laws confirming this still exist, expressing the invariable stand of the UN to recognize Syria's territorial sovereignty over the occupied Golan in the future, too. The president of the Council of State of Cuba, German foreign minister and Japanese cabinet secretary also joined voices against the US decision.

Trump, however, signed the declaration recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan at the talks with the Israeli prime minister a few days after posting the article on Twitter account.

What then are the political interests the US seeks by recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan despite the strong opposition of the international community?

In a nutshell, it can be said that the US-style individualism to "kill three birds with one stone" has acted on it.

First, it is aimed at creating a favourable environment for reelection in the 2020 presidential election. The Republicans want to lure Jews, the major financial resources, to raise a huge sum of money needed for the election campaign. To this end, it was necessary to provide favourable conditions for Netanyahu's reelection.

Thanks to the "strong guardian", Netanyahu who was charged on suspicion of irregularities and corruption, was reelected in the April election. There is no need to explain that he would be more faithful to the US to repay the favour shown by it.

Second, it is intended to seize the abundant natural resources deposited in the occupied Golan.

It is now estimated that an enormous amount of oil is deposited in the 1 500-metre deep underground of the Golan. Israel prospected for oil in the region in secrecy from 1970, but in vain. The US businesses began oil-well boring in 2015 under license of development from Israel. If they succeed in oil boring, Israel will be an oil exporting country from 2020.

Third, it is planned to help Israel gain military upper hand in the Middle East.

The successive Israeli

governments promised to return the occupied Golan if the Syrian government concludes a peace treaty with it, and Netanyahu also indicated the Israeli troop pullout from it in the period of his first-term office.

However, the Israeli stand on the return of the occupied Golan has changed greatly since the outbreak of the 2011 Syrian crisis. At present, Israel doggedly pursues a diplomatic foray to achieve the new goal of completely annexing the occupied Golan to its territory.

It sees the region as a natural fortress to defend itself from the "possible Syrian attack". In case it is returned to Syria, Israel must reinforce 10 times more troops than those now deployed in the border areas, but if it continues to seize the region, troops of about one brigade are enough for it to check the "Syrian attack".

By officially recognizing the dominion over such a military and strategic vantage point, the US intends to throw its weight behind the ally and strengthen the position of Israel and then its own position in the Middle East.

But Washington's recognition is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter on national self-determination and rules of international law.

Kang Hye Son,
*fellow at the Institute of
International Studies of the
DPRK*

COMMENT

Spectre of Yushin dictatorship should be banished

It has been 58 years since Park Chung Hee seized power by staging a military coup in south Korea.

Park launched the military coup on the early morning of May 16 1961 by taking advantage of the turbulent situation in which the locals' struggle for anti-fascist democratization expanded further after the April 1960 popular uprising.

Under the rule of the Yushin dictator, the enthusiasm for reunification was dampened and the cruellest and most barbarous military fascist rule was enforced in south Korea.

Talking about "confrontation existing with dialogue", he cast away the promise made with the north and pursued a vicious policy of confrontation with the fellow countrymen.

As soon as he ratified the July 4 1972 North-South Joint Statement, he reversed the agreed items of the joint statement, saying they cannot entrust their destiny to a piece of paper.

He denied the principle of national independence clarifying that the north and south should settle the reunification issue by the Korean nation itself without relying on foreign forces and begged for the eternal presence of US troops in south Korea, saying the UN is not a foreign force and the longer the US forces stay, the better. He also responded to the north's principle of peaceful reunification with confrontation and war preparations and the principle of great national unity with anti-communist rackets. Moreover, he issued a "special statement" insisting on the simultaneous admission to the UN by the north and south before the ink of the joint statement became dry, undisguisedly revealing the scheme to perpetuate the division of Korea.

The end of Park Chung Hee

who was shot dead by his henchman clearly showed how miserable the fate of those who run counter to the nation's reunification aspirations is.

His clan committed crimes against the nation through generations.

After taking power his daughter Park Geun Hye was hell-bent on confrontation with the fellow countrymen to revive the Yushin dictatorship with an ambition to realize "system unification". But she was punished by the public to plunge into an abyss of total ruin like her father.

The Parks could not escape their doom as they scuttled inter-Korean relations by toeing the US line and devoting themselves to confrontation with the fellow countrymen and went against the public sentiment.

However, the Liberal Korea Party and other conservative forces are working desperately to put the south Korean society back in its past of flunkysm and treachery, confrontation with the fellow countrymen and fascist dictatorship while putting forward Park Chung Hee and Park Geun Hye. That is why the dregs of evil legacies who were forsaken by the public have revived to make blistering remarks and behave rashly.

While inciting antagonism and confrontation between the fellow countrymen as they stand in the way of national reconciliation and improved relationship, they are blindly following the foreign forces who work to divide Korea forever.

If such conservative forces as the LKP remain intact, it is obvious that Yushin dictatorship will revive again in south Korea.

The spectre of Yushin dictatorship should thoroughly be eliminated.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

TOURISM

Eco-tourism booms worldwide

Eco-tourism is now witnessing a boom with public interest in the protection of ecological environment and nature growing worldwide.

The concept of eco-tourism was brought up for the first time in 1983 and it was formally approved at the international environmental meeting in Mexico in 1986.

Initiated in European and North American countries in the early 1990s, eco-tourism was extended to take up 20 percent of the global tourism revenue in 2016.

Eco-tourism helps tourists feel the preciousness of nature, broaden their knowledge about it, raise awareness of the protection of ecological environment and voluntarily take part in its protection as they enjoy the beautiful scenery and fauna and flora in nature with rich biodiversity. It is mainly conducted in the form of forest eco-tourism and agricultural eco-tourism.

In the Inner Mongolian autonomous region, China, there is a comprehensive forest park consisting of forest resort, and grass and wet land scientific diffusion sightseeing, forest camping and sightseeing, and forest hunting districts.

Different countries in Asia and Europe offer agricultural eco-tourism by building farms for tourism, and education and tourism rest and folklore tourism villages.

Nowadays, eco-tourism is developing into a pollution-free industry, a link promoting socio-economic development.

Therefore, activities for the protection of ecological environment are conducted briskly as part of the efforts for eco-tourism.

Mongolia, Uganda, Indonesia, Germany and many other countries are channelling big efforts into forest conservation and tree planting, while various countries including

Namibia are encouraging organic farming beneficial to maintaining the biodiversity of plants as they pay much heed to the protection of wildlife.

Many countries are now making a changeover to eco-tourism as it makes it possible to increase economic income more effectively than the resource consumption-oriented economic development.

Activities to develop new eco-tourism resources, especially unusual natural phenomenon and natural monument, are also gaining momentum.

The DPRK has such nature reserves suitable for eco-tourism as Mts Paektu, Kumgang, Myohyang, Kuwol and Chilbo, and an undertaking is being pushed in a planned way to reenergize eco-tourism. Foreign visitors will be able to enjoy eco-tourism in the DPRK in the near future.

By Min Chol PT

CHINA

Efforts made to build up defence capability

The Chinese party and government are directing a great deal of energy into political work in the efforts to implement the idea of a powerful army in the new period on realizing the dream of powerful army.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a meeting, called on the entire army to step up preparations for combat.

Meanwhile, Xi pointed to the need to carry through the party's powerful army idea and military strategic policy in the new period.

China is attaching importance

to enhancing its combat capability through military training in real war format.

Last year a joint anti-terror exercise was conducted in the water area near Hong Kong, while the air force of the northern military district staged a drill to ensure alliance between the army and the locality in battle conditions.

It also test-fired HD-1 supersonic cruise missiles capable of striking fighters and maritime and ground targets.

By Song Jong Ho PT

GAMES

Disabled persons and amateurs compete in three events

The games of persons with disabilities and amateurs kicked off at the Changgwang Health Complex in Pyongyang on May 3.

According to Ri Yong Su, official of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, the table-tennis competition of persons with disabilities and amateurs which was held respectively in spring and autumn in the past has expanded this year into the games embracing other sporting

events.

The swimming competition of the games took place that day.

It was held divided into four categories: first—the disabled and male amateurs in their 40s (50m freestyle and 100m breaststroke), second—the disabled and male amateurs in their 50s (50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke), third—male amateurs above 60 (50m freestyle), and fourth—female amateurs above 45 (50m breaststroke).

Players and spectators cheered as players with disabilities demonstrated their great

spiritual strength and power of locomotion.

Two-leg amputee Sim Sung Hyok won the breaststroke and amateur Ri Yong Jin the freestyle in the first category, amateur An Chang Hwa the breaststroke and Jong Kuk Song, right femur amputee, the freestyle in the second category, amateur Ryu Kyong Su the freestyle in the third category and Kim Yong Hyon, right femur amputee, the breaststroke in the fourth category.

The table-tennis competition of the games was played at the gymnasium of Kim Il Sung University between May 6 and 10. Teams were divided into six categories and each group in each category had singles and doubles matches on a round-robin basis and the best teams advanced to knockout semi-finals and finals.

“Lots of spectators enthusiastically cheered me during the competition and I did my best to live up to their expectations,” said right wrist amputee Yu Myong Sim.

The tennis competition of the games is staged at the outdoor tennis court of Kim Il Sung University from May 15 to 19.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the table-tennis competition of the games of persons with disabilities and amateurs held at the gymnasium of Kim Il Sung University.

SPORTS VILLAGE

Stamping ground of sports enthusiasts

The Pyongyang municipal sports village is a favourite haunt of sports lovers nowadays when spring is at the peak.

It was built in August last year as a comprehensive base for professional and mass sports.

According to Kim Sin Jo, a staff member at the sports village, lots of people visited the village in less than a year after its inauguration.

The most popular destinations of visitors are the basketball and volleyball courts and table-tennis room in the gymnasium, and outdoor tennis and badminton courts.

Keeper Ri Kyong Hui said that those who had been a laughingstock at first as they did not know how to handle balls now play games like professionals.

A variety of games take place at the sports village on Sundays.

Spectators' enthusiastic cheering at matches played by regular visitors is another

thrilling sight in the village.

The most eye-catching is a volleyball game between the teams organized by age groups. Everybody lavishes praise on the team of persons in their 60s as its players operate game skilfully full of energy that cannot be believed to be displayed by the aged.

“I meet with my husband at this tennis court after daily work. We usually have a tennis game for evening cooking and as I'm still heavy-handed it will take more time to have him prepare a meal for me,” Kim Un Mi, a regular visitor, said smilingly.

Many factories and enterprises often hold sports games at the sports village.

Various factories and enterprises met there on May 1 to mark the international holiday of all working people.

Kim Chang Il, worker at the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, said that he felt as if he participated in a football match for domestic championship

after playing football at the fine football pitch. Mun Son Gyong, creator at the Pyongyang municipal fine arts studio, said that she took part in three amusement games and contributed to her team's win, adding she would compete in ball games without fail.

After playing sports games, visitors spend a good time while cooling themselves at pavilions, soft drink stands and the water flower park built in the sports village.

By Jong Tang Song PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

People play walking on stepping stones in a holiday event at the Pyongyang municipal sports village.

By Pang Un Ju PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

April 25's captain Rim Chol Min outjumps a Hong Kong Tai Po defender to head home in the 4-0 second leg of Group I of the 2019 AFC Cup at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Stadium on May 15.

HERITAGE

Arirang represents Korean folksongs

Every Korean loves and enjoys singing folksong *Arirang*.

Many legends tell of the origin and etymology of *Arirang*. Typical of them is the folktale “Songbu and Rirang”.

Once upon a time, a farm servant named Rirang and a girl called Songbu took part in a failed uprising in a year of famine and took shelter in a remote mountain from the chase of the government army.

There they tied the knot and lived happily for a while.

And then, Rirang made up his mind to fight against exploiters, said goodbye to his beloved wife and crossed high and low mountains to the battlefield.

At that time, Songbu, looking fixedly at the passes he crossed, sang a song of yearning, which was said to have been passed down by word of mouth as *Arirang*.

As it was widely spread among Koreans, the song got to have many regional varieties.

Among 36 *Arirang* varieties known so far are *Sodo Arirang*, *Phyongando Arirang*, *Jonchon Arirang*, *Kangwondo Arirang*, *Haeju Arirang* and *Tanchon Arirang*.

Their lyrics reflect commoners' grudge against exploiters and their fervent desire for a happy life through the depiction of affections between man and wife, sorrow of parting, yearning for the spouse and hope of reunion.

Arirang became known to the world as symbol of the Korean nation after it was adopted as the theme song of silent film *Arirang* in 1926.

During Japanese military rule, the song aroused among Koreans the spirit of resistance to the Japanese imperialists who deprived them of national sovereignty and the sense of national independence.

As Korean marathoner Son Ki Jong breasted the tape at the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany with a Japanese flag on his chest, Korean spectators were said to have sung *Arirang* in chorus.

After Korea's liberation, the song got even more popular while preserving its national characteristics.

It was arranged as symphonies and dance music pieces and themes of grand artistic performances and concerts. Many new types of *Arirang* were brought out in reflection of the aesthetic sense and demands of the present time, including *Arirang of Reunification* and *Arirang of Prosperity*.

The Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang* was put on the Guinness World Records in August 2007 and honoured with orders and medals from different countries.

Folksong *Arirang* was inscribed as national intangible cultural heritage element No.1 and put on the UNESCO's Representative List of ICH of Humanity in November 2014.

