Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un presides over CMC enlarged meeting

The First Enlarged Meeting of the Seventh Central Military Commission of the Workers’ Party of Korea was held at a time when the entire Party, the whole army and all the people are dynamically waging the general offensive to achieve a fresh victory in the revolution by demonstrating the mettle of heroic Korea—true to the spirit of the Seventh Party Congress and the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea, chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People’s Army, presided over the enlarged meeting that brought together members of the CMC of the WPK, commanding officers at service and corps levels, senior officials of military organs and those of the Party Central Committee.

The agenda items included organizational measures to be taken in order to strengthen the People’s Army into a revolutionary army of the Party militarily and politically and improve the national defence affairs as a whole, on the basis of the comprehensive analysis of the requirements of the developing revolution and the current situation of the People’s Army.

The meeting also dealt with the organizational issue on dismissing and appointing some members of the Party Central Military Commission and removing, transferring and appointing senior officials of military organs.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un reviewed how the People’s Army has carried out its military and political tasks since the Seventh Party Congress and specified the main direction and ways of army building and military activities, stressing the need to further establish the Party’s unified command system across the revolutionary forces and exercise the revolutionary military discipline, to consistently implement the Party’s policies on effecting a radical turn in training and ideological work and modernizing the army, and to improve the soldiers’ living standards.

He called on the whole army to safeguard and guarantee by dint of arms the all-people efforts to implement the decisions of the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee.

He highly appreciated the People’s Army that is fulfilling its duty as the vanguard ranks and main force of the revolution on every major front of socialist economic construction upholding the banner of “Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!” And he was hopeful that the People’s Army would maintain its revolutionary nature and features as the army of the Party and leader and fulfil the sacred mission and duty it assumes on behalf of the country and people.

Compiled from KCNA

STATEMENT

US urged to roll back anti-DPRK policy

With a strategic decision to put an end to the bitter history of the DPRK-US relationship, Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, met with US State Secretary Pompeo in Pyongyang on two occasions and has taken crucial and generous measures to seek peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and beyond, said Kim Kye Gwan, first vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK.

“I positively appreciated the fact that US President Trump voiced his readiness to do away with the long-standing hostility between the two countries and improve bilateral relations in response to the Chairman’s initiative, and believed that the upcoming DPRK-US summit talks would mark a big step to promoting the détente on the peninsula and building a fine future,” he said in a statement on May 16.

“But I’ve been disappointed that reckless remarks getting on the nerves of the dialogue partner are being heard from the US, which only worsens the situation on the Korean Peninsula and adds to the tension,” he said.

“US anti-DPRK policy is a major cause of the aggravation of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula. We wish the US government to take a true position on the DPRK-US relationship and the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula by retracting its anti-DPRK policy,” Kim Kye Gwan continued.

With the forthcoming US presidential election, the US Administration is expected to apply pressure on the DPRK to extract concessions in the upcoming summit, he said, adding that the US must understand that the DPRK is ready to respond to the US policy change and will not accept any unreasonable demands on the part of the US.

With a view to the upcoming summit, the US Administration must take a solemn and responsible approach to the DPRK-US relationship, he said, vowing that “the DPRK will carefully respond to the US policy change to promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.”

“The DPRK will closely watch the ensuing behaviour of the US and the south Korean authorities, said KCNA in its report on May 16.

The report came after the south Korean authorities launched a large-scale 2018 Max Thunder combined aerial combat drill with the US across south Korea on May 11 in a bid to mount a preemptive air strike against the DPRK and gain air supremacy.

The air drill will go on till May 25 under the supervision of the US forces in south Korea and the south Korean air force with an involvement of over 100 warplanes including USAF’s B-52 strategic nuclear bombers and F-22 Raptor stealth fighters, the report said.

The public at home and abroad is of the opinion that it is the largest ever in scale, it said, noting it is the reflection of the unchanged stand of the US and south Korea to continue to impose “maximum pressure and sanctions” on the DPRK.

It denounced the drill as an open challenge to the Panmunjom Declaration and an intentional military provocation that goes against the trend of the favourably developing Korean peninsula situation.

Saying that the north and south of Korea solemnly announced the beginning of a new era of peace in the Panmunjom Declaration, it noted they agreed to work together to ease the acute military tension on the Korean peninsula and substantially remove the danger of war and the US expressed full support to it.

By launching the large-scale combined air drill against the
Self-reliance a dynamic of socialist economic development

The April 2018 plenary meeting of the Workers’ Party of Korea set forth a new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on the socialist economic construction.

The fundamental principle of the Party’s new strategic line is self-reliance.

With the successful implementation of the historic tasks of the strategic line of pushing economic construction and nuclear buildup in parallel, the DPRK’s socialist economic construction has taken a straight course to victory. Self-reliance has enabled the DPRK to hit a high target of socialist economic construction by putting spurs to continued offensive, innovation and advance.

The DPRK’s socialist economic construction spanning over half a century has advanced and proved successful by dint of self-reliance.

The Korean people laid a solid foundation for the self-supporting economy on this land, which had been subject to centuries-old backwardness and poverty, by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and effected socialist industrialization in a matter of 14 years on the decks of war, though the enemy blustered the Koreans would not rise up again in a hundred years. In recent years, we have worked new miracles in a matter of one year, if not a few months. This tells that nothing is more powerful than the faith of the people who have turned out with the belief of their own strength, and only the confidence in their strength can bring about eye-opening successes in any hardships and trials.

The goal the DPRK has set today to build a powerful socialist economy is to put the national economy on a Juche, modern, IT and scientific basis and provide all the people with affluent and civilized life. The shortcut to the goal is to rely on its own efforts and exercise perseverance.

Self-reliance serves as the powerful driving force of socialist economic construction.

When the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance prevails across the country, the DPRK’s economic construction will advance more briskly towards a new victory.

Full conditions and possibilities are provided in the country so that it can solve all problems arising in economic construction with its own efforts. It has a firm economic foundation laid by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong II, as well as an army of sci-tech personnel and abundant resources.

The current economic construction is to be based on modern science and technology, which constitutes a powerful treasured sword that should be held fast to by those who are strong in the spirit of self-reliance.

When all sectors and units attach importance to science and push ahead with production and construction at a high speed by dint of self-reliance based on modern science and technology, they can meet the demand for fuel and power with their own efforts and technology by making the most of the country’s natural resources, production potentials and latent reserves, and turn the national economy into an independent and modern socialist economy, knowledge-based one, by putting the economy on Juche, modern, IT and scientific footing.

A dynamic effort is being made in all economic sectors and units to continuously enhance and to effect a surge and leap forward in production on the basis of science and technology holding up the slogan of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Kim Yong Ho

Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, made a survey trip to different units in Sunchon City.

The Sunchon Cement Complex concentrates efforts on putting production lines on a modern and scientific basis at a higher level to effect an upsurge in production.

At an on-site consultative meeting, measures were taken to ensure a sufficient supply of equipment and parts by relevant units so as to put cement production on a normal track.

The Premier also visited the construction sites for the establishment of the CI chemical industry and the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory.

Premier Pak Pong Ju (second from right) on a survey trip to the Sunchon Cement Complex.

Premier Pak Pong Ju (second from right) on a survey trip to the Sunchon Cement Complex.
CONSTRUCTION

Gravity-fed waterway project makes brisk headway

The Yoltusamcholli Plain is a vast expanse of farmland embracing most of Mundok and Sukchon counties and Chongnam Ward and some parts of Phyongwon County and Anju City of Phyongan Province. However, water of Lake Yonphung, the main source of irrigation for the plains, has markedly dwindled due to abnormal weather conditions caused by lingering global warming, immensely impeding the agricultural development in the area.

To cope with such a situation, a waterway project for linking the Chongchon River with the Phyongnam irrigation system is going on to irrigate the plain with the river water. When the long gravity-fed waterway is completed, the Chongchon emptying into the sea through hydropower stations built in tiers along the river will supply water to tens of thousands of hectares of farm fields and help preserve the ecological environment of the area around Lake Yonphung, while bringing big economic profits.

At present, the overall project is scheduled with the introduction of many technical innovation plans that ensure both the speed and quality of construction work. Irrigation engineers realigned the waterway tunnel to cut the distance of the tunnel and earth watercourse by hundreds of metres without changing the water level. Builders rationally fixed the sites of working pits in keeping with the changed watercourse, thereby completing the preparation work 15 days earlier than the set date. They are now speed up tunnelling by introducing advanced drilling and tunnelling methods.

Instead, those methods have been applied at the construction sites of bridges, drainage culverts and inverted siphons so as to save much concrete and steel and ensure the quality and speed of construction of all structures. Builders of dams are leading others. They worked uninterruptedly even in winter by building cofferdams and taking protective measures against cold before starting concrete placing for foundations.

“The completion of the project will free the Yoltusamcholli Plain from drought,” said field manager Ri Hung Gyu.

PRODUCTION

Foodstuff factory better known for quality aquatic products

Products of the Kalma Foodstuff Factory enjoy growing popularity among consumers. Though it is not long after inauguration, the factory mass-produces distinctive and tasty processed seafood. The attractively packaged Kalma-brand foodstuffs have strong flavour peculiar to the seafood of the East Sea of Korea and are highly nutritious.

The factory has increased the variety and quality of products on a constant basis by introducing advanced processing equipment and introducing advanced processing methods in keeping with the global trend. It produces dozens of products and all of them are very popular with customers, including lyophilized walleye pollack, dried squid slice, instant soup, raw materials for soup favoured by housewives. Especially, they can prepare the walleye pollack soup in a short time with the help of the walleye pollack soup material without adding other spices.

The factory channels big efforts into developing new products while pushing the undertaking for refashioning equipment and boosting output. Newly-developed nutritious tangle drops and cod-liver oil drops are functional ones which prove effective in developing the intelligence of children and improving their eyesight. Particularly, the fermented walleye pollack made of its branchiæ which were thrown away in the past is winning popularity for its good chewing and hot taste.

DRESSMAKING

Technical innovation pushes production activity

Fashionable clothes are produced at the Tongdaewon Unha Garment Factory.

The Tongdaewon Unha Garment Factory boasts a large production capacity.

It started with the production of children’s clothes, traditional Korean clothes and shirts with only dozens of thread-sewing machines. Now it is equipped with such modern garment processing facilities as high-speed power and special sewing machines to make various clothing products. In particular, it is well known to other countries for the fashionable styles and good quality of its major products, namely men’s white shirts, men’s suits, men’s and women’s short overcoats and various kinds of trousers.

The secret of the success is that the technical and practical skills of its employees are high and technical innovation plans are widely introduced into production. The factory runs a vocational school that teaches subjects related to clothes-making such as cutting, processing and finishing. Most of the employees of the factory are “graduates” of the school.

They continue to learn in order to keep abreast of the trend of the industry and new technologies by receiving online lectures, browsing the national network and attending lectures on computer practice. Seeing science and technology as the key to increased production, the factory encourages employees to conceive new ideas and introduce various jigs and systems into production.

In the past it used much labour to make a kind of product which went through several processes. But the technical staff applied various jigs to reduce the production processes while speeding up the processing of products.

For example, a jig was introduced to make four-layer waist linings of trousers, which had been made through four working processes, in one process, ensuring the highest processing speed and quality per unit of products and further increasing the production efficiency.

Light sensor, power management support system and other technical innovation plans have been applied to fixed cutter and other equipment, which are greatly helpful for putting production on a normal track.

SEE PAGE 4
Learning of advanced technology in vogue

Sci-tech learning spaces have been built in almost all factories and enterprises in recent years in line with the requirements of the knowledge economy era. They are always crowded with employees who come to acquire modern science and technology and ample knowledge.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill is one of the units which are very good at running sci-tech learning spaces. Many of its employees have enrolled at the distance education colleges of various universities. As their enthusiasm for learning grows, their technical skills improve and a series of valuable technical innovation plans are proposed and introduced in turn, which gives boost to production.

“As employees learn advanced technologies in the sci-tech learning space, science and technology is closely combined with production and the production is put on a Juche and modern basis at a high level,” chief engineer Choe Song Hun said.

The sci-tech learning space is a favourite haunt of the employees at the Phyongsong Synthetic Leather Factory. The e-reading room built in the sci-tech learning space gives them access to any necessary information and e-books through sites of several units such as the Sci-Tech Complex, the Grand People’s Study House and the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology.

Workers attend lectures at the online lecture room and learn latest science and technology to their heart’s content in their workplaces. They call the sci-tech learning space “a reliable assistant” that helps them build up the tower of knowledge and properly solve scientific and technological problems arising in reality.

Officials and workers of the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, which plays an important role in the country’s shoe-making industry, often visit the sci-tech learning space to solve the problems arising in diversifying products in kind, shape and colour by dint of science and technology.

New scientific and technological data in various domains of the industry are added to the database on a regular basis so that they can keep abreast of the developing trend and technical matters.

With the level of knowledge and technical skills of the employees improving, a growing number of them are raising new designs and innovative plans.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Device for making the most of solar energy developed

It is especially important in the DPRK at present, given that such large systems have been established in many units including the Sci-Tech Complex.

Researchers of the electric power and industry institute under the Ministry of Electric Power Industry developed a system parallel inverter, based on meeting such demand.

They completed a slide control technique to transfer electricity, unaffected by the voltage, frequency and wave distortion of the power system, to meet the country’s specific conditions, as well as the peak output-tracking technique to maximize electricity generation. The inverter to which these techniques are applied can link a power system with the national grid uninterruptedly under any unfavourable conditions, ensure independent operation in case of power failure and perform reactive power compensation function when it is cloudy and dark. It does not require expensive batteries while increasing the power factor of the distributing system.

The introduction of the inverter into many units including the Samchollli Lighting Appliances Factory shows that the efficiency of solar cells is improved and the generating costs are reduced by half.

The inverter was highly appreciated at the 33rd national sci-tech festival and other shows. It is efficiently used in various fields including the application of wind and tidal powers.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

aryawan of the Samchollli Lighting Appliances Factory acquire advanced technologies at the sci-tech learning space.

SPECIALITY

Songi mushroom

Songi mushroom is a world-famous Korean speciality, along with Panax schinseng and Koryo insam, for its food value and pharmacological features.

It is distributed in pine groves in almost all regions of the country and its major habitat is the forest zone mainly consisting of granite, quartz trachyte, sandstone and quartzite.

The fungus widely proliferates in autumn in sunny pine forests with a layer of fallen pine needles through which water drains well or the mixed forests of pines and broadleaf trees, to form mushroom groups in certain areas.

The cap is semicircular initially and gradually spreads as widely as 5-15 centimetres in diameter. The surface is greyish and dry and has yellowish brown trichoid scales. The flesh is white and thick and emits special fragrance.

The stem is 6-20 centimetres tall and 2-3 centimetres thick. The mushroom is rich with crude protein, crude fat, coarse fibre, carbohydrate and various essential amino acids and such vitamins as C, B group and E. It also contains many kinds of essential microelements good for health and phosphorus and potassium. Its oil is used as a good flavouring material.

It helps build up body and develop it harmoniously, promotes digestion and stops pain. The mushroom with unique flavour tastes fresh and is highly nutritious. It can be eaten raw or cooked by roasting, steaming and frying, or used as spices by drying and pulverizing it. It is difficult to artificially cultivate the mushroom that lives along with pines and, therefore, its artificial cultivation relying on pure culture is still impossible. But there has been certain progress in the development of the method of artificial culture of hyphae and a technology of half-artificial cultivation is being researched and developed to multiply it in natural conditions.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

Employees at the Unha Daesong Foodstuff Factory acquire advanced technologies at the sci-tech learning space.

FROM PAGE 3

Factory: Technical innovation encouraged

As the light sensor is fitted to fixed cutter, its motor works only when the operator puts the materials to be cut onto the knife. As a result, it increases the lifetime of electric motor and saves much electricity.

The distribution board momentary power consumption statistics program, a power management support system, enables users to tighten the grasp and control of momentary state and power consumption in units and save power.

The factory, whose production and management activities such as planning and process control are put on an IT and scientific basis, celebrated its 60th anniversary recently.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Songi mushroom (left) and liquor distilled with it.
Association works hard for happy families

May 15 is International Family Day. It is everyone’s dream to build a happy family with healthy children, which is guaranteed by reproductive health.

Growing attention is being paid by government and non-governmental organizations to ensuring reproductive health.

The government pays special attention to reproductive health as it enforces universal free medical care by regarding humans as the most valuable beings.

All hospitals and clinics across the country have an obstetrics and gynaecology department and there are modern maternity hospitals in Pyongyang and provinces.

Constant efforts are made to enhance the reproductive health rights and provide women with quality services.

In such efforts, the Korean Family Planning & Maternal Child Health Association (KFP&MCHA) is an active player.

It strives to champion sexual and reproductive health and rights and provide such services for all, especially the underserved. In recent years, the association, in cooperation with the government and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), has improved SRHR and channelled efforts into IEC activities to raise the awareness of adolescents about SRH, while consolidating material and technical foundations for safe abortion service.

According to its strategic plan 2016-2020, the association carries on brisk publicity activities related to SRH while encouraging young people to take an active part in the activities.

Reproductive health services through FP clinics and outreach service teams of the association are winning favour with residents.

The association has implemented the project for the establishment of associated clinics since 2016 and set up and operated well over 100 such clinics in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, local government organs and health service institutions.

This has helped deepen the contents of services including the utilization of decision making tools in FP services, counselling skills and selection of appropriate FP methods and management of side-effects, thereby remarkably improving the quality of care.

When public awareness of reproductive health is increased and when people’s demand is fully met, families and society will have a happier and more beautiful future.

By Kim Yong PT

Home-made endoscopes highly appreciated

The Pyongyang Endoscope Technical Exchange Company has made remarkable successes in the domestic production of different kinds of endoscopes over the past decades.

Deputy director Han Hye Chol and the research group of the company have persistently conducted research with an eye to manufacturing endoscopes with local efforts and technologies.

The researchers first focused on increasing the image resolution to ensure the accuracy of checkup.

They converted the former expensive optical fibre lighting system into a cheap LED lighting one and realized an electronic image expansion system based on CCD chips, thereby increasing the resolution dozens of times more than previously. And as they recorded the still images and animations obtained by the endoscopes, they made them compatible with computer.

In the efforts to make them smaller and lighter they completed a technology of manufacturing micro objective lens to decrease lens diameter to one third of that of an advanced country and miniaturized the external diameters of working parts.

They finally unravelled over 20 kinds of inflexible, flexible and electronic image endoscopes including those for stomach, digestive tract, thoracic and abdominal organs, uterine, cerebral ventricle, galactophore and tear ducts.

In particular, endoscopes for galactophore and tear ducts are 0.6mm and 0.8mm respectively in the external diameters of working parts.

Most recently, they developed an endoscope with which to observe organic tissues at a cell level for the first time in the country.

The company also produces various industrial endoscopes.

Its endoscopes are being used at the health sector and several economic sectors and as they bring great benefits they are popular with foreign customers.

According to Han Hye Chol, foreign participants in the 26th international health exhibition held in Russia’s Moscow in December 2016 admired the DPRK’s endoscopes as they were technically on a par with those of Japan, China, Germany, France and Korea and better than them in some indexes.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Reproductive health services

The KFP&MCHA takes an active part in international health-related events. Its endoscopes are being adopted at numerous international meetings and exhibitions.

In particular, DPRK’s endoscopes, for the first time in the world, were technically on a par with those of Japan, China, Germany, France and Korea.

The company has made remarkable successes in the field of internationally-recognized foreign companies and better than them in some indexes.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

Devoting four decades to child education

Ri Kyong Suk, headmistress of Hasin Primary School in Sosong District, Pyongyang, has dedicated herself to education for more than four decades.

She Yellowed hair, she threw herself into training.

As she was still young of mothers who hope for their children’s success to high credentials and clear conscience.

Though she was still young with bobbed hair, she threw herself into training.

In her maidenhood, her qualifications and passion stood out at national teaching contests and she was promoted to schoolmistress in her early 40s.

She believes that only when they work in a creative manner, can educationists train children to be creative beings.

As she was with administrative work, she continued her speculation and quest to acquire multifarious knowledge.

In the course of making research to arouse the intellectual interest of children to meet their psychological features, she conceived an idea to introduce information technology into teaching as required by the IT era.

Accordingly, the school carried out a huge undertaking for converting all teaching contents into hundreds of multimedia presentations, creating a new teaching method.

A video “Honour pupil” among the multimedia presentations is appreciated as a role model throughout the country as it proves effective in scientifically impressing schoolchildren with teaching contents and cultivating their intellectual faculties.

The generalization of model teaching methods for many subjects is also attributable to the painstaking efforts of Ri Kyong Suk.

She also paid attention to the extracurricular education.

Her school runs such hobby groups as table tennis, national musical instruments and vocal music on a regular basis to help pupils develop their talent.

Many of its graduates have entered schools of higher grade.

She never feels contented with her work.

Her uncommon efforts to renovate the educational conditions and environment are closely associated with multifunctional classrooms, laboratories and teaching forest.

She has been honoured to attend the national conference of educationists and other meetings and awarded titles of merit and people’s teacher.

Many of her pupils who are now scientists, artists and sportspersons often visit the school to see her.

By Jong Sun Bok PT
IFRC advocates SMILE in RC activities

An event was held at the Taedonggang Diplomatic Club in Pyongyang on May 17 to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

It was attended by Paek Yong Ho, executive vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, relevant officials, members of the country offices of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international organizations as well as members of the diplomatic community in the country.

Ri Ho Rim, secretary general of the DPRK Red Cross Society, in his presentation, referred to the strategic plan 2016-2020 of the national society, saying the overall vision of the plan is to build safer, healthier and resilient communities by mobilizing power of humanity.

He added the national society has focused on the integrated programme of community-based projects.

Joseph Muyambo, acting head of the IFRC country office, said that the theme of this year’s World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is “Smile” and pointed to the need for RC staff and volunteers to bring smile and hope to people, treating them all with hospitality, dignity and humanity.

And Bart Tony Vermeiren, head of the ICRC country office, said the international committee has worked with the national society and relevant ministries of the DPRK since 2002, conducting activities in such fields as physical rehabilitation, peri-urban water supply, health and support on removal of old lethal remnants of war dating back to the Korean war. He added that the ICRC sincerely welcomes the April 27 Panmunjom Declaration adopted by both the north and south of Korea.

The participants watched a video showing the activities of the national society to prevent flu.

By Song Jong Ho PT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

National workshop focuses on wetland conservation

A National Workshop on the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in the DPRK took place at the Taedonggang Diplomatic Club in Pyongyang on May 16 under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

The event was attended by officials of the State Commission of Science and Technology, Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, National Tourism Administration, National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, management station of the Mundok migratory bird reserve, Rason City People’s Committee and various other related units, wetland experts, a delegation of foreign wetland experts led by Dr. Lew Young, chief executive of the EA AFP (East Asia Australasian Flyway Partnership), and staff members of resident foreign diplomatic missions and those of international organizations.

The DPRK conducted positive activities to join the Ramsar Convention. It inscribed the Mundok and Rason migratory bird reserves on the list of wetlands of international importance, or the Ramsar wetland list, and submitted applications to join the Ramsar Convention and as a partner of the EA AFP in January.

The EA AFP confirmed that these wetlands fully conform to the Ramsar standards 2, 5 and 6 for the selection of wetlands of international importance and selected them as the first Ramsar sites in the DPRK. According to the admission procedures, the DPRK’s accession came into effect on May 16. It also selected the Kumya and Mundok migratory bird reserves as the East Asian Australasian flyway network sites in April.

The workshop aimed to review activities conducted in the DPRK for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and share experience and lessons in other countries.

There were presentations on the themes of “Wetland conservation in the DPRK”, “Flyway network sites in DPRK: the Mundok and Kumya migratory bird reserves”, “Ramsar sites in DPRK: the Mundok and Rason migratory bird reserves”, “The international environment cooperation with DPRK and in the region” and others.

The event also featured a video showing “Future of humankind and environment” (10) and a photo exhibition showing the situation of migratory bird reserves.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

LEISURE

Paduk centre crowded with kids

Amidst the growing public interest in and enthusiasm for paduk, or go, the Sinwon Paduk Centre in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, is drawing many visitors every day.

Most of them are children aged from five to six.

A dozen years back when the centre was opened visitors covered a wide range of age groups. As time passed, “small visitors” gradually and spontaneously replaced the old ones.

The paduk hall has now turned into a “children’s paduk classroom”.

The centre now accommodates dozens of children, who learn paduk from the rudiments to high skills and various playing methods and brilliant tactical moves in various circumstances.

The centre is widely known for its higher levels of education than others in the city.

For example, the trainees of the centre win the national contests as well as the spring and autumn Pyongyang municipal competitions.

The centre decides grades and levels of the children one or two times every month while teaching playing methods, rules and techniques to suit their psychological features and often organizes games of various forms and methods.

Such contests attract the interest of parents and experts and fans as well, as they are as much breathtaking as those of soccer.

Since 2009 when the centre was opened, it has produced over 20 players who have won the national and the regional championships.

The centre will work hard to train more paduk talents by promoting paduk.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

National workshop focuses on wetland conservation

A National Workshop on the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands is held in Pyongyang.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

New February 2 products registered

More than 40 kinds of products have newly been registered as February 2 Products in the first quarter of this year.

Among them are the maize jelly and other foodstuffs from the Sonhung Foodstuff Factory, the bottled water from the Kangso Mineral Water Factory, and the caramel from the Sonhung Foodstuff Factory, and the caramel from the Kangso Mineral Water Factory.

They also include an overcoat and jacket for children and the mirrors favoured by people.

In the first quarter, the crossinglinking polyethylene insulation electric cable from the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 was certified for quality while production processes of sweets and cakes, bread, rice cake, meat and drink from the Kumkhp General Foodstuff Factory for Sportpeople certified for management system.

Compiled from KCNA

The Sinwon Paduk Centre is packed with young enthusiasts.
The US decided to withdraw from the Iranian nuclear deal on May 8. This has provoked a strong reaction from Iran.

On May 9 Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the US has made a big mistake, denouncing that it is a gross violation of the norms of international law in disregard of the opinion of the majority of the countries and in pursuit of self-interests.

The US unilaterally refused to implement the multinational joint action plan on Iran’s nuclear programme concluded in 2015 and decided to resume anti-Iran sanctions, the statement said, criticizing it as a gross violation of the norms of international law in disregard of the opinion of the majority of the countries and in pursuit of self-interests.

The decision has newly confirmed that the US is unable to carry out the agreement, it said, and it also shows that the US dissatisfaction with Iran’s legitimate nuclear activities is nothing but a cover for settling political accounts with this country.

The spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a news conference on May 9, expressed regret about the US decision.

He said that the nuclear deal is a multilateral agreement and therefore each party should honestly implement and defend it.

Under the present situation China calls on each party to work hard to ensure that the agreement continues to be implemented by maintaining the direction of political and diplomatic solution and reasonably managing and controlling the differences of opinion with responsible approach, he noted.

Chinese experts also express dissatisfaction with the US over the decision to withdraw from the Iranian nuclear deal.

The President expressed appreciation saying the US decision has placed the nuclear non-proliferation system at risk.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

The US withdrawn from the Iranian nuclear deal sparks reaction

The Ebola fever known as a fatal disease has broken out again in the Democratic Republic of Congo to arouse serious concern of the international community.

The Congolese Ministry of Public Health on May 8 confirmed that 17 residents in Equateur Province died of the disease and another 21 people were infected with the Ebola virus.

The Ebolavirus that causes haemorrhagic fever broke out near the Ebola River in the country in 1976 for the first time and rapidly spread to the middle and eastern regions of Africa, taking a heavy toll of lives.

Between late 2013 and 2016 it speedily found its way to West Africa and other continents, killing more than 11,000 and infecting nearly 30,000, and gave rise to Ebola phobia around the world.

The World Health Organization sounded a note of alarm over the recent loss of life in the African country and appealed for taking substantial measures to prevent its transmission.

African countries are taking proactive steps to this end.

The Kenyan government has sent 100 medical experts to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for the strict screening of travellers from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Health workers who were dispatched to the western border and ports have set up clinical wards and ambulances on standby to provide against emergencies.

Ghana has established a system of informing a relevant organ of any similar symptoms of the disease at ports and border areas and intensified hygienic information activities to raise public awareness of the epidemic.

Burundi, Zambia, Tanzania and other African countries have declared a state of emergency.

They are taking scrupulous preventive measures in close cooperation with relevant international organizations.

By Song Jong Ho PT
**SOCCER**

April 25 tops group preliminaries for AFC Cup finals

The second match at May Day Stadium, April 25’s base, started with Hang Yuen FC’s kickoff. Both teams played with full vigour as they had already experienced the first encounter. April 25 opened the scoring with Hang Yuen FC’s own goal. In the 24th minute April 25’s forward No. 22 Ri Hyong Jin dribbled past along the left side of the opponent’s goal area and gave a strong shot, which hit the body of Hang Yuen FC’s centre back into the net. In the 26th minute Hang Yuen FC was awarded a penalty and scored an equalizer. But a few minutes later April 25 scored another goal with a header from corner kick to lead the opponent 2-1. April 25 continued to hold the initiative and threatened the goal area of Hang Yuen FC with well-knit person-to-person combinations, fast breaks, long-distance shots and free kicks, raising points in the 34th and 40th minutes. April 25 was still dominant with unilateral offensive in the second half which began with its 4-1 lead. In the 77th minute April 25’s forward No. 13 Rim Chol Min headed in a volley from the right side, raising its score to 5-1. Hang Yuen FC attempted several counterattacks, but in vain. Finally, April 25 topped the group to secure a berth for the 2018 AFC Cup finals.

*By Jong Tang Song PT*

The DPRK’s April 25 overpowers Hang Yuen FC of Chinese Taipei 5-1 in the preliminary group match for 2018 AFC Cup finals.

**TABLE TENNIS**

Disabled Persons exhibit skills

The 2018 spring table-tennis competition of persons with disabilities and amateurs.

The spring table-tennis competition of persons with disabilities and amateurs took place at the gymnasia of Kim Il Sung University between May 7 and 13. It was held divided into the disabled-amateur category, the amateur category by ages and the mixed amateur doubles category and drawing more than 310 players including over 40 persons with disabilities and some ten foreign amateurs.

Through the games disabled players showed off the skills they had honed while enjoying the benefits of the government policy on protecting the disabled.

In the doubles event of the disabled and amateur, Yu Myong Sin (one-wrist amputee) and Jong Song Ryol beat all opponents to come first by properly combining prearranged serve with instantaneous hit and short and long balls. Kim Yong Rok, two-forearm amputee who had won the disabled category last year, drew special attention of spectators. He formed a pair with amateur Ri Myong Chon to compete with amateurs in their 40s-50s and came third. Spectators enthusiastically cheered him as he exhibited such high techniques as counterattack with quick movement, pushing and instantaneous hit.

The fighting spirit prize went to Jo Chi Hwa in his 70s, the forte prize to Ho Hwi in his 60s, the popularity prize to Ri Yu Il, an official at Kim Chaek University of Technology, and the morality prize to Kim Jong Hup, a man with disabilities.

“Players make remarkable progress in table-tennis technique amid growing public interest in the competition of persons with disabilities and amateurs,” said Ri Pun Hui, secretary general of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled under the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled. “Persons with disabilities, in particular, feel the worth of their life through the games, hardening their willpower and morality. They can also make a contribution to social development as members of society.”

*By Yun Kyong Il PT*

A scene from the 2018 spring table-tennis competition of persons with disabilities and amateurs.

**ARCHAEOLOGY**

Remains shed light on primitive Korean society

The archaeological site of Sophohang in Kulpho-ri has several cultural layers that represent the country’s Paleolithic, Neolithic and Bronze ages. It is located at Sopho port of Kulpho-dong in Rason City. It borders the sea and lake on the east, west and south and mountains on the northeast. It covers about 4,000 square metres and the cultural layers of several historical ages are 4 metres thick.

Primitive relics and remains dating back to the Bronze and Neolithic ages were first discovered at the site in 1947 and those of the Paleolithic age were unearthed in 1962. Artifacts of the Paleolithic era include such working tools as sharp-edge marble scraper which are believed to be used by primitive men in the era for skinning animals and removing the fur.

The site is estimated to trace back to the middle or later period of the Paleolithic Age in view of characteristics (shape, workmanship and others) of the relics discovered there. The discovery scientifically proved that the Korean ancestors had been living in the country with their unique and long cultural traditions since time immemorial. It also made it possible to see the history of primitive Korean society which has so far been unknown.

For the great academic value of the heritage site, the culture representing the relics and remains from the site is called “Kulpho culture”.

A piece of information of the Rason City History Museum says: “According to the excavation and survey conducted by the museum between 1947 and 1948, relics of a primitive community were found. At the time the site was believed to cover about 400 square metres and belong to the Bronze Age.”

An old record of the Archaeology Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences says: “In 1957 when there was a boom in local industry, ancient earthenware pieces were discovered in the course of digging up oyster shells by the Sonbong Foodstuff Factory. As soon as it was reported, the site unearthing began, resulting in a discovery of the relics of the Neolithic Age. From 1960 many house sites and stone implements from the Neolithic and Bronze ages were also unearthed. Later, even those of the Paleolithic Age were found, a great event in the country’s history.”

The Sophohang site in Kulpho-ri refutes the arguments of Japanese scholars that there had never been a Paleolithic Age in Korea.

*By Yang Ryon Hui PT*