

Politburo of WPK Central Committee holds consultative meeting



The Political Bureau discusses political and practical measures for rapidly controlling and managing COVID-19 and firmly grasping strategic initiative

KCNA

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea convened a consultative meeting at the office building of the Party Central

Committee on May 14 to overhaul the top emergency epidemic prevention system under operation and take additional political and practical measures.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, guided the

consultative meeting.

It was attended by members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

Present there as observers were officials in the state emergency epidemic prevention sector and a leading official of the Ministry of Public Health.

SEE PAGE 5



WPK Central Committee holds Politburo consultative meeting again



Kim Jong Un issues a special order of the WPK Central Military Commission for stabilizing the supply of medicines in Pyongyang by committing powerful force of KPA medics

KCNA

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea convened an emergency consultative meeting again on May 15 to discuss measures to fight epidemic.

Referring to the supply of medicines throughout the country, the respected

General Secretary analyzed the current

situation in which the Political Bureau

of the Party Central Committee issued

an emergency order to immediately

release and timely supply the state

reserve medicines to swiftly contain

and control the spread of the epidemic

and an order for all pharmacies to switch over

to the 24-hour operation system, but

the system is not yet mobile, the orders

have not yet been carried out properly

and medicines have not been supplied

to pharmacies in time.

Saying that the medicines provided

by the state have not been supplied to

inhabitants through pharmacies correctly

in time, he noted it is because officials

of the Cabinet and public health sector

in charge of the supply have not their

own themselves into their job, without

a correct understanding of the present

crisis and only talking about the spirit

of devotedly serving the people. He

strongly criticized the Cabinet and public

health sector for their irresponsible work

attitude and organizing and executing

ability.

Pointing out the fact that judicial and

prosecutorial sectors that are obliged to

powerfully guarantee the implementation

of the Party's policies by law have

failed to exercise legal supervision and

control properly and correct various

undesirable practices in the handling

and sale of medicines across the country

so as to make the administrative order

concerning the supply of medicines be

immediately and exactly carried out,

he censured the director of the Central

Public Prosecutors Office for the

negligence and dereliction of his duty

without feeling any responsibility and

compunction and playing any role.

He referred to a series of deviations

revealed in the overall epidemic

prevention work and took practical

measures for correcting them

immediately.

He issued a special order of the chairman of the WPK Central Military Commission for immediately stabilizing the supply of medicines in Pyongyang Municipality by committing the powerful forces of the military medical field of the People's Army.

He said that if all leading officials do not exert themselves and fully display their fighting spirit, extraordinary ability and wisdom, they cannot take the strategic initiative in the ongoing anti-epidemic war.

Stressing that officials should not allow any slightest imperfection and vulnerable points by maintaining high tension and vigilance in the acute anti-epidemic war and scrupulously organizing and guiding every work in a scientific way, he said that they should lead the anti-epidemic campaign with effective work and beneficial results.

On the basis of the detailed analysis of the present anti-epidemic situation

SEE PAGE 3



FROM PAGE 2

of the country, he discussed ways for enforcing the anti-epidemic policies more efficiently and indicated the orientation and goal for the immediate struggle.

The consultative meeting also discussed the issue of improving the state's administrative control over the emergency anti-epidemic work, the issue of thoroughly ensuring the hygienic safety of medicines at pharmacies, the issue of further strengthening the legal control over the anti-epidemic work and the issue of enhancing the state's capability for coping with crisis.

Just after ending the meeting, he visited

pharmacies in Pyongyang Municipality to acquaint himself with the supply of medicines.

He was accompanied by Jo Yong Won and Kim Tok Hun, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, Choe Kyong Chol, minister of Public Health, and senior officials of relevant departments of the Party Central Committee.

According to his instruction, members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee visited pharmacies in Pyongyang to learn about their situation.

He dropped in at pharmacies in Taedonggang District and learnt in detail about the supply and sale of medicines.

Saying that most of the pharmacies



have not been arranged so as to properly fulfil their function and are in such a poor situation that they don't have medicine stores separately except showcases, he also pointed out the situation in which saleswomen offer service without wearing proper white gowns and hygienic environment that does not reach the standard.

Noting that today's anti-epidemic campaign is that of the people, for the people and by the people, he repeatedly called on all the officials to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people with the mindset that they would bear full responsibility for the security and well-being of the country and people.



Presidium of Politburo of WPK Central Committee meets



The General Secretary makes an important conclusion in regard to the implementation of the Party and state anti-epidemic policy at present

KCNA

A meeting of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held at the office building of the Party Central Committee on Tuesday.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, directed the meeting.

Attending the meeting were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Present there as observers were Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and Kim Jae Ryong and Ju Chang Il, department directors of the WPK Central Committee.

The meeting made an analysis of the current state of the health crisis, studied and discussed the enforcement of the immediate anti-epidemic policy and the orientation for executing the Party and state policies under the top emergency anti-epidemic situation.

It also examined a report on the execution of the Party and state policies for the first half of this year as of May 17 before discussing the documents and agenda item on an organizational matter to be submitted to the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

The Presidium of the Political Bureau made a comprehensive analysis of merits

and demerits in the activities of the members of the leadership body of the Party Central Committee and made a study of relevant measures.

It discussed the issue of helping the Party organizations at all levels, leading officials and officials of the state organs enhance their role with firm will, confidence, boundless devotion and responsibility and achieve remarkable progress in implementing the policies of the Party Central Committee by holding fast to its unified leadership as their lifeline and thus play a leading role in building the socialist economy and national defence and overcoming the severe health crisis.

Importantly discussed at the meeting was the issue of further enhancing the functions and role of the Secretariat and all departments of the Party Central Committee.

The General Secretary analyzed the reality in which the leading officials of the Party and state organs fail to properly handle affairs in the emergency anti-epidemic situation due to lack of experience, and studied and discussed the issues of enhancing their leading role, creativity and activity.

It discussed measures to get a firmer grasp of and closer control over the work, activities and role of the Party organizations at all levels, leading officials and officials of the state organs so that they would not maintain their position with incompetence and self-protection and to exercise strong working discipline in the whole Party and state organs.

It discussed the issue of further

intensifying the discipline inspection within the Party, strengthening the Party organizational and ideological life and enhancing the guidance and control including organizational control and inspection to make all Party organizations and officials of the state organs fulfil their duties and further perfecting the organizational and institutional measures for vigorously implementing the Party's grand line of socialist construction.

Importantly discussed at the meeting was the issue of further enhancing the functions and role of the Secretariat and all departments of the Party Central Committee.

The General Secretary made an important conclusion in regard to the implementation of the Party and state anti-epidemic policy at present.

He said that immaturity in the state crisis management capacity revealed from the early period of the trials of the epidemic prevention efforts facing us for the first time since the state founding, and the non-positive attitude, slackness and inactivity of the state leading officials fully disclosed the vulnerable points and openings in our work and resulted in further increasing the complexity and hardships only in the early period of the epidemic prevention campaign when time is of the essence.

He stressed the need to criticize and analyze in depth the evil practices and defects revealed in every sector in the

SEE PAGE 5



FROM PAGE 4

early period of the anti-epidemic war from the developmental point of view and take prompt counter-measures, further perfect the methodology of disseminating in all sectors and arming them with relevant policies of the Party Central Committee and reinforce the state unified command system and obedience system. All units and officials should not allow negligence of the lack of recognition and preparations, wilful interpretation and wilful action in recognizing and overcoming the graveness of the situation, but intensify the education and control to eliminate such practices and increase the intensity of struggle against them, he said.

Saying that redoubled efforts should be made to stabilize the people's life, he stressed the need to more scrupulously organize the work for providing living conditions and supplying daily necessities and make every effort to meet the inhabitants' demand for medical treatment and ensure the conditions for it as much as possible.

He underlined the need to concentrate efforts on the prevention of the spread of the malignant infectious disease and medical treatment for the present under the state emergency anti-epidemic situation and simultaneously push ahead

with the material and technological preparations to cope with the future threats and challenges in an all-round way, remedy the recently revealed defects, shortcomings and vulnerable points and reinforce the health and anti-epidemic systems so as to make the health crisis we have faced at present an opportunity for accelerating the development of the state anti-epidemic capacity building.

Saying that redoubled efforts should be made to stabilize the people's life, he stressed the need to more scrupulously organize the work for providing living conditions and supplying daily necessities and make every effort to meet the inhabitants' demand for medical treatment and ensure the conditions for it as much as possible.

Party organizations at all levels should attach importance to the public trend and voices of the masses, learn about them and take measures in time, explain well the justness and scientific accuracy of the emergency steps taken by the Party

and the state, raise their awareness of the critical points of and responsibility for the grim state emergency situation, educate and guide all of them to sincerely fulfil their voluntary duty and overcome the anti-epidemic challenge with the united efforts of all the people by relying on them, he said.

The crisis we have faced offered a test board to distinguish between merits and demerits of all working systems of our state, he noted, stressing that we should correctly scrutinize all the phenomena of the emergency situation and take measures from the critical and developmental point of view, unconditionally unify the thoughts and actions of all Party organizations, power organs and all sectors of society with the decisions and orders of the Party Central Committee and make them keep unified pace with the Party Central Committee voluntarily and obligatorily in all state activities.

It is imperative to implant again the idea of the Party Central Committee on attaching importance to Party cells and the role of Party members in all Party organizations and Party cells so as to enhance the core and vanguard role of the Party members, he said.

In particular, it is important to make the cadres lead the Party members and broad masses of people in the van of the fighting areas and fronts, fight valiantly as scouts and fully discharge their duty and role as bulletproof walls, he noted repeatedly.

He affirmed that he would inspire the whole Party to turn out like an erupting volcano once again under the state emergency situation to make the tested leadership peculiar to our Party verified by the history and times and make the Party fulfil its responsibility and thus defend the wellbeing of the country and the people without fail and demonstrate the strength and spirit of heroic Korea to the whole world once again.



FROM PAGE 1

The Political Bureau first heard a report of the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters on the spread of the infectious disease as of May 13.

The report referred to the data on the spread of the disease in every region and unit and the characteristics of its progress, and notified that in most cases the loss of life was caused by mistakes like overdosing of drugs, being unaware of scientific medical treatment methods.

Stressing again the rationality and efficiency of the regional blocking and unit-isolation steps taken by the Party and government actively and decisively, he called on the emergency epidemic prevention units at all levels to more scrupulously organize the operation for and command over the epidemic prevention work of their regions and units to surely reverse the trend of the spread of the disease.

In order to overcome the present public health crisis quickly, it is important to raise public awareness of scientific epidemic prevention, he noted, calling upon the curative and preventive and other relevant organs to scrupulously organize the work for informing broad masses of people of the general knowledge needed for the prevention and treatment of the epidemic, produce diverse presentations and programs for improving the understanding of the masses at the same time and widely disseminate them through mass media.

The respected General Secretary said that just as the worldwide spread of COVID-19 is very serious, the spread of this malignant disease can be claimed to be a great upheaval in our country since the founding of the DPRK, but we can surely overcome the crisis if we do not lose balance in carrying out the epidemic prevention policy but maintain the strong organizing ability and control based on the single-minded unity of the Party and the people and intensify the epidemic prevention campaign.

Noting that the public health crisis facing us is also attributable to the incompetence, irresponsibility and no-role of Party organizations in the epidemic prevention effort, he said that officials of the Party

organizations at all levels, who know our Party's public health and epidemic prevention policies better than anyone else, should go deep among the people who are suffering difficulties, share joy and sorrow with them and always become competent pacemakers and kind explainers to firmly ensure a good chance of winning the epidemic prevention campaign.

He also stressed that the Party organizations at all levels should resolutely turn out in the campaign for defending the people with boundless devotion and invariable loyalty to them and always become the vanguard, shock brigade and bulletproof wall in the present acute anti-epidemic war.

The virtues and feelings of helping and taking care of each other which prevails our society in any adversities are the key to and guarantee of a great victory in the epidemic prevention campaign which is more powerful than any latest medical science and technologies, he said, calling upon all the Party organizations to scrupulously conduct the organizational and political work so that our best communist virtues and beautiful traits, which no one on earth can possess or imitate, are given fuller play to in the present difficult and rigorous epidemic prevention campaign.

The consultative meeting also discussed such issues as taking practical measures to quickly strengthen the material and technological foundations of the public health sector and taking legal measures to strongly condemn all negative practices hindering the emergency epidemic prevention efforts.

fight at the cost of our lives and that our Party will bravely discharge its important responsibility and duty and take full responsibility for the security and wellbeing of the country and people by displaying infinite loyalty and devotion, and repeatedly expressed his determination and will to win a great victory in the epidemic prevention campaign without fail.

Saying that he was donating reserve medicines prepared by his family to the Party committee of the WPK Central Committee with his resolution to always share his destiny with the people and with a fervent prayer that peace and laughter would settle again in all families across the country at an early date, he suggested to the Party committee that they send the medicines to a family in difficulty.

It is also very important for our epidemic prevention sector to study well the anti-epidemic policies of advanced countries and successes and experience in their fight against the epidemic, he said, adding it is good to actively learn from the advanced and rich anti-epidemic successes and experience already gained by the Chinese party and people in their efforts to combat the malignant epidemic, in particular.

The consultative meeting also discussed such issues as taking practical measures to quickly strengthen the material and technological foundations of the public health sector and taking legal measures to strongly condemn all negative practices hindering the emergency epidemic prevention efforts.

6 ANTI-EPIDEMIC CAMPAIGN

KPA medics hold oath-taking meeting, launch into combat against epidemic in Pyongyang

KCNA

A strong contingent of medical personnel in the military medical sector of the Korean People's Army was urgently committed to the battle for the supply of medicines which is vital for victory in the anti-epidemic campaign on the special order of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The combatants held a meeting on May 16 at the Ministry of National Defence to pledge themselves to perform their assigned duty in the fight to control the prevailing health crisis in the capital city of Pyongyang.

It was attended by the combatants in the KPA military medical sector to be dispatched to perform the mission of service of medicines and transport of medical supplies in the capital and ministry officials.

The platform was taken by Pak Jong Chon, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee and commanding officers of the defence ministry.

Pak Jong Chon read out



KPA combatants have an oath-taking gathering on May 16 at the Ministry of National Defence to fulfil their responsibilities in the campaign to control the prevailing health crisis in the capital city of Pyongyang.

the special order of the WPK Central Military Commission on urgently committing a contingent of medics of the KPA to the front of emergency anti-epidemic efforts in the capital.

Speeches were made. The speakers expressed their determination to work hard for the transport and supply of medicines with

warm affection of the KPA whose mission it is to serve the people, fully aware that the provision of medical supplies is not merely a practical work for medical treatment, but a noble patriotic undertaking to convey the heartfelt sincerity of the Supreme Commander to the people.

Upon arrival at the spots, the combatants launched into the supply of medicines.

resolutely overcoming the epidemic crisis created in the capital and becoming honourable victors by putting their heart and soul into the anti-epidemic campaign so that they can proudly review how the revolutionary medics in the era of Kim Jong Un carried out the battle order of the WPK in the war against the malignant virus in the distant future.

A letter of pledge to Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un was adopted at the meeting.

The letter expressed the resolve of loyalty of all the participants in the meeting to faithfully carry out the special order of the WPK Central Military Commission and thus win victory in the anti-epidemic war without fail.

After the meeting, certificates of dispatch in the name of the KPA committee of the WPK were awarded to officers and NCOs who were urgently dispatched as members of the medical treatment and medicine supply teams to resolve the epidemic crisis in Pyongyang.

They ardently called for



Locals in South Hwanghae Province burst into tears of gratitude as they receive official medicines prepared by General Secretary Kim Jong Un's family and other medicines from officials of the Party Central Committee and their families.

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

A proactive anti-epidemic campaign is going on in the DPRK by involving all the people in order to overcome the serious public health crisis.

The official medicines prepared by General Secretary Kim Jong Un's family were sent to needy families in South Hwanghae Province.

The medicines, foodstuffs and daily necessities donated by officials of the departments of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, lecturers and students in medical and anti-epidemic sectors are applying themselves to scientific and intensive examination and treatment in corresponding areas.

As leading officials in each province, city and county channel main efforts into the transport and distribution of medicines, they are being sent to all destinations in time, especially villages

on remote islands and in frontline and mountainous areas.

Amid the intensive anti-epidemic campaign to completely block and eliminate the source of spread of the malignant epidemic, more than 1,428 million officials, lecturers and students in medical and anti-epidemic sectors are applying themselves to scientific and intensive examination and treatment in

country and the people in a more intensive way and taken timely measures to settle issues arising in the work, while making an in-depth study and analysis of the situation and necessary preparations so as to rapidly respond to the ever-changing health crisis.

It also pushes ahead with the work to provide scientific and technological support for the collection, transport and test of analytes from persons with fever and set up more quarantine facilities to provide patients with sufficient treatment and living conditions.

Officials of Party and power organs at all levels are directing primary efforts into minimizing discomfort and other sufferings of locals

and stabilizing their living conditions. Food and vegetable convoys have been organized and kiosks set up in each ri and dong for the convenience of residents and lots of officials and working people are now working as volunteers all across the country.

In particular, every possible step is being taken to look after those engaged in the anti-epidemic campaign and needy families, while people join their minds and efforts and share affection as they display noble communist virtues and traits in all parts of the country.

Builders are stepping up as scheduled major construction projects for 10,000 flats in the Hwasong area and Ryongpho greenhouse farm and agricultural workers and helpers are doing the immediate farm work including rice-transplanting in a responsible manner while simultaneously pressing on with anti-epidemic and anti-drought campaigns.

The Cabinet and other state economic institutions are organizing and directing economic work scrupulously and producers in different economic sectors are working hard to boost production while maintaining a highly alert anti-epidemic posture.

Anti-epidemic campaign intensified to reverse unfavourable trend

KCNA

Chon, who are members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, inspected pharmacies and medicine management stations in different districts to acquaint themselves with the demand for and supply of medicines in detail.

Civil servants of the Cabinet and leading officials of government organs in all parts of the country have taken direct charge of the transport of medical supplies and provided them to relevant pharmacies, clinics and neighbourhood units.

All provincial, city and

county Party committees and primary Party committees and other basic Party organizations are scrupulously arranging organizational and political work for stemming the spread of the epidemic immediately and stabilize the people's livelihood.

The central emergency anti-epidemic sector is endeavouring to find out all patients with fever, bring examination of those with abnormal symptoms in step with the discovery and fundamentally prevent the spread of the epidemic so as to obstruct reinfection.

The public health sector has set up databases based on the good grasp of clinical experience, remedies, good and side effects of drugs, period of recovery, treatment methods and the like, and is working out correct tactics for

supply and material supply for living.

The central emergency anti-epidemic sector is endeavouring to find out all patients with fever, bring examination of those with abnormal symptoms in step with the discovery and fundamentally prevent the spread of the epidemic so as to obstruct reinfection.

Amid a brisk effort to increase the ranks of medical workers, more than 11,000 officials, lecturers and students of medical worker training institutions took part in the concentrated disease screening and medical check-up and treatment for all citizens for finding out patients with fever and taking necessary steps nationwide on May 16 alone.

Different economic sectors are stepping up production and construction, while maintaining a state of tight closure according to work and production units and taking stricter epidemiological steps.

In keeping with the top emergency anti-epidemic situation, Koryo medicine and other pharmaceutical factories and medical appliances factories across the country are concentrating on the production of urgently needed medicines and medical consumables and boosting their output.

Civil servants of the Cabinet and leading officials of government organs in all parts of the country have taken direct charge of the transport of medical supplies and provided them to relevant pharmacies, clinics and neighbourhood units.

All provincial, city and

treatment. It is also drawing up and releasing standard guidelines specifying the choice and use of drugs and plans for nursing according to the conditions of patients.

While state emergency measures are being taken day after day to quickly control the spread of the infectious disease in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a guide to the treatment of the disease has been drawn up and issued to curative and preventive institutions at all levels and relevant units in Pyongyang and all other parts of the country.

The guide contains the definition of the novel coronavirus and the indexes for confirmatory diagnosis of the patients with the infectious disease—epidemiological relations, clinical symptoms, RT-PCR tests and antibody tests—and tells that the diagnosis of the disease is confirmed if a patient is tested positive for any one

loss of lives among people owing to drug overdose because they did not know well about scientific medical treatment methods.

The guide is classified into those for adults, children and pregnant women and nursing mothers respectively.

The guide contains the definition of the novel coronavirus and the indexes for confirmatory diagnosis of the patients with the infectious disease—epidemiological relations, clinical symptoms, RT-PCR tests and antibody tests—and tells that the diagnosis of the disease is confirmed if a patient is tested positive for any one

of the indexes.

It also describes in detail the criterion for estimating the seriousness of the disease and the general cure principles including those related to the selection of and the confirmation of dosage of medicines according to age, constitution and weight and stresses the need to individualize medicinal treatment according to the course and seriousness of the disease.

The guide contains the definition of the novel coronavirus and the indexes for confirmatory diagnosis of the patients with the infectious disease—epidemiological relations, clinical symptoms, RT-PCR tests and antibody tests—and tells that the diagnosis of the disease is confirmed if a patient is tested positive for any one

and it refers to various tactics of treatment for different symptoms, accompanying diseases and idiosyncrasies of patients and the criteria for judging treatment effects.



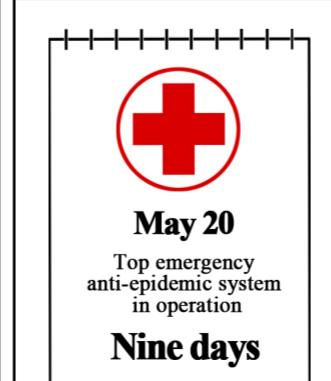
Senior Party and government officials visit pharmacies and medical supplies management stations to learn in detail about the demand for and supply of medicines.



Medics of the Korean People's Army launch into the procurement and supply of medicines upon arrival at pharmacies.



RI KANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



COVID-19 situation in DPRK

More than 263,370 people contracted fever, over 248,720 others fully recovered and two were dead in the DPRK between 18:00 of May 18 and 18:00 of May 19.

A total of more than 2,241,610 persons caught fever nationwide in the period between late April and 18:00 of May 19 and of them, over 1,486,730 were fully recovered and some 754,810 others were undergoing treatment.

So far, 65 people have been dead.

All people turn out to reduce drought damage



Positive efforts are directed to minimizing drought damage in different parts of the country.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Rural communities are concentrating efforts on minimizing drought damage in the DPRK.

The drought has persisted in most areas of the country since mid-April this year.

According to a researcher of the Academy of Agricultural Science, now is the heading date of wheat and barley and

when they suffer damage from drought, their ripening rate and 1 000-grain weight will go down. If corn suffers drought damage in the early period of growth, there will be a gap in the growth and thus will see decrease in the per-hectare yield finally.

The provincial rural economy committee surveyed fields vulnerable to drought damage and those where crops are ill-fed and worked out and issued a technical manual so that they could take measures.

All counties in the province, including Anak and Samchon counties, are directing energy

to ensuring enough irrigation water by operating pumping and power equipment at full capacity.

Farms made water holes covered with vinyl sheets around fields and fill them with water at the daytime and have been watering in mornings and evenings.

On the other hand, they spray highly-effective nutritious solution and growth promoter to crops while

scrupulously organizing work to water fields.

In North Hwanghae Province, all kinds of vehicles and water pumps have been mobilized to give water and apply additional fertilizer for the leaves by effectively using waters of wells, pools and underground reservoirs.

All the people are out in watering with the faith that they can overcome drought, if they believe in their strength and struggle, and with the awareness that tomorrow is late.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Rural communities busy with rice-transplanting

By Kim Il Jin PT

Rice-transplantation is in full swing in every paddy field of the DPRK.

South Hwanghae Province taking the lion's share in agricultural production of the country is speeding up rice-transplanting, one of the most important farming operations in spring.

The provincial rural economy committee arranged a demonstration of rice-transplantation at the Sambong Cooperative Farm in Kangnyong County on May 8, which highlighted the practical issues arising in growing and transplanting rice seedlings in an efficient way as required by the Juche farming method even in the current unfavourable weather conditions.

Cooperative farms in Kaesong are also working hard to increase the proportion of work done by machines and ensure manpower rationally, managing the nutrition of various types of rice seedlings per phyong and that of seedlings per bunch.

rice seedlings by manuring and tending seedbeds in a proper way.

Those on Jacryong Plain are pushing ahead with rice-transplantation as scheduled, while those on Yonback Plain are carrying out their daily plans for rice-transplanting by giving precedence to the drawing of water into paddies and harrowing.

Farms in North Hwanghae Province are also pressing ahead with transplanting.

They are focusing on the raising of healthy seedlings as they regard it as a major way to increase per-hectare yield. They also keep drawing of water into paddies and harrowing ahead of other processes and ensure well-known scheduling of such operations as seedling plucking and transport so as to rapidly carry out rice-transplanting in a qualitative way.

Agricultural workers in Kaesong are also working hard to increase the proportion of work done by machines and ensure manpower rationally, managing the nutrition of various types of rice seedlings per phyong and that of seedlings per bunch.



Rice-transplantation is in full swing in every paddy field.



AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Newly registered intangible cultural heritage elements

By Pang Un Ju PT

Recently, art and good manners associated with the Korean nation's wisdom and talent have newly been registered as national and local intangible cultural heritage elements in the DPRK.

They are "Legends of Mt Paektu", "Korean greeting etiquette (josonjol)", "tea culture", "metallic industrial art" and "manual therapy".

"Legends of Mt Paektu" are of great significance in maintaining and glorifying the soul of the nation century after century as they reflect the thoughts, feelings and aspiration of all the Koreans who have infinitely worshipped the mountain associated with the soul and displays the good qualities of the nation," said Sin Kwang

Il, researcher of the Folklore Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences.

"Tea culture" is of significance in broadening the Korean people's knowledge of the nation's traditional tea culture and developing their traditional dietary culture.

The culture covers all processes of tea production and usage, including tea leaf production, heating, drying and storage of the leaves, selection of water, the temperature for and adjustment of hour for boiling the water, tea cups and custom of drinking tea.

"Josonjol" is part of the typical national cultural heritage that is clear in the way of expressing politeness to others, complies well with the sentiments and aesthetic tastes of the Koreans and displays the good qualities of the nation as their

is the one to cure diseases by stimulating manually certain regions of the human body in various ways. It is still conducive to the promotion of the people's health.

"Legends of Mt Jongbang" and "traditional embroidery of Anju" were newly registered as local intangible cultural heritage elements.

"Legends of Mt Jongbang" of North Hwanghae Province and "traditional embroidery of Anju" of South Phyongan Province belong to cultural heritage handed down until now since being created by the Korean ancestors long ago.

"Metallic industrial art" is the one for using metal as the main material to make receptacles and decorations and it shows well Korea's tradition of the art.

"Manual therapy", one of Koryo medicinal treatments,



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
The hall of culture for workers newly built at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

Hall of culture for workers built at textile mill

By Yun Ki Song PT

A hall of culture for workers has recently been built at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

The two-storey hall has a total floor space of thousands of square metres.

All employees are glad about the construction of a new hall, an official of the mill said, adding that mass artistic activities could be conducted more briskly.

The mill is widely known for doing both production and mass artistic well.

The skill of its mobile artistic motivational team members is very high, and workers attribute increased production to the powerful artistic motivational activities.

The mobile artistic motivational team members said that artistic performance is often given by reflecting the production and life of workers and that their lively and powerful performance has great influence.

They gave a performance in front of Chairman Kim Jong Il who visited the mill over ten years ago and they have been placed first in national singing contest.

On display at the hall are such pride along with photos.

The hall has rooms of artistic groups where workers can conduct mass cultural artistic activities including vocal, instrumental music, narration and dance according to their cultural attainments and talents, several curtains and stage equipped with audio and illumination facilities.

After drinking it, overseas compatriots gave the thumbs-up sign for Tangun liquor which had been obscured for thousands of years.

Such old renowned liquors as Tangun liquor, Pyongyang Munbae liquor and Kamhongro Kim and Hwang found out and distilled are much sought-after by liquor specialists at home and abroad for their good effects on health and longevity.

Their popularity is growing day after day.

The old liquors were inscribed as national intangible cultural heritage elements.



PANG UN SIM / KUMSUGANSAN
Kim Won Bom and Hwang Kyong Suk pose with old famous liquors they have unearthed and further developed. They have all been inscribed as elements of national intangible cultural heritage.

one of the three choicest liquors in Korea, Ranggao from the Hwanghae provincial region and Kyedang liquor renowned as a speciality of Pyongyang.

They travelled scores of kilometres carrying heavy knapsacks full of materials and visited so many places to look for an old large earthenware jar suitable for brewing it.

They completed the secret of distilling Pyongyang Munbae liquor by applying traditional methods for composing materials and brewing them and using sophisticated equipment through painstaking efforts for more than 10 years. Afterward

That's why he buckled down to the unfamiliar work of uncovering traditional recipes

According to the director of the hall, most of workers are women and almost all of them are involved in artistic groups.

They hone their skills in hobby groups after daily work and a performance is given by each artistic group or workshop on the occasion of May Day, the holiday of all working people around the world, and other major occasions to fire everyone with enthusiasm, said the director of the hall.

The hall seats hundreds of people. Women workers are called innovators in production sites and stars on the stage, the director of the hall said.

Mastermind behind increased tension on the Korean peninsula

PROVIDED TO
THE PYONGYANG TIMES

the increased tension on the Korean peninsula is the United States.

Recently, the G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group issued a so-called joint statement calling for "united response by the international community", fastening, without any reason, on our measures to strengthen self-defensive defence capabilities labeling them as "threats to regional and international peace and security".

This can never be tolerated, as it is an act of undisguised infringement upon the exercise of the legitimate right to self-defence by a sovereign country.

The mastermind behind

DPRK, staging a combined air force exercise with south Korea.

In recent years alone, the US has staged hundreds of joint military drills targeting our country and conducted tests of various strategic weapons.

It also seriously threatened security of our country by deploying ultra-modern military offensive weaponry in south Korea and successively sending nuclear strategic weapons to the vicinity of the Korean peninsula.

It is our steadfast position that it should become a legitimate right to self-defence and a core state policy for a sovereign state to make efforts to possess a powerful military strength, which it should never miss, be it in peaceful or confrontational situation.

The problem is that G7 including the US are picking on our measures to build

up self-defensive defence capacities though they conduct most of nuclear and missile tests and continue to sell all kinds of war equipment to south Korea.

This is certainly the case where the thief tries to sue an innocent man.

It is the legitimate and inalienable right of a sovereign state that we exercise our right to self-defence to actively cope with the security situation created on the Korean peninsula and in the region and ensure security of the state and people.

No matter what others say, we will continue to increase the invincible military power, which no one would dare to provoke.

'We strive to hold initiative in anti-epidemic war'

An Hyok Chol
Senior staffer of the public health department of the Phyongchon District People's Committee in Pyongyang



Now when the state epidemic prevention system has been switched over to the top emergency anti-epidemic system, the responsibility and role of officials who are in direct charge of emergency epidemic prevention effort are very important.

Our district maintains heightened vigilance to firmly grasp the initiative in the fierce anti-epidemic war.

We are scrupulously and strongly pushing ahead with

the work of preventing any source of infection by finding out persons with fever 100 percent.

We have organized medical check-up of all residents, quarantined those with fever and other abnormal symptoms and take correct treatment measures in close cooperation with public health institutions.

Since the latent period of o mutant virus lasts even a few weeks, we organize medical examinations on a daily basis and strictly control results.

Practical measures have been taken to supply medicines to patients in time, given that pharmacies in the district switched to a 24-hour service system.

We have completely separated places of work and life and strictly make sure that people disinfect everything in offices and living rooms. Especially, we try to eliminate any rooms for the existence of virus by doubling the

disinfection of keyboards, door-knobs and articles for daily life.

We also intensify hygienic information activities.

Since the epidemiological characteristics, clinical symptoms and scientific treatment methods for o mutant virus have been clarified, we are briskly conducting the work of informing all residents of hygienic information data without omission.

When the situation gets worse, officials go among the people deeper and closer, sharing sufferings with them, and warm affection overflows in villages and workplaces.

BYWORD

'Thank you'

Now that the state emergency epidemic prevention system switched to the top emergency anti-epidemic system, Party and state officials find themselves among the people, who suffer hardships, closer and more familiarly. As state emergency measures are taken one after another to relieve people of suffering and pains, their grateful thanks are heard everywhere.

Those in South Hwanghae Province gave rein to their excited feeling of gratitude in tears after receiving official medicines prepared by the family of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Genuine voices, "Thank you", resounded throughout everywhere thanks to the service personnel who stay up all night to provide all pharmacies with medicines in Pyongyang

on the order of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, public health officials who have engaged in a treatment campaign while overcoming heavy physical burden for the defence of the people, officials from people's committees at all levels, doing officials and chiefs of neighbourhood units who have devoted their all to the convenience of residents in life and neighbours and many well-wishers who have taken loving care of, consoled and helped each other, saying they would share trials and difficulties with each other.

Despite the greatest ever turmoil, called the spread of malignant infectious disease, since the foundation of the country, the words "thank you" resound more widely and loudly.

OPINION

What is 'possession of counterattack capability' aimed at?

By Pak Hak Song

Recently, the president of the Department of Diplomacy of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan said that "land-based intermediate-range missiles should be deployed in Hokkaido to contain missile attacks from China, Russia and north Korea".

To state the conclusion first, this clearly indicates that Japan would build up strength once again to invade others-a hostile remark detrimental to peace and stability in the region.

Recently, Japan is busy with the preparation for a law which enables it to possess attack capability. This includes submission to the prime minister by the Liberal Democratic Party a proposal for security including the possession of "counterattack capability" that would allow it to strike the missile bases and others of its opponent before the latter's missile is launched.

Japan is playing with words calling it "containment" and "counterattack". However, striking the opponent before its missile is launched means preemptive attack, and it goes without saying that this immediately constitutes an aggression.

Japan is proceeding with domestic development and overseas purchase of fighter-launched long-range cruise missiles. This is also an act of building up strike capability aimed at preemptive attack, which goes beyond the mere defense.

What is worse is that Japan, not content with alleging that the neighbouring countries such as China and Russia are "threat" to it, denounces even our measure to enhance national defence capability as a "threat" and comes up with an argument that it has to possess "counterattack capability" to contain it, an argument tantamount to a guilty party filing a suit first.

The world vividly remembers the bloody history of Japan which expanded its aggressive war as far as Pearl Harbour, professing itself to be the "leader of Asia".

No one will buy the assertion that other countries constitute a "threat" to Japan, the country which had inflicted, in the past, immeasurable misery and sufferings upon the peoples of many countries through its war of aggression aimed at domination of the world.

Japan should reflect on its hostile remarks and their consequences again and put an immediate stop to its arms buildup which would endanger peace and stability in the region.

The author is researcher at the Institute for Studies of Japan, DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Contact us

Address: Sochon-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang
Tel: 850-2-1811(6456)
Email: flp@star-co.net.kp
Fax: 850-2-3814598

URL: www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp



WHO POSES A REAL NUCLEAR THREAT?

PROVIDED TO
THE PYONGYANG TIMES

of the "use" of nuclear weapons in the Taiwan Strait.

It continued to reveal that the US, though it has the biggest arsenal of nuclear weapons on earth, is expanding its nuclear forces overseas while spending a huge sum of money on modernizing nuclear weapons, and maintaining a low threshold of the use of nuclear weapons.

Notwithstanding this, the US, mouthing phrases about "nuclear threat" from somebody, is rather scheming to drastically increase the amount of budget for the upkeep and upgrading of its nuclear arsenal to US\$ 34.4 billion in its defense budget for the 2023 fiscal year from US\$ 27.7 billion of last year.

In this connection, Chinese newspaper *The Global Times* made a commentary to the effect that Washington is trying to obtain its "nuclear freedom" by inventing a "nuclear threat" from China. In it, it sharply criticized the US for justifying its "nuclear freedom" and "nuclear hegemony" by arousing public opinion about an "alarming expansion" of strategic nuclear arsenals of China, and the possibility

According to data available, the

US has possessed more than 5 550 nuclear warheads which account for 43% of over 13 000 nuclear warheads existing in the world at present.

Notwithstand this, the US, mouthing phrases about "nuclear threat" from somebody, is rather scheming to drastically increase the amount of budget for the upkeep and upgrading of its nuclear arsenal to US\$ 34.4 billion in its defense budget for the 2023 fiscal year from US\$ 27.7 billion of last year.

After its decision to transfer technology on building nuclear-powered submarine to Australia, the US recently announced a joint statement of "AUKUS" committing itself to cooperating in the development of hypersonic weapons and electronic warfare capacity. Like this, it is open in its attempt at nuclear proliferation.

Briefly

China

Anti-epidemic effort intensifies in Beijing

China's Beijing keeps putting great efforts into controlling the spread of the malignant epidemic.

On May 17 the city's disease prevention control centre made public a guide to the prevention of the epidemic at its farm products wholesale markets during the prevalence of COVID-19.

The guide drawn up by the city's commercial bureau requires that officials and shop managers at the markets get a nucleic acid test once in 24 hours.

Iran President rejects foreign intervention in regional affairs

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi rejected foreign interference in regional affairs at a diplomatic meeting on May 12.

Foreign intervention would only jeopardize the regional security situation, he said, stressing that differences of opinions between regional countries should be settled by their mutual cooperation.

Russia

Finland's attempt to join NATO rejected

The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on May 12 to reject Finland's attempt to join NATO.

The statement asserted that in case Finland joins NATO, it would inflict serious damage on the relations between Russia and Finland and regional stability and security of Northern Europe as well.

As a threat is to be posed to its national security, Russia would take military, technical and other countermeasures inevitably to eliminate it, it stressed.

Mongolia

President calls for planting more trees

Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh called for actively planting trees on May 14.

He stressed that all families, institutions and enterprises would have to plant much more trees around their houses and working places in order to create hygienic and cultured environment for production and life.

The government reportedly plans to not only actively encourage tree planting but also widely cultivate fruit trees and medicinal herbs to satisfy domestic demands and export them to other countries.

The country has set second Saturdays in May and October as national tree-planting days every year.

COVID-19

Pandemic casualties

According to a foreign news report, 524 630 463 people contracted COVID-19 in the world, 6 294 383 died of it, and 23 915 731 were undergoing treatment as of 24:00 on May 18.

PROVIDED TO
THE PYONGYANG TIMES

saying that the actual figure may be smaller than the announced and the figure also includes data of foreigners. But this only serves to highlight the foul and hypocritical face of the US posing as a "human rights defender".

In fact, numerous are the instances where all kinds of human rights violation and abuse of power were committed beyond human imagination at the public organs under the tacit approval of the US administration.

This reportedly has stirred up considerable controversy among Americans over how such an illegal investigation into private data on so many American citizens could have been conducted, without any warrant.

With regard to the FBI's illegal investigation, the high-ranking officials from the US administration are coming out with lame excuses,

figure reaches more than 1 100 on average. The US police authorities, however, are evading responsibility on one plea or another.

The CIA is also gaining its notoriety for mediaeval violation of human rights of detainees, along with the Guantanamo Bay detention facility stigmatized as a "living hell of the century".

It is the US, which professes itself as "beacon of human rights" and "exemplary state of human rights," but where the people eke out existence in the inferno of human rights violation under the active protection and patronage of the reactionary and anti-popular state ruling system.



PAGYON FALLS, SCENIC BEAUTY

One of three renowned waterfalls of Korea

The waterfall is located in Pagyon-ri, Kaesong. It is 37 metres high, 1.5 metres wide.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

From time immemorial, Korea has been widely known as a "country of scenic beauties".

Among them is Pagyon Falls, one of the three famous falls in Korea.

It is located in Pagyon-ri, Kaesong City, and is 37

metres high and 1.5 metres wide.

The crystal-clear water, which runs down into the rugged ravine between Songgo and Chonnim mountains, falls down a rock wall and flows into Pak Pool before cascading down as a waterfall.

There is a singular

pond called "Pag Pool", originally a broad and flat rock which was hollowed in the shape of bucket, on the top of the falls with a standing-stone in the centre.

At the bottom of the falls there is another pond named "Komo Pool". And there is a round rock named

"Ryongbawi" (dragon-shaped rock) by the side of the pond.

The Pomsa Pavilion on a hill west of Komo Pool overlooks the falls and surrounding scenery.

Pagyon Falls look more beautiful in good harmony with rocks of fantastic shapes and forests around it.

Therefore, Hwang Jin I, Korean poetess in the first half of the 16th century who was well-known as one of "three famous figures of Songdo" along with philosopher So Kyong Dok (1489-1546) and Pagyon Falls, praised the waterfall in the namesake poem as follows:

*The falling water roars inside the valley like thunder
Water drops scatter into the sky like beads
...*

You have to know Mt Chonma (Mt Chonnim at present), the best in Korea.

Today, there are a holiday camp and various service facilities around the falls.

Historical relics in Mt Taesong

By To Kyong Chol PT

There are a lot of historical relics in Mt Taesong which is invariably tinged with green even in early spring and late autumn as it is thickly covered with evergreen pine trees and therefore is renowned as one of eight scenic attractions in Pyongyang.

The relics date back to the period between around the 3rd century and the mid-7th century when Koguryo advanced to the Pyongyang area.

Typical of them is the Taeongsan Fort, one of Koguryo's exemplary mountain fortresses, which was great in size and built by making good use of natural features.

The fort was built by linking

six peaks of Ulji, Somun, Jangsu, Pukjang, Kuksa and Jujak from the south with the first peak as the centre. It had two valleys wide and deep enough to keep lots of people and combat equipment and materials.

Unearthed in the fort were sites of granaries, arsenals and barracks, over 170 ponds such as Ingo, Sasum, Kuryong and Jangsu ponds, Koguryo roof tiles, gilt-bronze images of Buddha, a stone box that had contained the Buddhist scriptures and many other historical sites and relics.

There is the site of Anhak Palace that Koguryo used as a royal palace for a certain period after it moved its capital to Pyongyang in 427.

The palace site is surrounded in a square by the

earth-and-stone palace walls, and there are gate sites in each of four cardinal points at the walls.

Royal buildings inside the palace were arranged on a shaft line from south to north with the middle gate on its south wall as the centre, and

large and small buildings are arranged in an area of about 380 000 square metres.

The buildings were linked by corridors.

This alone shows the comparatively advanced architecture of Koguryo.

And there remain

cornerstones and stones on the footstone sites in the palace site, and many relics were unearthed from different places, including various kinds of roof tiles, antefixes, hip or gable ridge tips with queer faces and earthenware.

Relics in Mt Taesong and

its vicinity serve as good data that testify to the long history of Korea and the excellent cultural tradition of the Korean people, and thus are under good protection and management as national treasures and relics of conservation value.



The South Gate of the Taeongsan Fort (left) and a section of the fort (right).

HONG KWANG NAM/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

