General Secretary Kim Jong Un gives closing address at first workshop for Party chiefs at city, county levels

The first short course for chief secretaries of the city and county Party committees closed with the fourth-day sitting on March 6.

Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea and secretary in charge of organizational affairs of the Party Central Committee, gave a lecture on more thoroughly establishing the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee.

He underscored the importance and significance of more thoroughly establishing the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee in Party building, its activities and the strengthening of its leadership and fighting efficiency, and gave a detailed explanation about the principles and tasks to be surely maintained by the city and county Party organizations to faithfully uphold the leadership of the Party Central Committee.

The lecture stressed that the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees should remain unfailingly loyal to the sacred duty entrusted to them by the times and revolution, keeping in their minds the iron truth that the victory of the revolution, the prosperity of the country and the happy future of the people rest on defending and upholding the Party Central Committee led by General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

A letter of pledge was adopted in the short course which expressed the firm resolve of the chief secretaries of the city and county Party committees to successfully turn their regions into fortresses of single-hearted unity and socialist paradises, true to the Party’s line of developing cities and counties. While guiding the short course, Kim Jong Un gave valuable instructions which would serve as guidelines in the work of the chief secretaries.

City and county Party committees are major combat units that organize and carry out the Party’s line and policy implementation, he said, noting that the flag of victory can be fluttered on the overall fronts of socialist construction when the city and county Party committees vigorously organize and mobilize the masses to the revolutionary work by properly applying the leadership idea and art of the Party Central Committee.

He called on the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees to proficiently conduct the work with officials, Party members and other people with a higher sense of responsibility than ever so as to make definitely turn the struggle for regional development into the work of the masses themselves.

Saying that the chief secretaries should equip not only themselves but also the officials of the city and county Party committees with the Party’s idea and line of attaching importance to cities and counties and unite them and achieve practical successes by brainstorming, he inspired them with confidence that there can be no fortress un conquest able when everything is organized in keeping with specific conditions as required by Party policies and carried out by relying on the broad masses of the people.

All the cities and counties will be turned into places good to live in when the chief secretaries set clear development-oriented goals and make uninterrupted innovations and struggle for their implementation, he noted, introducing in detail the important undertakings planned by the Party Central Committee for bringing balanced and rapid change to local areas.

SEE PAGE 2
Kim Jong Un poses with participants in first workshop for local Party chiefs

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea, had a photo session with chief secretaries of the provincial, city and county Party committees, who participated in the first short course for chief secretaries of city and county Party committees, at the office building of the Party Central Committee on March 6.

After declaring the short course closed, Kim Jong Un came out to the photographing venue, talking with chief secretaries of the provincial, city and county Party committees.

Expressing the expectation and belief that the chief secretaries of the provincial, city and county Party committees across the country who are to leave for their dispatched places with fresh determination and preparedness would prove their sacred pledge made before the Party Central Committee and the people true with substantial successes by dynamically conducting the revolutionary work as they studied and armed themselves during the short course, he had a significant photo session with them.

At the end of the photo session, the chief secretaries of the provincial, city and county Party committees raised enthusiastic cheers of “Hurrah!” in excitement in reflection of warm gratitude and loyalty to the General Secretary who repeatedly bestowed upon them great honour as well as great political trust to become true Party officials, genuine revolutionaries serving the people with sincerity and sharing joys and sorrows with them.

Kim Jong Un warmly encouraged them, waving back to the chief secretaries who were full of high confidence and fighting spirit.

The chief secretaries of the provincial, city and county Party committees made a firm pledge to present the report of loyalty to the Party Central Committee by strongly consolidating the city and county Party organizations into powerful political general staffs and surely achieving clear and actual successes desired by the people, as field political officials who received instructions directly from the respected General Secretary.

FROM PAGE 1

The chief secretaries should determinedly pave the way for the future and energetically steer the development of their cities and counties by actively applying good experience introduced in the short course to their work, he said, giving earnest instructions that they should always attach importance to the mindset of people and let their work be appreciated by the people.

He said that chief secretaries of the provincial Party committees are also responsible for many problems that arose with regard to the work of city and county Party committees, stressing the need for them to discharge their duties in improving the work of city and county Party committees in their provinces and guiding and assisting the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees.

Kim Jong Un delivered a closing address at the first short course for chief secretaries of city and county Party committees.

Noting that the Party Central Committee attached great importance to the short course with big expectation for the role of the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees in decisively shifting socialist construction and intensifying the work of city and county Party committees, he said that through the short course, practical experience for equipping, awakening and inspiring them once again and improving and intensifying the work of city and county Party committees was accumulated.

Saying that the chief secretaries should always be aware that officials, Party members and other working people in their cities and counties will keep an eye with greater expectation on them who came back after participating in the first short course, the first of its kind in the history of the WPK, he stressed that the solemn pledge taken by the chief secretaries this time is an oath they swore before the people of their counties and a supreme task that should be carried out in any case without fail.

He asked all the chief secretaries to conduct a powerful organizational and political work for implementing Party policies with a fresh view and attitude that they have newly been appointed and start their work from now, play the role of steering the development of cities and counties well and thus bring about definite changes and successes to be welcomed and realized by the people.

Saying that the chief secretaries should possess the spirit of unconditionally serving the people and the organizing ability and drive, practical capability and noble moral traits appropriate for officials who are in charge of regional bases of socialist construction, he warmly called on them to work hard to make the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress recorded in history as the ones successfully implemented.

Enthusiastically appealing to them to become faithful servants accepted by the people on the road of serving our great people, he declared the first short course for chief secretaries of the city and county Party committees closed.

KCNA
The Korean people are now redoubling their efforts in socialist construction under the slogan “One for all and all for one!” which is seen in every workplace and everyone is eager to live and work as required by the slogan. The catchword embodies the fundamental principle of the existence and development of Korean-style socialism and the noble intention to transport the aspiration and goal of the Koreans.

It was coined at the time when the socialist system was just established in the country as the crystallization of the principle and way of life to be upheld by working people in socialist society. Its validity and usefulness have been demonstrated through decades-long practice. All members of society sharing the common aspiration pooled their efforts to make collective innovations and cared for one another. In that course, exemplary persons imbued with collective innovations and cared for one another further redoubled their efforts in the heat of the Chollima movement.

As “one for all and all for one” was carried on as a social movement.

The Chollima movement was launched in the 1980s and socialism was firmly established in the country as the principle and way of life to be upheld by working people in socialist society. Its validity and usefulness have been demonstrated through decades-long practice. All members of society sharing the common aspiration pooled their efforts to make collective innovations and cared for one another. In that course, exemplary persons imbued with collective innovations and cared for one another further redoubled their efforts in the heat of the Chollima movement.

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One for all and all for one was in such trying years of Arduous March.

Although several decades passed and a new century set in, the slogan encourages the Korean people to make fresh innovations in their struggle still today when the socialist cause has reached a new higher stage of its development. The slogan “One for all and all for one!” which is seen in every workplace and everyone is eager to live and work as required by the slogan.

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Mushroom farming bears tangible results

Nationwide efforts are made to increase mushroom production, spawns in large quantities in a short period. The radiator has saved the county from using quicklime which was used for producing fermentative substrates and sterilizing cultivation grounds in the past.

Nutritious mushroom

The Jongbangsan Mushroom Farm in North Hwanghae Province produces diverse sorts of mushroom. “In the past, we cultivated a few kinds of mushroom. Nowadays, the demand for different sorts of nutritious mushrooms is growing higher. So we are concentrating main focus on increasing the varieties of mushroom,” said Mun Hye Sun, manageress of the farm.

The farm is achieving primary importance to ensuring substrates after establishing the scientific cultivation technology in order to produce various kinds of mushroom in an industrial way.

To this end, the farm uses the shuck of cottonseed from the province as substrates, recycles waste substrates and studies and introduces a multifunctional nutrition stimulant.

The multifunctional nutritive stimulant also increases the yield per raw material as it is widely used from the production of spores to its cultivation.

The farm now turns out various microtherm and thermophilic mushrooms including Flammulina velutipes and Peleratus ostreatus with no spores. Demand is high especially in winter including Flammulina velutipes and Pholiota nameko and Flammulina velutipes. In particular, Pleurotus abalonus, Volvariella volvacea, Auricularia auricula and Phyllotopsis velutipes with good taste and high nutritional value were developed as strains that can be cultivated safely even in summer.

Mushroom farms in each province strive to solve technical problems. Among their developments are an automatic system for controlling environment for mushroom cultivation and a magnetic water maker.

The system monitors in real time and automatically controls the oxygen content, humidity and illumination which are essential for growing mushroom. After its introduction, mushroom yield has increased by 15 percent as the content of carbon dioxide has been lowered and relative humidity increased in cultivation grounds.

The magnetic water maker magnetizes the water for mushroom to promote its growth. The magnetic water has increased the bad divergence ratio by 10 percent and the mushroom yield as well.

The farm machine research institute of the Ministry of Agriculture contrived a mushroom spawn sowing machine which injects cultured spores into fermentative substrates.

After its introduction, the Pyongyang Mushroom Farm doubled productivity, while preventing environmental pollution.

Unsan County in South Phyongan Province introduced a method of producing mushrooms using a bioactive radiator to increase output while lowering costs.

The radiator decreases the association of water and generates anion. The water treated by the radiator maximizes the moisture degree of substrates for the high penetration to ensure even fermentation of substrates and has sterilizing effects as well. The fermentative substrates made thus nurture mushroom production method based on liquid culture of spores was the first of its kind in the country.

The method makes it possible to use all kinds of materials containing cellulose, including straws, corncobs and sawdust, as substrates for mushroom growing and also increases production by dozens of times while saving much labour and electricity.

The mushroom production method based on liquid culture obtained a patent of the DPRK and won the first place at an exhibition of intellectual products held in 2016.

Economical methods

The Ryongsong Mushroom Farm in the suburbs of Pyongyang has introduced cost-effective and labour-saving production methods.

One of them is recycling of substrates which take a very important share in mushroom farming. In the past, mushroom substrates were used only once and therefore it required much labour and cost to purchase corncobs, the main material for substrates. The farm’s technicians devised a method of recycling used substrates for five times. The substrates are first used to grow Pleurotus eryngii for two times and then in the production of different kinds of mushrooms such as Peleratus ostreatus for two times in the outdoor cultivation ground. In the end, waste substrates are fermented to be used as feed for domestic animals. Consequently, the farm reduced the consumption of corncobs while raising their utilization rate.

It ensured profitability in the use of the sterilizing oven and cooling water. After being sterilized, the substrates have reduced the sterilizing time to one third, saved much labour and lowered the annual consumption of coal by dozens of tons.

The farm also remodelled the power-driven cooling water system for quick-freezing into a power-free one, thus saving hundreds of kilowatts of electricity, eliminating pollution in the cooling chamber and increasing mushroom output.

The method based on liquid culture cannot avoid the seasonal culture which is practised at many mushroom farming units in the country, this method relies on liquid culture, or submerged culture.

The method based on solid culture cannot avoid the seasonal influence and is vulnerable to a series of problems such as the decrease of productivity by pollution.

According to Kim Song Ung, manager of the farm, the submerged culture-based method helps shorten the spore and substrate production periods, while getting them to remain unaffected by such problems.

He added that the mushroom cultivation grounds in the past.

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**EDUCATION**

**College makes the most of study-while-work system**

Pyongyang College of Technology is an institution of learning based on the study-while-work system. Employees of different factories learn textile, chemical, electrical, mechanical and computer engineering and industrial administration at the college.

“We continue to innovate teaching methods while further making teaching contents practical,” said Kim Kwan Guk, deputy rector of the college.

The college made 6,472 teaching plans in 107 subjects practical, comprehensive and up-to-date a step higher by innovating education contents in recent three years after rationally determining the academic level and width of basic subjects.

It also adopts teaching methods by applying a variety of educational science and technology including VR and AR technologies.

In the course of this, the mechanical teaching method using the VR technology was generalized among colleges throughout the country involving the study-while-you-work system as it increased the cognition rate of students to over 98 percent.

“We attach importance to making students scientifically acquire the knowledge accumulated through experience in line with the teaching of students working in the field. Since students with rich experience raise many unexpected problems, we put big efforts into the preparations for lectures,” said lecturer Mun Ye Gyong.

Amid fierce competition to create new teaching methods between teachers, between departments and between courses, over 30 lecturers received the certificate of registration of new teaching method and more than 3,700 e-teaching plans and hundreds of multimedia presentations were made in the recent three years.

Kim Kwan Guk said that students have taken an active part in scientific research so as to closely combine education with scientific research and practical activities, adding that the certificate of registration of scientific achievements, the certificate of new technology introduction and the certificate of original plans were conferred on many students.

The college, in which 80 percent of its lecturers are academic degree or title holders, is striving to make new innovations and steady advance.

**ANIMATION**

**Oksoe Defeats a Devil wows cartoon fans**

“Oksoe Defeats a Devil is now in greatest demand among the ‘Mokran’ multimedia for smart phones. Months have passed since it was brought out, and it still grows in popularity,” said Kim Pom, staffer at the Samhung IT Exchange Centre.

The cartoon liked by children and adults alike is a cliff-hanging story about a brave man who fights against injustice. Its vitality lies in the application of a new portrayal in production.

The creators of the Korean April 26 Animation Studio which dominates the animation field in the country introduced several innovative techniques into making the cartoon.

They refined the 3-D cartoon software which was applied to previous animations like *Awangnyo Finds out Fire for Kindling* in the course of producing this film.

“The 3-D cartoon software can ensure flexible and realistic portrayal and truthful expression, but the application of it requires a great deal of efforts and time. Such programs are constantly updated worldwide and the success of an animation rests on how efficiently its producers use the apps in cartoon making ahead of others,” said director Kim Jin Hyok.

The producers enhanced the softness of hair of characters, the real sense of their motions and the vividness of their costumes by using an advanced 3-D program with hair and dress simulation apps.

They also fractionated and concretized characterization according to each process so as to maximize the level of representation of such elements as water, fire and smoke for special effects, thus presenting delicate and lifelike pictures.

“The speech of each part is also very important in making cartoons a success. Mok Kum Song, who is well-known to the people for his outstanding speech, gave full play to his prodigious talent as he spoke the lines of hero Oksoe,” said section chief Ri Un Ju.

The producers introduced a 5.1 stereo system for the first time into *Oksoe Defeats a Devil*, thus boosting the level of presentation of cartoon.

As part of the efforts to produce 3-D cartoons, the studio recently brought forth Parts 28-34 of historical animation *Ko Jamong*.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

**PADUK**

**Game good for developing children’s intelligence**

Paduk or go is very effective for developing children’s intelligence. In particular, it is easy to learn and interesting for nursery children.

The weekly nursery in Tongmun-dong No. 2, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, has taught paduk since a few years ago and every child loves it even though they have different characters, dispositions and natures.

After a month-long study of paduk, they can easily solve problems on a reference book, and even restless children do not feel it boring to learn the game for more than 30 minutes.

According to nursery school teacher Ri Hyon Hwa, children feel most exciting when they capture the opponent’s stone and paduk draws the interest of children as it helps them naturally develop their intelligence.

Those who have learned how to play the game excel in counting, she said, adding that the whole process of paduk playing is associated with counting.

She said that children easily understand the concept of addition and subtraction as they count the number of stones they have captured or lost after counting their numbers in the course of playing the game.

As they count the number of captured territory at the end of the game, they raise their counting abilities.

Since the result of the game is decided by the number of captured territories, not by the number of captured stones, children are required to play every move purposefully in constant speculation and they develop their concentration, logical thinking abilities and creative powers in that course, she said.

Many mothers say that their children have changed in character and developed moral traits as they learn paduk.

Ri Hyon Hwa said that paduk makes introvert children cultivate confidence and valour by overcoming timidity and encouraging them to make bold moves, and enables impatient children to cultivate the character of dealing with all affairs with composure.

Starting with such a word of greeting as “Teach me a lot”, the game ends with greetings, she explained, noting that when the opponent is older or has higher moves, the other player invites him to use white stones. As the game helps players accustom themselves to the moral sense, paduk makes it possible to build up moral character, she added.
Researcher resolves knotty problems in nonlinear optics

Im Song Jin, professor, PhD and section chief of the Department of Physics of Kim Il Sung University

Im Song Jin, professor, PhD and section chief of the Department of Physics of Kim Il Sung University, has made outstanding achievements in research into nonlinear optics. He published nearly 40 SCI-class papers including several papers in prestigious academic journals of the world.

Serving as a reviewer of such organizations as OSA, he published three papers of great significance in the study of nonlinear optics in Physical Review B last year.

His paper “Hysteric optomagneto bistability based on the plasmon-induced inverse Faraday effect in magnetoplasmonic disk resonators” dealt with a scientific guarantee for increasing the recording density and speed of information recording devices. “In developing information recording devices, it is an important matter to increase their recording density and speed. The existing disks ensure high writing speed, but their recording density is low. In this paper we referred to the new discovery of unique magneto-optical recording phenomenon in nanoresonator,” said Im Song Jin.

The application of the research finding to practice would increase the writing speed and writing density of hard disks thousands of times. In his other paper published in the same journal “Optically induced nonreciprocity by a plasmonic pump in semiconductor wires”, he suggested a paradigm for optically induced nonreciprocity in semiconductor wires which are spatially asymmetry-free and provide a very simple and efficient platform for plasmonic devices.

In most studies, spatial asymmetry has been necessarily applied to break Lorentz reciprocity, Im said.

This principle may open an avenue toward highly integrated all-optical nonreciprocal devices, he added.

By Kim Rye Yong

Papers suggest solutions for developing NTC thermistor

Yu Nam Chol, PhD, associate professor and researcher at Kim Chaek University of Technology

Yu Nam Chol, PhD, associate professor and researcher at Kim Chaek University of Technology, is a member of the organizing committee and Technical Committee member of the International Conference on Materials Science. He is also a member of the International Society of Chemical Engineering of the International Association of Engineers and an honorary member of the London Journal Publisher Association of the UK.

He has presented or contributed dozens of papers at international conferences and to international science journals and reviewed papers for the conferences. He published six SCI-class papers last year and another one in January this year.

Of them two papers attract particular interest of the academic circle. The first paper proves that nano-ceramic materials, which can be used as an ideal NTC thermistor, can be successfully prepared by a cheap sol-gel auto combustion and the second one presents numerical data with which to design an optimized multilayer NTC thermistor by way of simulation using a finite element analysing method.

“Nano-ceramic materials prepared by sol-gel auto combustion will lower the production cost by a fourth of that by the existing method and if they are annealed for 72 hours at 550°C in N2 atmosphere, their aging will be reduced by over 0.3 percent as compared to before. As many researchers have undertaken research projects to design optimized multilayer NTC thermistors. I applied the simulation method based on finite element analyzing method which is used for designing optimal battery to the designing of multilayer NTC thermistors and confirmed correct and satisfactory numerical values,” said Yu. The research results are expected to be of high practical value as the NTC thermistor and multilayer NTC thermistor are widely used.

By Han Kwi Hun

An advance in speed-up of public key cryptosystem

Kim Kyu Chol, researcher at the information science and technology faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology

Kim Kyu Chol, researcher at the information science and technology faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology, published a relevant SCI-class paper of significance last year.

“My research goal is to balance encryption and decryption in the public key cryptosystem with the help of a convenient method,” he said.

In his paper “Fast rebalanced RSA signature scheme with typical prime generation”, he demonstrated that already-used typical prime generation can be used in the fast rebalanced RSA signature.

RSA has attracted the interest of many mathematicians and cryptographers since the initial days of its development as the first public key cryptogram which can be obtained at low cost by a chemical method, instead of using expensive silicon.

Yu newly designed an interface structural model of the photovoltaic material consisting of mixed halogen perovskite, Lewis base and graphene.

“Fixed halogen perovskite and graphene are widely applied as energy conversion materials. I found out that when Lewis base is added between mixed halogen perovskite and graphene to form a new interface structural model, it can improve the stability of the photovoltaic cells,” said Yu.

He also discovered that the replacement of a certain amount of titanium, which is used as a cathode activation material for sodium ion battery, by vanadium can greatly expand the storage capacity in the design of energy storage materials.

According to him, the research finding provided the scientific base for increasing the capacity of sodium ion batteries to more than twice or the expensive lithium batteries at the maximum.

Yu has contributed 43 papers to SCI-class magazines and his last paper was published last January.

Research into new energy materials intensified

Yu Chol Jun, professor, PhD and section chief of the Materials Science Department of Kim Il Sung University

Researchers of Kim Il Sung University are conducting intensive research into design of energy materials.

“Energy materials are largely divided into those for energy conversion and energy storage. Our goal is to design materials that are highly effective in converting natural energy into electricity and in storing the converted energy,” said Yu Chol Jun, professor and PhD, who is section chief of the Materials Science Department.

He has spent several years engaged in the research into materials for photovoltaic cells.

Today, it is a dominant trend in the development of photovoltaic conversion materials for solar panels to use perovskite which can be used in the fast rebalanced RSA signature while reducing the computational time. Yu Chol Jun proposed the fast decryption in rebalanced RSA signature while reducing the CRT exponents maintaining the full sized private exponent for encryption and decryption with composite modulus and using typical prime generation as it was, and proved its security mathematically.

In “Research for increasing the speed of decryption in the ElGamal public key cryptogram with composite number as a modulus”, he proved a scientific and theoretical basis to settle the problem of simultaneous fast encryption and decryption in the field of public key cryptogram.

He proved that it is possible to ensure the encryption and decryption speed in the way of reducing the CRT secret exponents while maintaining the size of secret exponents.

His papers were published in Theoretical Computer Science and PLOS One (Public Library Of Science One).

By Ri Sung Ik

Sat, March 13, Juche 110(2021)
Activity: preferential treatment to war veterans, model after the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea.

Epidemic: Ebola

Rampant crimes and human rights abuses in West

EBOLA

Epidemic recurs in Africa

On February 14, seven people were robbed and stabbed with a knife in a bank in Paris, France. The incident occurred while the bank was closed, and the criminals wore masks to conceal their identities.

Wrongdoing

Massacre in Taegu part of Japan’s sinful past

The massacre of peaceful protesters in Taegu, South Korea, in March 1919, is a dark chapter in the history of human rights abuses. The incident began with a protest against Japanese colonial rule, but it quickly escalated into a violent clash between the protesters and the Japanese military. According to reports, more than 10,000 people were killed or injured in the subsequent rioting.

The massacre in Taegu is just one example of the widespread human rights abuses that took place in Japan during its colonial rule of Korea. The Japanese army systematically violated the human rights of Koreans, including forced labor, harsh working conditions, and violence against civilians. The government alsolicted to carry away and bury corpses. The massacre in Taegu is a reminder of the brutalities of the past and a call for greater commitment to human rights and justice.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

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**Russia, Syria**

**Briefly**

Russia and Syria in a joint statement on March 4 said all measures taken by Western countries have nothing to do with the counter-terrorist campaign in Syria.

**China**

**Special attention paid to protecting ecological environment**

According to the information released by the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources, the low water level of rivers and the receding rate of water have increased by more than 50% in recent years. The low water level has affected the aquatic ecosystem and the livelihoods of millions of people.

**Iran**

**Tree planting for forest conservation called for**

It is crucial to protect forests and biodiversity in ensuring food security, said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in an event on March 3, before referring to the need to map out a detailed plan for tree planting and growing.

**Kenya**

**Regional unity and peace demanded**

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a press briefing on March 4 that the situation has improved with the progress in the peace process in some countries in the region, but its humanitarian situation is worsening due to political disputes, climate change, the pandemic and terrorism.

**LAS**

**Investigation into Israel’s unethical crimes demanded**

Foreign ministers of member nations of the League of Arab States adopted a resolution at the regular meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, on March 3, in demand of early investigation of unethical crimes of Israel against the Palestinian people.

Any peace initiative running counter to international efforts for peace in the Middle East can never be tolerated, the resolution said.

The PYONGYANG TIMES
Sports village contributes to developing country’s sports

There is a sports village on Chongchun Street in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

“The sports village was built in 1988 in the picturesque place on the shore of the Taedong River covered with pine forests. Since then it has developed into a sports and cultural hub,” said Ri Hang Jun, director of the Sports Facilities Management Bureau.

The sports village was renovated in March 2014.

Hub of sports and cultural activities

Sprawling in an area of over 1.54 million square metres, the sports village has a stadium and gymnasiums to host matches of over 40 events in more than 20 sports at the same time and is fully equipped with all service facilities including a dining hall and hostel for sportspeople.

The 26 000-seater Sosan Football Stadium with an impressive mark showing a football player kicking a ball hard can host all kinds of cultural events as well as football matches. Players can have training and matches in several water sports like swimming, diving, synchronized swimming and water polo and public service is provided at the Swimming Gymnasium with a total floor space of some 7 000 square metres at the entrance of the sports village.

The Basketball Gymnasium seats over 2 000 including a mobile stand with some 460 seats. Various kinds of ball games as well as basketball can be played in the gymnasium.

The Handball Gymnasium with a mark showing a player ready to run forward at the moment with a ball in hand which is seen on the facade, the table tennis, athletics, combat sports, physical training and other gymnasiums are all designed distinctively and their courts, viewing stands, service, welfare and other facilities have been provided at such a level as to host international events.

The 2019 Asian Junior and Youth Weightlifting Championships were held at the Weightlifting Gymnasium in 2019.

The Taekwon-Do Holy House and the Taekwon-Do Hall encourage the development and spread of the Korean martial art.

Hostel dear to sportspeople

There is a 15-storey hostel for sportspeople with a building area of 11 860 square metres in the sports village. It reminds viewers of a winners’ podium.

At the centre of the facade is seen a mark representing a trophy and on the wall of the entrance hall is engraved with the five-ring Olympic emblem. It is equipped with proper facilities for relieving players and coaches of mental and physical tiredness.

There is a morning training ground covered with artificial turf on one side of the park built in front of the hostel. The residents do their morning exercises here in the early morning, breathing in the fresh air coming from the pine forest behind the hostel.

Sports goods production base

Built in 2016, the Pyongyang Sports Goods Factory basically satisfies the domestic demand for sports equipment.

It produces sports goods including balls, gloves, bags, sportswear and protective gears, some 150 varieties in 60 kinds in total.

It is noticeable that a strict quality management system has been established on the basis of homemade test sets.

“The ball sphericity measuring device, elasticity test set control panel, water absorptivity test set, ball shooter and other equipment have been applied to make the quality of products conform with international standards,” said Kim Thae Sop, chief engineer of the factory.

Dozens of patterns have been introduced into making footballs, in addition to those covered with different colours. Taesongsan-brand footballs, whose shape of sphere, elasticity, weight and other quality indices meet international standards and vary in colour and pattern, are popular with both sportspeople and fans.

In recent years the factory has developed various measuring devices which are helpful to the training of sportspeople, such as those for measuring waist strength, breathing capacity and velocity energy, and protective gears for Taekwon-Do players.

It is now stepping up the technical preparations for the production of boots for speed, figure and ice hockey skates and start of their production.

By Han Kwii Hun PT