

HARVEST HOPES. A farmer spreads fertilizer on a rice field in Sariwon, North Korea. Away from political developments that have rocketed their country back into the international headlines, North Korean farmers are preparing for the summer season with hopes the relatively good conditions they have had so far this year will hold out until the fall harvest. (AP Photo/Dita Alangkara)

# North Korean farmers were focused on fields, not summit

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

ARIWON, North Korea — Away from the political developments that rocketed their country back into the international headlines, North Korean farmers were preparing for the summer season with hopes the relatively good conditions they have had so far this year will hold until the fall harvest.

"The situation right now is good," said Kim Song Ryong, chief engineer of the Migokri Cooperative Farm in Sariwon, a city about 50 miles south of Pyongyang, the capital.

Migokri is one of the larger and more mechanized farms in North Korea, with about 1,850 farmers and support staff.

Its sprawling paddies are now covered with the light green of freshly transplanted rice plants, still only about knee high. Though decidedly modest, the farm has its own living areas, stores, schools, and other facilities.

Feeding a nation of about 25 million has

always been a tall order for North Korea's agricultural workers.

Shortages of fuel and fertilizer are not uncommon, and finding spare parts for tractors and other equipment is always a challenge. With most of the country covered in mountains and a government policy of strict self-sufficiency, every available nook and cranny is put to use growing something.

Since rice requires flat land, corn is the crop of choice in places that are hilly. Where the weather is too cold, it's often potatoes.

Kim told The Associated Press that Migokri produces everything from peaches to cucumbers. With the advantage of having mechanization that is still out of reach for farmers in more rural areas, where oxen are the rule, Kim said his rice paddies can produce 10 tons per hectare.

But he acknowledges he also has some more traditional help.

Just recently, he said, the farm released 100,000 snails into the paddies to eat rice-destroying insects.

# Kim Jong Un impersonator questioned on arrival in Singapore

By Annabelle Liang
The Associated Press

INGAPORE — A
Kim Jong Un
lookalike was
detained and questioned
upon his arrival in Singapore days before the
summit between the North
Korean leader and U.S.
President Donald Trump.

The Hong Kong-based impersonator, who uses the name Howard X, was in the city-state for summit-related promotions by a mall and seafood restaurant.

He said the police officers who stopped him at Singapore's Changi Airport searched his bags and questioned him for about two hours before letting him go. He said he was told to stay away from Sentosa Island and the Shangri-La Hotel.

Kim and Trump met at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa Island.

The impersonator, whose real name is Lee Howard Ho Wun, said police asked if he had been involved in protests around the world, including those by pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong. He said he told them he had been at the scene of the Hong Kong demonstrations as musician playing the drums.

"However, I never rioted and don't plan to ever riot. I told him (the police officer) that I... would never do this in Singapore because it is against your rules to protest," Lee told The Associated Press.

In a statement, Singapore's Immigration



IMPERSONATOR INTERROGATED. Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump impersonators, Howard X, left, and Dennis Alan, right, pose for photographs at Merlion Park, a popular tourist destination in Singapore, on June 8, 2018. The Kim Jong Un lookalike, whose real name is Lee Howard Ho Wun, said he was detained and questioned upon his arrival in Singapore days before the summit between the North Korean leader and the U.S. president. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

and Checkpoints Authority said Wun was interviewed for about 45 minutes.

The authority said of its policy: "As part of the immigration clearance process, travellers to Singapore may be subject to additional interviews and/or screening. These procedures are conducted at all Singapore's checkpoints."

Demonstrations in Singapore can only be held in a designated area, the 2.4-acre Hong Lim Park, and require park approval. All other gatherings require a police permit.

Howard X and Dennis Alan, a Trump impersonator, held hands and walked around Merlion Park, a popular tourist destination. They posed with mock chili and black pepper crab dishes and took photographs with curious passersby.

"I'm here to stay. I don't

think they will try and kick out the president. It wouldn't be good press for Singapore," Lee said.

"Nobody started talking about a meeting between Kim Jong Un and President Trump until we suggested it at the Olympics," Alan added, referring to their appearance at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in February.

"It all started with us. If there's a peace prize that anybody should get, we should get it," he quipped.

Indonesian Janette Warokka thought the impersonators were the real deal.

"It's so shocking for me. I don't know why those two famous guys come here," she said.

Raul Rio, a teacher from Texas, managed to take a selfie with the pair. "They certainly look like the real ones. It was fun to see them," he said.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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#### JOIN

1435 NE 81st Ave, Ste 100 Portland June 14 ......12-2 p.m.

#### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Legacy Emanuel Field 2801 N Gantenbein Ave Portland June 16.....12-5 p.m.

### MOUNT HOOD FARMERS MARKET

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June 15 ......3-7 p.m.

#### PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

111 W Burnside, Portland
June 14 ......8-10 a.m.
June 28 .....8-10 a.m.

#### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3 NW 3rd, Portland

► June 26 ..... 2-4 p.m.

#### WORKSOURCE GRESHAM

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#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

#### BEAVERTON LIBRARY

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Starlight Parade June 2

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