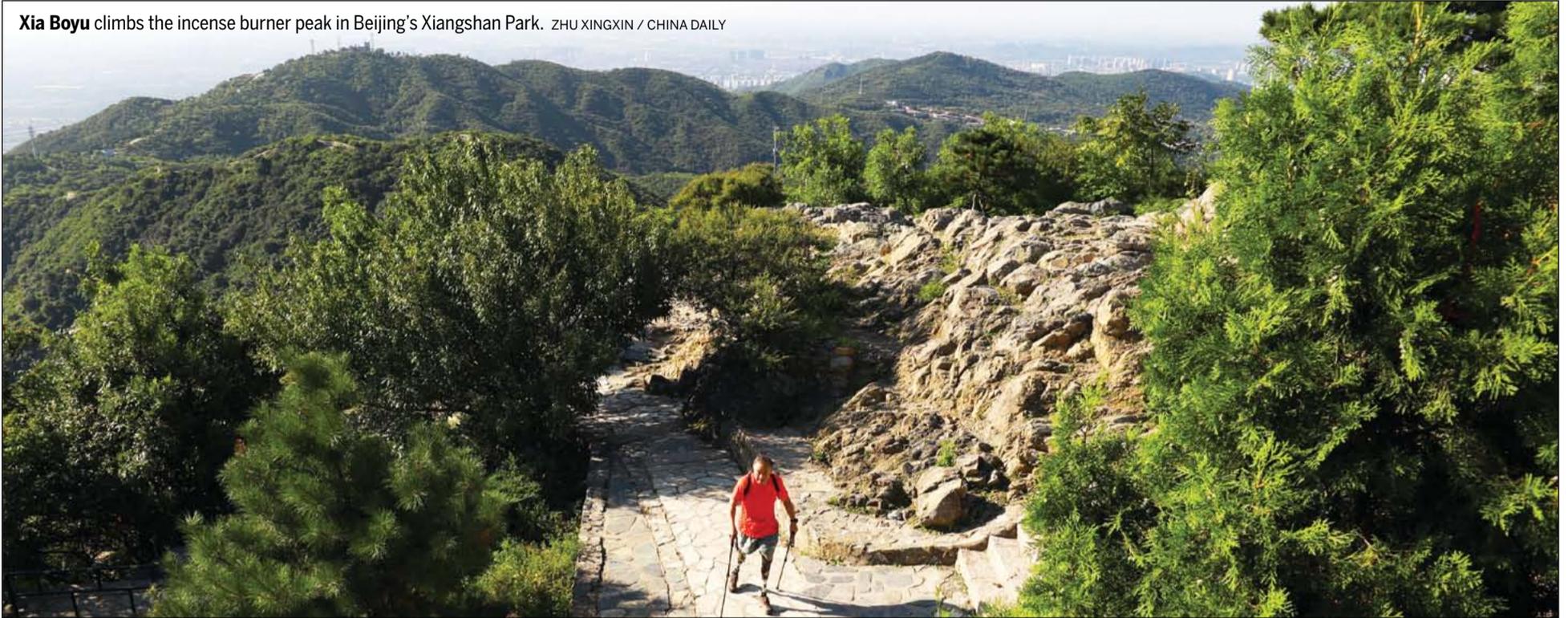


SNAPSHOTS

Xia Boyu climbs the incense burner peak in Beijing's Xiangshan Park. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY



REACHING IMPOSSIBLE HEIGHTS

Xia Boyu serves as an inspiration, refusing to give up. He successfully climbed Qomolangma on his fifth attempt, becoming China's first lower-limb amputee to conquer the world's highest mountain

Since recently conquering the summit of Qomolangma, 69-year-old lower-limb amputee Xia Boyu has become an inspirational figure for the Chinese public due to his knack of never giving up.

After achieving the feat on May 14, he returned to Beijing to receive medical treatment. But over the past five months he has visited many parts of the country, giving speeches to the public about Qomolangma, also known as Mount Ever-

est, and the lack of oxygen on the peak, the mountaineering equipment needed to climb it and the risks he faced.

"Although I stayed on the summit for less than 10 minutes, it took me more than 40 years to achieve my ambition," said Xia, who finally made it to the top of the world's highest mountain on his fifth attempt — with the peak piercing the clouds at 8,844 meters above sea level — to become China's first double-leg amputee to conquer Qomolangma.

He said that as he has no ankle joints — with both his legs amputated below the knee — he depends on his prosthetic limbs and it is easy to slip and fall.

In 1975, Xia attempted to scale Qomolangma for the first time as a member of a Chinese mountaineering team, and encountered a blizzard. Then, his feet were frostbitten and his legs were amputated.

In 2014 and 2015, respectively, he was at the base camp of the south slope of Qomo-

langma in Nepal, but could not proceed due to an avalanche and an earthquake.

Later, in 2016, Xia tried to climb the mountain for the fourth time. But when he was less than 100 meters from the summit, a snowstorm blocked his way.

"I have been fighting mountains my entire life. A film with me as the protagonist is being made," said Xia.

The story was compiled by Zhu Xingxin and translated by Zhang Lei.



From left: Xia rests at his home in Beijing; Xia looks at the photos and recalls the experience of climbing Qomolangma.



From left: A brush with a mountaineer in Xiangshan Park; Xia practices push-ups at home; Xia receives treatment in a hospital for his frostbitten face and fingers.