

In the last days remaining before the start of the 14th Party Congress, PRC media have continued to stress that this congress will usher in a new era of faster and deeper reforms, which will be implemented by younger and better educated party cadres.

This year's national day celebrations at Tiananmen Square were the first occasion since the Tiananmen crackdown of 1989 in which authorities encouraged large crowds of citizens to gather in the square. The events, watched over by a substantial contingent of security forces, passed without incident.

The Economic Daily ran a brief front-page article on October reporting the first listing of a Chinese company, Brilliance Automobile Ltd., on the New York Stock Exchange.

The English-language China Daily of October 6 reports the licensing of American International Group to operate in Shanghai. This is the first foreign insurance company to be licensed by China since 1949, and the only insurance venture operating from Shanghai.

### KOREAN/COREE

Hyun Soong-Jung, the 73 year old president of the Korea Federation of Education Associations, has quote reluctantly accepted unquote to become the next Prime Minister of South Korea. Hyun will have a free hand to select new members of a "politically neutral cabinet" which will administer the December presidential elections.

The 24th ROK-US security consultative meeting opened 7 October to discuss second phase of US troop withdrawal postponed since 1990 due to concerns over North Korean nuclear program. Top defence officials from both countries will also discuss transfer of peacetime operational control and whether to resume the combined "team spirit" military exercise.

North Korean president Kim Il-Sung is likely to visit China at the end of October, following the triumphant visit of his rival South Korean president Roh Tae Woo.

A recent survey reveals that undergraduates have liberal views regarding premarital sex and their knowledge comes increasingly from commercial media rather than proper sex education.

As many as 62 South Koreans have been formally arrested on charges of spying for Communist North Korea with the goal of unifying the South under Communism by 1995, the Agency of National Security Planning said October 6.

### HONG KONG

Observer first reactions to Governor Chris Patten's inaugural policy address on October 7 were broadly positive, a bold and courageous package to map out the route for Hong Kong's democratic development in the remaining years of British rule but it puts Hong Kong on collision course with China. Both dailies on October 8 have full coverage of the event.