

Valley Coal in Colorado, and hopes to export up to 1 million tons of US coal annually to Japan within a few years.

- Kyodo reports that economic experts from Japan, China, both Koreas, Mongolia, the US, and the USSR will convene in China's Jilin province in late August to discuss plans for development of the Tumen River Basin near North Korea's border. Tumen could become the centre of a Japan Sea Economic Sphere being touted by former Foreign Minister Saburo Okita.

- Discovery of graphic film footage of the 1937 "Rape of Nanjing" has discredited recent claims by LDP politician Shintaro Ishihara that the event was fiction invented to embarrass Japan. Historians say the Japanese killed 200-300,000 Chinese during their destruction of the city.

CHINA/CHINE

- China daily reports that continued flooding in the lower Yangtze river valley has destroyed 8.7 million hectares of farmland and thousands of homes, killed hundreds of people, cut rail transportation, and put thousands of factories in two key industrial centres out of operation.

- China's General Administration of Customs disclosed that the value of imports and exports totalled US\$ 57 billion in the first half of 1991. Exports reached US\$ 30 billion, 18.5% more than in the same period of last year, while imports rose by 15.9% to reach US\$ 27 billion.

- Selon le communiqué conjoint émis à l'issue de la visite du PM chinois Li Peng en Égypte, les deux pays proposent la tenue d'une conférence internationale de paix sur les questions de la Palestine et du Proche-Orient sous les auspices des Nations Unies. Pékin appuie la proposition égyptienne de faire du Proche-Orient une zone sans armes de destruction massive.

- China and Jordan signed a science and technology cooperation agreement during the Chinese PM's visit to Jordan, the second leg of his six-nation Middle East tour.

- In the third leg of what he called "a six-nation Middle East tour for peace, friendship and cooperation," the Chinese PM told reporters in Teheran that China is considering taking part in the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Korean media have drawn attention to an exchange between the Korean President and Canadian PM Mulroney on the subject of Asia-Pacific cooperation. During the recent visit to Canada by President Roh, both leaders agreed to pursue joint cooperation on APEC, and to work to resolve the membership issue of China, Taiwan and HK.

- The Korean government will increase import quotas for beef from 84,000 to 115,000 tons, pork from 8,000 to 20,000 tons, and powdered milk from 8,000 to 14,000 tons to stabilize prices.

- The Office of Bank Supervision and Exchange froze all assets of the Seoul branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to protect local interests, and ordered it not to take any new deposits or grant loans and payment guarantees.

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries plans to restructure the agro-fishery industry to reinforce its competitiveness in preparation for wider market opening following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. The ministry will help younger farmers in high-tech farming and fishing as well as setting up agricultural promotion centres in the US and Germany.

- Lack of sufficient power generation facilities and continuing hot weather have caused power shortages in Korea.

- The government's long-term energy plan calls for construction of 86 power plants including 18 nuclear plants by 2006. Korea Electric Power Corporation may issue bonds or borrow money overseas to finance