

exports increased by 19.5% and imports were up by 16.5%. Due to last year's bumper harvest, per capita farmer's income increased 10.7% this year.

MONGOLIA

- On 26 August, Chinese President Yang Shangkun began the first ever visit by a PRC head of state to Mongolia. On the first day of his visit Yang signed an agreement with President Orchibat affording Mongolia access for its exports to the new Chinese port of Xingang near Tianjin. During his four day visit, Yang will also finalize agreements on dual taxation avoidance and investment protection.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Bank of Korea reports the South Korean economy grew 9.1% in the first half of 1991. Positive factors identified are export growth, and strong manufacturing and service sectors.

- The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, a farmer's lobby group, urged the South Korean government to increase sanitary inspections of imported fruits and vegetables. According to the NACF, imported agricultural products totalled \$2.17 billion in the first half of 1991, up 21% from 1990. Beef imports expanded to \$196 million. The US has 29% of total market share for imported agricultural products, followed by China (16%), Australia (11%), and Thailand (7%).

- Korea and the US agreed to extend their bilateral textile agreement by two years to the end of 1993, media sources report.

- According to the local press, the South Korean government announced it will implement a four phase schedule for the complete liberalization of interest rates in the domestic financial market beginning in the latter half of 1991 and ending in 1997.

- Press reports note that Albania, once one of North Korea's staunchest allies, has established diplomatic relations with South Korea.

- South-North Prime Minister's talks on

reunification, originally scheduled for 28-29 August, have been delayed until 22 October, media sources report.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan registered the highest growth rate of 10% in May's composite index of leading economic indicators among 11 major industrialized economies, up sharply from 2% registered in February. Tallies were issued by the New York-based Conference Board.

- The Deputy Secretary-General of the China Red Cross Qu Zhe, and a legal expert with the association Zhuang Zhongxi, arrived in Taiwan on 20 August to visit mainland Chinese fishermen detained on a piracy charge. According to press sources, this is the first Chinese Communist delegation ever to visit Taipei.

- China Airlines announced that the Taiwan-Vietnam air link, which was inaugurated 17 August, would be suspended on 24 August. The incident marked the second blow to the Taiwan-Vietnam air link. A couple of weeks earlier, upon Vietnam's request, CAL's inaugural flight was postponed from the end of July to 17 August.

**ONGOING AND UPCOMING/
A VENIR**

- Foodex, Osaka '91 - Sept.
- Mining Equipment Seminars - Beijing, Nanjing, Changsha, Sept. 1-5.
- Japan Food Service Show - Sept. 1-6
- Tokyo International Gift Show - Sept. 3-5.
- Seoul Instrument '91 - Sept. 13-17.
- Japanese Sporting Goods Buyers Mission to CSGA - Sept. 14-24.
- Beef Mission from Taipei - Sept. 23-27.
- Building Products Mission from HK - Sept. 28-Oct 8.
- Software Mission/Tokyo and Software Show '91/Osaka - Sept. 29-Oct. 9.
- 10th Joint Meeting: Canada-Japan Business Council - Grand H.
- Meat Week in Japan! - Can.
- Oct. 21-23, Canadian Consu

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